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Parma Observer

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Seven Hills Celebrates 60 Years As A City: Welcomes Back Home Days

by Kathy Holland

Better Together, celebrating 60 years as a city- the theme of Seven Hills 2021 Home Days encompasses what we have all learned over the past year, that we are nothing without our community and have been lucky to have ours for the past 60 years. The City of Seven Hills is excited to celebrate the community together with the renaissance of our Home Days taking place August 27th, 28th and 29th. After a year of uncertainty and 2020 Stay-At-Home-Days, this year will be a return to form for one of the cities most celebrated events. Refocusing his efforts to engage the community and bring residents together even more, Mayor Biasiotta looks to bring a small town feel to the city's largest event. To do so, the

City of Seven Hills has added a 3rd day to help continue old traditions, make new traditions, and reinvigorate some from the past. Its most iconic events include, a chicken wing eating competition, three days of live music, two days of fireworks and plenty of local food. Each event keeps the audience enthralled as members of the community come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the past. With the old comes the new such as, rides from Big O Amusement, Seven Hills very own WIXY1260 Online broadcasting live from the event, and various classes held at the city's recreation building. Finally, a community favorite makes a triumphant return as the Adorable Baby Showcase is set to take place on August 29th. These new and old tra-

ditions are just a fragment of everything happening. There will be nonstop entertainment that brings together residents from all walks of life that truly showcase the meaning of community.

Residents will be on full display for Sunday August 29th as Mayor Biasiotta has dedicated the day to showcase some of Seven Hills brightest stars. This exciting day will feature bands in which at least one member is a resident, the Seven Hills Hall of Fame induction ceremony and activities tailored to fit the needs of all residents. For kids they can run wild in this year's Kidz Zone which will feature crafts, games, a safety fair, and music tailored for age-appropriate engagement. On Sunday **continued on page 9**



Parma Safety Fair And Shred Day Return

by Carolyn Kovach

The Parma Safety Fair and Shred Day have returned but are two events and occurring later in the year. Both events are free, and no registration is required. The Safety Fair is 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 28 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd., Parma. The fair will take place rain or shine. The Shred Day is 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 25 in the rear parking lot at Parma Senior High School, 6285 West 54th St.

At the Safety Fair, safety experts will offer safety tips and giveaways of bike helmets, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors and gun locks. Giveaways are available while supplies last. Activities

will include fire extinguisher demonstrations; drone demonstrations; free fingerprinting and identification kits for children; tours of the police station, firing range and jail; and visits with the K9 Unit, SWAT team and police and fire units. Children will be able to climb into fire trucks and ambulances and see police cars and motorcycles up close. Firefighters will provide guidance to new parents about how to properly install a child safety restraint in a vehicle.

"After missing a year, it is terrific to bring back the Safety Fair and have our police and firefighters interact with residents. It is a fun event **continued on page 8**

Ukrainian Community To Celebrate 30 Years Of Independence With Parade And Festival

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

On August 21st, the Ukrainian Village Committee will hold its annual Ukrainian Independence Day Parade in Parma's Ukrainian Village. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence! The Committee invites all to join them and celebrate this special occasion. The parade procession begins at 11 a.m. on Grantwood Drive, continues north along State Road, and ends at Ukrainian Heritage Park, located across the street from St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral (5720 State Road).

This year's parade will showcase more than 40 marching units. Parade participants will include Ukrainian church communities, Parma area social clubs, local businesses, the mayor and city council representatives, city school officials, police honor guards, Veterans organizations, floats, and more! Spirited musical numbers will be performed by local high school marching bands.

After the parade there will be a short program to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence that will take place on the soccer field near St. Josaphat's astrodome. There will also be a Ukrainian



The United Ukrainian Organizations Of Ohio marching up State Road in the Ukrainian Independence Day Parade. Photo © 2019-2021 Stefan P. Stefaniuk

festival at the astrodome for all to enjoy! The festival will span two days beginning on the day of the parade. Festival admission and parking are free. It begins at 11 a.m. and will feature a beer garden, authentic Ukrainian cuisine, live music, and cultural performances. There will also be games for kids, a petting zoo, hay wagon rides, balloon twisting, face painting, and more!

Questions? Email the Ukrainian Village Committee at ukrainianvillageparade@gmail.com.

Remember to visit UkrainianVillageParma.org and Facebook.com/UkrainianVillage to keep up with the latest news in Parma's Ukrainian Village.

Script Parma Photo Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Barbara Okleson and includes the members of the Ridgewood Garden Club. 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.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

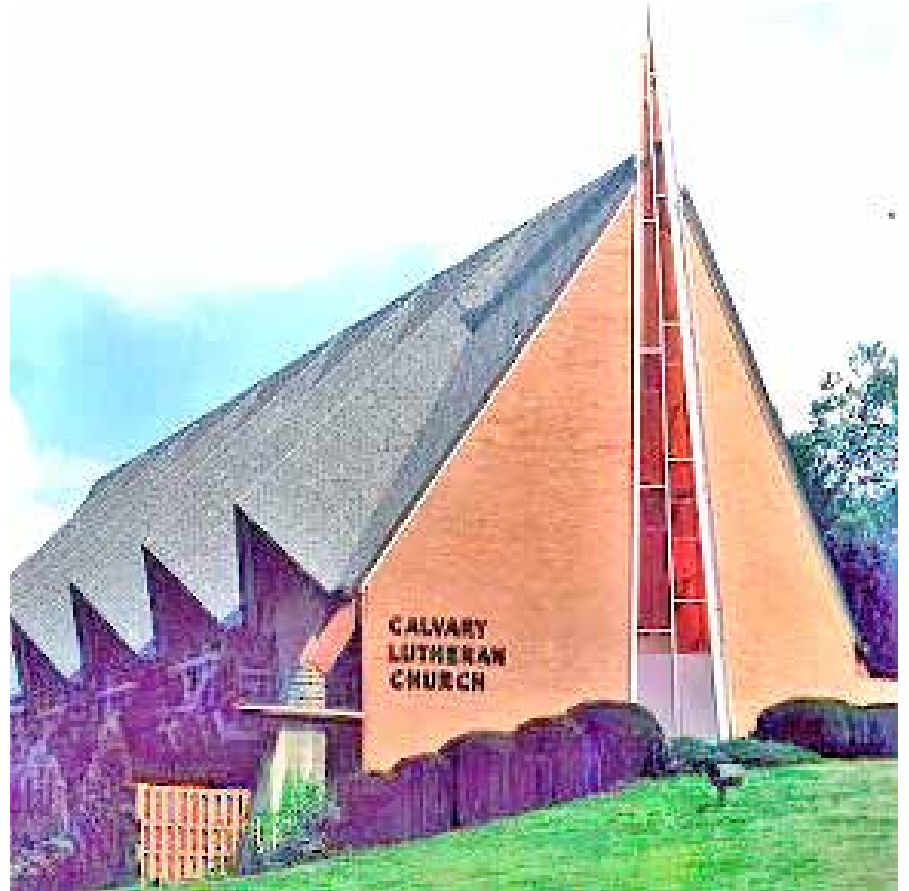
by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Those of you who regularly read my column know that for months I focused on Parma's places of worship. In part, due to COVID, I put the series on hiatus. However, this month I bring it back. In fact, I recently met with Pastor Joel Dietrichs who leads the flock at Calvary Lutheran Church located at 6906 West Pleasant Valley Road, just east of Ridge Road. I was impressed as I walked into the "A" framed shaped church which seemed to reach to the heavens it is so high. I was kindly welcomed by Pastor Joel, Deacon James Hurst, and Office Manager Lisa Klein. Pastor Joel told me about his life growing up in the St. Louis area in a very spiritual family. After receiving a B.A. from Truman State, he was a copy editor. "It was horribly boring and I made a lot of mistakes," he explained. Then, one day, a tall colleague looked over him and said "go to the seminary already." "My entire life flashed before my eyes and I knew my calling," Pastor Joel said. So, he entered Concordia Seminary and went on to serve churches in St. Louis, Springfield (Illinois), and Colorado Springs. He was called by



the congregation at Calvary to serve them here in 2019. As I viewed Pastor Joel's biography on the church's website, the quote he selected from Ephesians 3:20-21 struck me as very appropriate for him on many different levels: "And now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine. . ."

Pastor Joel has three children and is happily married to his Indonesian wife Yanti. Interestingly, she was the daughter of his Pastor when he served in Colorado



the impression that he can relate to them in some ways.

Unlike many of the churches in Parma that moved here during the 1950s and 1960s from Cleveland when Parma saw incredible growth, Calvary Lutheran began in Parma in 1955. In fact, the classroom building that is attached to the church was originally a hunting lodge and was where some of the first services were held. It was not until 1970, when the current church was completed. The church served the Slovak community. In fact, services were originally only held in both Slovak and English.

Weekly worship times at the handicap accessible facility include a casual Saturday service at 6:00 pm, Sunday education hour at 9:00 am, Sunday formal service at 10:00 am, and Wednesday at 10:00 am. Service is live streamed on their Facebook page @CalvaryParma. The church also collects food for a small food pantry in partnership with Immanuel Lutheran. They will be holding a car show on Sunday, August 22 from noon to 3:00 pm and a rummage sale on Saturday, September 18.

Before I left, Pastor Joel invited me to Calvary's new Meditation Trail. Located in the woods behind the church, it is a beautiful setting. It is open to anyone who would like to take time from their day to meditate and pray on the themes of faith, grace, peace, forgiveness, and overcoming anxiety and fear. In fact, be sure to check the mailbox at the entrance of the trail to pick up a packet of cards that will help you focus on these topics.

Before leaving, I invited Pastor Joel to deliver the invocation before an upcoming meeting of City Council. Happily, he agreed. In closing, I want to thank Pastor Joel for his hospitality and service to our community. To find out more about Calvary Lutheran e-mail them at churchoffice@calvaryparma.org or call (440) 845-0070. Best wishes to you and your family for a blessed month of August.

Picnic In The Park

by Kathryn Mabin

On Saturday, August 7th, from 11 AM to 3 PM, We Are Parma Proud will be hosting the second annual "Picnic in the Park" at Ridgewood Lake in Anthony Zielinski Park, by the Splash Pad. For your convenience four food trucks, Jimbo's Concessions, Cookie Dough, Barabacu Smokehouse, and Brayson's Ice Cream will be parked nearby. Pack your lunch or a snack or buy from these great vendors. Extra tables will be placed in the park for your convenience. For your listening pleasure, music will be provided

by Tequila Wagon. Lots of games and prizes for the kids. And there's a hog calling contest! Yep you read that right, a hog calling contest! Several Parma non-profits will have tents set up, passing out literature about their organizations, some with raffle baskets, and other merchandise for sale. Visit with members from organizations such as Stearns Homestead, Parma Animal Shelter, Ridgewood Garden Club, Parma Police and Fire and more. Admission is free. Great family fun event! Come celebrate summer in Parma at "Picnic in the Park"!

See you at

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Writers

Nickie Antonio
Sean Brennan
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Photography

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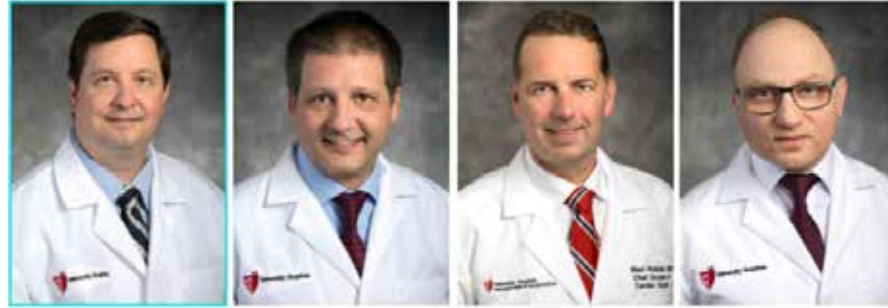
Cardiac Surgery And Cardiovascular Specialty Services Expanded At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

The existing strong cardiology program at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center is being reinvigorated by the top-rated cardiac surgery team of UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute. This expansion of cardiac services will allow patients to remain in their community for specialized care rather than traveling to UH Cleveland Medical Center for advanced procedures.

A core team of four highly skilled surgeons from UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute is now established at this southwest suburban hospital to perform advanced coronary artery bypass graft surgery, aortic and mitral valve surgery, and minimally invasive surgery, among other procedures. They are performing procedures in specially designed operating rooms that are part of the \$27.5 million renovation of the Surgical Services Department. Cardiac catheterization labs have already been upgraded and a renovated suite for electrophysiology procedures is being planned.

The expanded team of cardiac surgeons consists of: Gregory Rushing, MD; Pablo Ruda Vega, MD; Marc Pelletier, MD; and Yasir Abu-Omar, MD. This team complements the outstanding diagnostic and treatment services that have been provided at UH Parma since the hospital began offering cardiac surgery and high-risk



High-acuity cardiac procedures will be performed by, from left: Gregory Rushing, MD; Pablo Ruda Vega, MD; Marc Pelletier, MD; and Yasir Abu-Omar, MD.

Four highly trained cardiac surgeons will be performing increasingly complex procedures at UH Parma Medical Center.

catheterizations in 1999. Their subspecialties include:

Gregory Rushing, MD, Director, Heart Surgery Center, UH Parma, trained at Johns Hopkins and the Cleveland Clinic and was Assistant Professor of Surgery at The Ohio State University Medical Center – Expertise in surgical treatment of atrial fibrillation, transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), aortic surgery, coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). Dr. Rushing will be the lead surgeon at this location. He is also developing a surgical atrial fibrillation center that will

provide novel approaches to patients dealing with atrial fibrillation.

Pablo Ruda Vega, MD, trained at Cleveland Clinic, and worked in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before returning to Cleveland – Expertise in off-pump coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG), aortic valve surgery, aortic valve repair, hybrid revascularization

Marc Pelletier, MD, Division Chief, Cardiac Surgery, trained at McGill University and Stanford University and worked at Stanford University Medical Center and Brigham and Women's Harvard

Medical School program – Expertise in minimally invasive mitral valve, aortic valve repair/replacement, TAVR, heart transplant, complex cardiac surgery

Yasir Abu-Omar, MD, Director of Cardiothoracic Transplantation and Mechanical Circulatory Procedures, trained at Cambridge and Oxford universities and worked at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, one of the world's leading transplant centers – Expertise in advanced heart failure, heart/lung transplant, minimally invasive mitral valve surgery, complex cardiac surgery

“We are excited to embark on a new era in cardiac surgery at UH Parma Medical Center,” says Dr. Pelletier. “We are fortunate to join a very talented team of cardiologists, who perform very complex and technically challenging procedures. Our team will only enhance the already excellent care provided by these cardiologists, nurses and other health care professionals at this hospital, which is proud to be known for cardiac care. Our surgeons are committed to this program, to provide a higher level of care for patients in their local hospital, increasing their accessibility and decreasing their need to travel far from home.”

UH Parma's program – already accredited by The Joint Commission for Chest Pain – also will feature three outpatient clinics for heart patients: one

continued on page 7



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GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA

Quick Collaboration Of Parma EMS, Police, UH Parma Medical Center Saves Pickleball Champion

by CJ Sheppard

Bill Regan, a 79-year-old pickleball champ who has competed in national and international tournaments, knows all about collaborating for a winning result. So he was beyond grateful for the massive team effort of friends, police officers, paramedics and hospital physicians and caregivers who saved his life when he suffered a heart attack after playing his favorite pastime in Parma.

Bill suffered two heart attacks six months apart – on Nov. 9, 2020 and on May 26, 2021. Fortunately, both times he had just left the pickleball court near Ries Ice Rink in Parma, less than two miles from University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, known for its cardiac care and recently expanded cardiac surgery and cardiovascular services.

“That elephant that sat on my chest, he was BIG,” says Bill, a retired sales and marketing executive who had no symptoms of cardiac issues since the first stent was inserted in his right coronary artery in November. “This hospital is really caring for the community, and people need to know that their community hospital is working to keep everybody healthy.”

Bill had just stepped off the pickleball court when he collapsed. Two friends – Jim Gipper, a retired Cleveland firefighter, and Dave Szuter, a retired Brunswick police officer – performed the vital bystander CPR that can double or triple a person’s chance

of survival. Officers Ed Pinc and Brian Paul of the Parma Police promptly responded to the 9-1-1 call, arriving ahead of EMS and using an AED they keep in their cruiser. Engine Company Two and the ambulance were close behind, and paramedics continued pre-hospital care and transported Bill

landed in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab as an emergent STEMI (ST-elevated myocardial infarction, a common type of heart attack) for Jamie Cohen, MD.

“We pride ourselves on the team approach between police and fire departments, and the definitive care partner of UH Parma Medical Center,” said Chief

do,” said Regan. “They are the quiet everyday heroes that are in this community of Parma.”

TJ Martin of the Parma Fire Department emphasized the close collaboration between police and fire departments, as well as its medical provider of UH Parma. He urged everyone watching the reunion, which was livestreamed by local TV stations, to learn CPR.

“Anybody can learn CPR,” Martin said. “Please take the opportunity to save a life and learn CPR.”

Bill was back on the pickleball court the week after his discharge in May. With a decade of competition under his belt, he’s not about to abandon the sport that has kept his heart pumping in his senior years. Bill and his wife, Eileen, placed third in the nation at the National Senior Games in Minneapolis in 2015. The couple went on to medal in the Spanish Open and Bainbridge Cup (the first intercontinental team event in the history of the sport) in Madrid in 2017 and the Irish Open in 2019, and only slowed down when the pandemic prompted the cancellation of the 2020 tournaments.

Bill turns 80 on August 5, the same week UH Parma celebrates 60 years of serving the southwest suburbs. Now the father of five and grandfather of 13 is just hoping to find a partner to continue his competitive quest in the 80-plus set.

“When you can play in tournaments, you get kind of fussy,” he said, chuckling. “But I’m glad to be playing again.”



Dr. Christopher Dussel, Associate Chief Medical Officer and Chairman of Emergency Services at UH Parma, explains the chain of survival, from first responders to cardiac intervention, that saved the life of Bill Regan, seated in blue shirt. Dr. Paul Poommipanit, at left in white coat and scrubs, is Bill’s cardiologist.

to UH Parma for immediate intervention. That squad included Capt. Tom Franczak, Josh Muniak, Joe Stefanko, Anthony Hyatt and Tim Hollingshead.

Interventional Cardiologist Paul Poommipanit, MD, who performed the earlier intervention on Bill, had been anticipating seeing Bill for his six-month follow-up when his patient

Mike Lasky of the Parma Fire Department. “Bill Regan’s story shows exactly how the system is supposed to work.”

Bill reunited with all of those first responders and doctors on July 13 at UH Parma Medical Center to thank them for their life-saving care.

“I’m so grateful for these gentlemen behind me and the work that they

Parma Run-Walk For Pierogies



The Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies took place on July 3 at Tri-C West. Pictured are Co-Director Gary Uveges, 5k female winner Leah Steele (19:38), Director Sean Brennan, and 5k male winner Jorge Villanueva (15:33). The picture is courtesy of Trish Uveges.

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Inspiration



Senator Nickie J. Antonio with Governor Mike DeWine and Senator Nathan Manning at the bill signing for S.B. 21.

Governor Signs Antonio's Stroke Legislation

by Nickie Antonio

Last week, Governor Mike DeWine signed Senate Bill 21 into law; legislation I introduced in an effort to save precious minutes to possibly improve the lives of stroke patients and reduce the effects of stroke with regard to disability and possible death. This legislation requires the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services to develop statewide guidelines for the assessment, triage, and transport to hospitals of stroke patients in partnership with Ohio's health leaders.

Every 40 seconds, someone in the United States has a stroke[1]. The right treatment can mean the difference between life and death as stroke is the fifth leading cause of death, and a leading cause of disability in Ohio.[2]

This issue is personal as we lost my mother to complications from stroke 21 years ago. At the time, we first called EMS when my mother was in some kind of distress, however, I had to insist

that EMS transport her to the hospital, even as she was rejecting care. She kept saying "No, no, no" and referring to herself as "it" - as in "it doesn't want to do this." As a loved one who knew her very well, it was clear to me that something was not right, and subsequently, when she got to the hospital, she had a massive stroke. Regrettably, she ultimately died from those complications a few weeks later. I firmly believe that if this legislation would have been in place, my mother's outcome might have been different. We will never know.

However, what we do know is that proper and immediate stroke care in those first moments, when every second counts, is essential. In enacting SB 21, we hope lives will be saved throughout the state.

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Stroke Facts. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/stroke/facts.htm>

[2] <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/ohio/ohio.htm>

Pleasant Lake Villa Presents Uplifting Musical Performance On 7-13

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Great weather has brought a return to more normal activities for many of us, and the residents of Pleasant Lake Villa were treated to something on July 13th that has been missing for most people- live music. Jill Jordan Burke, a multi-talented Country/Gospel Artist brought her unique show to Pleasant Lake Villa in Parma. She delighted the audience with many renditions of songs that for the most part were well known

classics, with a few more totally original pieces as well. She had many of those in attendance singing along, and her heartwarming stories that accompanied her beautiful singing selections were truly inspiring. It was a pleasure to take it all in and enjoy the experience of an actual person singing and performing for a bunch of people enjoying a beautiful Summer day. Thanks again to Jill Jordan Burke and Pleasant Lake Villa for holding this event. More to come I hope!



Country/Gospel vocal artist Jill Jordan Burke performing before a very appreciative audience at Pleasant Lake Villa on 7-13-21

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Neighborhoods

Home Instead Offers Meaningful Work

by Geoffrey Moore

Now that the disruption caused by the pandemic is subsiding, many businesses across the country are reflecting on the last 16 months from a completely new perspective. Similarly, employees, especially those dislodged from work due to the pandemic, are considering their career or work-life options.

As a home care provider, Home Instead was fortunate in that we continued to serve clients and “keep the doors open.” It was readily apparent that our service is “essential.” And, more than ever, our clients preferred receiving care in their own homes, as congregate living arrangements were potentially risky. Another thing made clear to us through the lens of the months-long pandemic was the value of our Caregivers. They continued to serve our clients and put their wellbeing first and foremost. We have always thought of our Caregivers as the “life blood” of our service and the pandemic only elevated their importance. Not only was this apparent to us but the contribution of home care workers to our society, generally, was highlighted due to COVID-19. While the pandemic put a spotlight on the importance of home care, not so apparent was the acute shortage of trained home care workers. Before the pandemic, the demand for home care workers was strong but now the demand for home care is outstripping the sup-



Megan Blatnik

ply of qualified workers. To remedy the problem, Home Instead has established a new position that rewards Caregivers and offers opportunity for growth. The Professional Care Assistant (PCA) position has features usually found in “bricks and mortar” healthcare settings: higher compensation, paid time off, the possibility of full medical insurance, guaranteed full-time hours, a career path within the organization, paid training and, most important, the opportunity to do meaningful work.

To qualify as a PCA, candidates must possess an STNA (State Tested Nurse Aide) or HHA (Home Health Aide) certificate. However, Home Instead is offering in-house, paid training for non-certified employees to become certified as Home Health Aides. As the PCA program grows,

Home Instead will offer senior clients an enhanced level of care, thus making it a win-win for our clients and Caregivers. The desire to receive in-home care is growing and the demand for professional Caregivers who possess skills, knowledge, and a kind heart is ramping up along with it. Home Instead will be there to meet the challenges with a care team of committed professionals dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors who wish to remain in their own homes while supporting our Professional Care Assistants in the field. Home Instead is actively changing the face of aging and there is no better place to do that than in the homes of our local senior clients.

Meet a Home Instead CAREGIVER. Megan Blatnik started caring for Home Instead clients in August of 2019. Raising 5 children gave her experience that has transferred easily to home care for

seniors. Her cooking, cleaning, laundry, and general household management skills had already been honed to perfection. Add to that her problem-solving ability, hands-on personal care skills and kind and patient nature and it’s easy to see why home care is a great fit for her. However, for Megan, it’s all about family. That’s why home care is meaningful work for her. As she put it, “I make every house I visit a home for the senior or seniors who live there because you know what they say, ‘home is where the heart is.’” To Megan, a home provides comfortable surroundings, choice of activity, good food, a safe space, and a place filled with optimism and hope. She helps Home Instead clients experience everything good about being home. It means a lot to her and the families and seniors she serves. “It’s an honor to serve my seniors,” says Megan. “They deserve to continue their journey in a safe, comfortable, and fun place. Being part of that puts a smile on my face every day.”

Cardiac Surgery And Cardiovascular Specialty Services Expanded At UH Parma Medical Center

continued from page 3

for patients with cardiac surgical disease including atrial fibrillation; one for evaluating and treating advanced heart failure; and one for implanting and monitoring cardiac devices. Cardiologist Ravi Ramani, MD, of the Advanced Heart Failure Clinic will treat patients with severely reduced ejection fraction or refractory heart failure, or strug-

gling with recurrent admissions for heart failure. Drs. James Ramicone and Shashank Jain in the Cardiac Device Clinic will have the ability to interpret new implants and perform follow-up checks both in person and remotely on pacemakers, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs) and CRT-D devices for cardiac resynchronization

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PERSPECTIVE

Stupidity Could Be Fatal

by Lee Kamps

Forrest Gump said it best in the movie; "Stupid is as stupid does". Many years after those words were spoken on the movie screen, it seems that many people in the United States are proving Forrest Gump was correct.

Last year the United States and the world was hit by the biggest pandemic in more than a century. As the virus spread across the globe and in this country, cities and states went into lockdown. The economy crashed into a COVID recession as events were cancelled and "non essential" businesses were closed. That worked for a while as we "flattened the curve" on infections. Then we slowly re-opened and infections from the pandemic really took off.

However late last year, a miracle happened. Three highly effective vaccines were developed that could end this pandemic quickly. After a slow start, vaccinations ramped up in late winter and spring this year as many Americans got vaccinated. New infections dropped and we could go to shows and ball games again. People could travel again. The economy came roaring back.

But then something happened.

The rate of vaccinations in the United States slowed to a crawl as vaccination rates in some parts of the country were still less than 40% while in others, vaccination rates among those eligible are as high as 70%. Now, the country is in the grips of what has been called a "pandemic of the unvaccinated" as hospitals in certain parts of the country are filling up with COVID patients.

The patients in the hospital with COVID are younger with many in their 30s and 40s and are 99% unvaccinated. Even with cases shutting down certain parts of the country, many people still do not intend to get vaccinated against COVID despite the success of the vaccines protecting those who have been vaccinated.

I am old enough to remember when the polio vaccines came out in 1955 and in 1962. No one questioned the vaccine. Since my mother was a nurse, as soon as the vaccine was available, my family went to our doctor's office and got the vaccination. Later they brought the vaccinations into the schools to vaccinate the children. My mother volunteered to help the doctor with the polio shots at Ridge Brook elementary school.

Later a new, more effective polio

vaccine was developed in 1962 and could be taken orally. They organized Sabin Oral Sundays and again used the schools as community vaccination centers. I remember my family going to the new Greenbriar school in the summer of 1962 to get the new polio vaccine.

No one questioned the polio vaccine even though our knowledge of virology then was far less advanced than it is now. The Salk vaccine in 1955 was revolutionary. In fact, the Sabin oral vaccine used live polio viruses.

Perhaps one reason why no one questioned the vaccines then was that our parents and grandparents remembered when killer diseases took many lives. My grandparents went through the influenza pandemic from 1918 to 1920. My mother was born in September 1918 at the peak of the pandemic. Diphtheria and whooping cough killed many children in my parent's youth.

Perhaps in that era, there was more of a spirit of community and that the public good was more important than one's "personal freedom". Back then most of our public officials did the right thing and didn't care about who got credit for successes and

who got blamed for failures.

What has become evident now is that most of the world doesn't have the vaccination capacity as the United States. To our nation's credit, the United States is making 500 million doses of the vaccine available to the rest of the world. These vaccines have the potential to end this pandemic everywhere.

However, in the United States where there is ample supplies of the vaccine and it is readily available at no cost to anyone, roughly 45% of Americans are still unvaccinated. Even some people hospitalized with COVID are still suspicious of getting vaccinated.

In parts of the country where new COVID cases are increasing, things are shutting down again. This is true in Arkansas where their vaccination rate among those eligible is less than 40%. I had a trip to Arkansas planned over the Labor Day weekend that has been cancelled due to COVID shut downs. I am hesitant to travel there even though I am fully vaccinated.

There is no good reason not to get vaccinated except a bona fide medical reason. This is just sheer stupidity and those unvaccinated people are proving that Forrest Gump was correct.

Parma Safety Fair And Shred Day Return

continued from page 1

the whole family can enjoy and usually draws a large crowd," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "We are also holding our annual Shred Day & Food Drive for our residents. Donations will benefit All Faiths Pantry."

On Shred Day, a resident will

ments 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 can be included. Plastic and binder materials can jam the shredding machine. A Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District grant will cover the shredding costs.

All Faiths Pantry will accept non-perishable canned, bagged and boxed food items, as well as paper products such as paper towels, napkins, toilet paper and facial tissues. Monetary donations are also beneficial and allow the Pantry to purchase food from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank at a reduced cost. Donations can be made online at www.allfaithspantry.org/how-to-help.

Follow @CityofParmaOhio on Facebook to see updates about both events.

Cardiac Surgery And Cardiovascular Specialty Services Expanded At UH Parma Medical Center

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therapy. A new documentation system called Paceart can track patients' medical devices to notify them when they should be upgraded or replaced, and whether they would benefit from cardiac ablation or need referral for heart failure treatment.

Mehdi Shishehbor, DO, MPH, PhD, President of UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute, echoes the organization's commitment to the southwestern Cuyahoga County suburbs surrounding UH Parma Medical Center. The transformational renovation of surgical suites, along

with pre-and post-operative areas at the hospital included the completion of an operating room designed to accommodate high-acuity cardiovascular procedures.

"UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute is fully committed to providing the highest-quality cardiovascular and open-heart surgery to patients at UH Parma Medical Center," says Dr. Shishehbor. "With the \$27.5 million renovation of Surgical Services at the hospital and the clear need for expanded cardiac surgery, the time was right to bring these services to UH Parma."

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need to show proof of residency with a driver's license, gas bill or electric bill to participate. There will be no limit, however, on the amount of documents

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PERSPECTIVE



Rep. Crossman delivers remarks pertaining to expulsion of former Republican Speaker Larry Householder in May 2021

Rep. Crossman Delivers Remarks On Republican Speaker Larry Householder

by Jeffrey Crossman

With the state budget concluded and the Statehouse Representatives back in the District, State Representative Jeffrey A. Crossman has scheduled a townhall event for August 11th to highlight what has been happening and engage with constituents. The event is free, open to the public, and starts at 6:00 pm.

Rep. Crossman will provide updates and answer questions on the state's nearly \$80 Billion budget and some of the other priority legislation that has passed the Ohio House of Representatives recently. "The budget is a reflection of the State's priorities and this is a good opportunity to hear what state leaders believe are the most pressing issues of the day" said Rep. Crossman. "I will be addressing the good, the bad, and the ugly in the budget. The good most definitely includes the historic change to school funding and the bad is more tax cuts for the wealthy that the majority party insisted be included."

Rep. Crossman will also address what's to come, primarily the redistricting process where the district lines for the next congressional and statehouses will be redrawn pursuant to the requirements laid out in the U.S. Constitution. This is the same process that our country embarks upon every ten years after the census but this year

is a bit different because Ohio voters chose to pass Constitutional changes that require fair districts be drawn. "Fair districts is a great way to get more responsive government," said Rep. Crossman, "we can end some of the gridlock and extremism that has been plaguing our government in recent years by drawing districts that don't allow politicians to pick their voters. Gerrymandering is undemocratic and leads to less responsive government." Voting rights has also been a big issue in Columbus as Republican leaders have pushed to curtail voting by mail and close the window for the time to vote during elections.

Finally, Rep. Crossman will be addressing what has been happening with the State's much maligned unemployment compensation system, including what has been happening to help workers who have been struggling to get needed benefits and what improvements may still be needed moving forward. The event will take place on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Parma library behind City hall located at 6996 Powers Blvd, Parma, OH 44129. Rep. Crossman can be contacted via email at Rep15@ohiohouse.gov and for more information, please visit his facebook page at facebook.com/crossmanforohio. Rep. Crossman lives here in Parma and you can also reach him at his home office number at 216-373-6926.

Seven Hills Celebrates 60 Years As A City: Welcomes Back Home Days

continued from page 1

August 29th catch local celebrity Jungle Terry and his coterie preform, displaying the most exotic animals from across the globe at the Kidz Zone. New to Home Days this year is the Community Corner featuring many community groups in their own booth to recruit new members and fundraise. With two different stages and a time-honored radio station there is sure to be nonstop music that keeps the event lively for all. After a long day of fun make sure to stop by and eat at the various food vendors featuring a diverse array of options sure to meet any residents' cravings. All of this is possible thanks to the unflagging efforts of the volunteer committee which has been working for months leading into Home Days. Additionally, thanks to our sponsors, Legacy Health Services, Waste Management and Cox Communica-

tion we have been able to include more for this year's event, without them we would not be able to keep the costs low for our residents. To find out more information regarding the event look in the mail for our improved booklet, go to Facebook and like our page titled "Seven Hills Summer Events" and finally go to visitsevenhills.com for the Home Days website. As always, the zealous advocates that make up those working this event are here to answer questions, so feel free to contact the City of Seven Hills at 216-525-6230 if you would like more information or want to get involved. Seven Hills 2021 Home Days is a cannot miss event, as it is a perfect way to get one last summer memory. The City of Seven Hills is excited to see you all on August 27th, 28th and 29th at Seven Hills Municipal Complex located at 7325 Summitview Dr., Seven Hills, OH 44131.

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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

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

Know who to call....If you believe someone may be a victim of human trafficking call the Cuyahoga County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Hotline at 216-443-6085 or 911 in the case of an emergency.

Learn more about the lasting effects of trauma as a result of human trafficking, and the important role social service and mental health providers can play. attend "Understanding the Trauma of Human Trafficking" taking place virtually (and free) on July 28th from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Learn more about how the issue of Human Trafficking is being effectively addressed locally. Follow the Collab on Facebook here and visit the the Collab's redesigned web site. To stay current in regards to HT-related events and activities sign up for their E-newsletter here.

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

If you're affiliated w/a youth group of any sort & looking for a program, check out their extensive list of Prevention/Education programs for Students. Presentations can be age-appropriate, gender-specific & tailored to meet your needs.

Safety Town Blitz 2021.... THERE'S STILL TIME - All Incoming PCSD Kindergarten Students already registered for the 2021 - 2022 school year are invited to join a FREE, one-day Safety Town Blitz on Monday, July 26, 2021, at Greenbriar Middle School, 11810 Huffman Road. A 3.5 hour, morning (9 - 12:30) or afternoon (1 - 4:30) session is being offered. Learn more and register at: <https://forms.gle/tE46GA1v7TnwzBFZ9>

From Parma Area Chamber of Commerce....Click on the links to get details of these upcoming community events:

PACC Spotlight on Education - New Teacher's Breakfast - August 17, 2021. The registration deadline for this event is Monday, August 9th.

Parma City Schools Foundation Clambake - September 17, 2021

From City Of Parma - Annual Safety Fair....It's back and scheduled for Saturday, August 28, from 11 - 2 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd (across from the PSE Credit Union on Day Drive). If your organization would like to participate and has a child health & safety focus to share in some manner w/the public, call City Hall at 440.885.8093 and ask for Crystal.

From OCALI (<https://www.ocali.org>) - Inspiring change & promoting access for people w/disabilities....

Their InspireED Video Gallery has recently been reorganized by audience and by topic, including accessibility, autism, early childhood, family and community, PBIS, remote learning, transition, universal design for learning, wellbeing and self-care, along with assessment and data for professionals.

From MetroHealth Medical Center:

Has just opened a **Family Dentistry Center** at 3701 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland (near the corner of Lorain and Fulton), just half a mile from their Ohio City Health Center. It provides services for both adult and pediatric patients to include everything from routine check-ups and cleanings to root canals, bridges, partial dentures, and crowns.

Has partnered w/the ADAMHS Board to install NaloxBoxes at key locations around the County.

From Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Crooked River Exploration Camp for kids 6 - 12...check out the last of 3, 2-day mini-camp experiences: "Dive Into Water" scheduled for August 4th & 5th. Worth looking into.

From Ohio Board of Education....Has issued a call to action for families, educators, and community members to prioritize student attendance. To answer this call, the Department and its partners are offering practical tips or Extra Points, that can be used to increase attendance and engagement during the school year.

From Parma City Schools:

Take your family to a **FREE SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT** every Thursday evening in July. Sponsored by PCSD & the Parks & Recreation Depts of

Parma, Parma Hts & Seven Hills, these movies will begin at 8:30 pm at BYERS FIELD. "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" is featured this Thursday, July 22nd, and "Toy Story 4" will be shown on July 29th.

Learn more about A.C.E.S. (Accept, Champion, Educate and Support) Center for Education the District's new, innovative program designed to better serve special education students -- specifically children on the autism spectrum.

Visit www.parmacityschoools.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".

From Parma Area MyCom, Southwest Community Based Svcs (SWCBS)/University Settlement:

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR - From SWCBS - SAVE THE DATE....Watch for more information about this event scheduled for Saturday, August 14, 2021, from 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., location: Constellation School on Pearly Rd. If anyone is interested in setting up a resource table, being a vendor, volunteering, or providing an activity, contact Evy Ash, Resource Coordinator at 440.887.4873, email: eash@universitysettlement.net

This week's MyCom e-Newsletter contains valuable information to help disconnected young adults (ages 16 - 24) find resources & opportunities for success. The article describing the new Ohio Means Jobs "SkillsMatch" tool, by itself, will make it worth your time.

Find out what's new with MyCom at www.mycomcle.org, sign up for their e-newsletter, join in their Wisdom for Wednesday weekly Zoom

get-togethers and/or visit their FAQ page to learn more about the organization.

From Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL):

Branches will be hosting a Cleveland Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry....free food to those in need - rain or shine, first come, first served, while supplies last.

Free Summer Mentoring is available for students in grades 1 - 6 who are having difficulty and/or are falling behind or might want to get a running start for the new school year.

As of July 5th, free access to Wall Street Journal's WSJ.com page will be available via CCPL's RESOURCES page. The service includes unlimited articles on WSJ.com, an e-replica of the day's paper, and a four-year archive search.

This year's Summer Reading program, Tails and Tales is off to a fast start. Go here to learn more, register and find out about the current STEAM challenge. Remember, the more you read the greater chance you have to win prizes.

CCPL's summer virtual learning program that introduces kids in grades 1 - 6 to a wide variety of STEAM-based activities. And/or check out and subscribe to CCPL's YouTube channel so that you don't miss out of any of their STEAM challenge videos.

At-home COVID-19 testing kits are available via DRIVE-THROUGH ONLY at the Parma & Parma-Snow locations.

All 3 of our Branch locations are providing free grab-and-go lunches from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank for kids ages 18 and under, while supplies last. Branch & hours: Parma-Snow: 1:45 - 2:45; Parma: 12:00 - 1:00; Parma Hts: 11:30 - 12:30.

Computer Classes....Virtual computer classes have been scheduled for the summer months. Go here for details: <https://cuyahogalibrary.org/Events/Computer-Classes/Virtual-Classes.aspx>.

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

The Innovation Center at the Parma-Snow Branch is now open for public access by appointment only for up to 2 hours- learn more about this unique, hi-tech service.

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


To receive current, detailed information about these services plus upcoming events & more, consider registering for their e-newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/CCPL-Newsletter>



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PARMA'S ART SCENE

Parma Art Scene



Photo by AJ Almy

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique - "Summer of Protest 2020" runs through August 22nd. This exhibit showcases the photographs from the Cleveland protest that occurred in the Spring of 2020, as seen through the lens of the photographer. Featured in this exhibit are photos taken by Anastasia Pantsios, AJ Almy, Anderson Rush,

Nico Pico Train, No Numbers, Arron Bound and Denyce Renee, and artwork by Joyce Morrow Jones. Opening night, July 23rd, featured poetry readings by Siaarra Freeman, Krystal Sienna and Kevin Latimer.

Starting August 8th Prama will be hosting **Open Mic Night** for musicians, poets, storytellers and other performers every Sunday from 7 to 9 PM. Contact Prama if you are interested in participating. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming events.

Coming **August 27, 2021**, at Prama Artspace & Gallery, naming Emilys show, "The Art of Emily Szalkowski", **"Welcome to the Little World Inside my Head."**

Robert Pohm, board member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council was accepted into the Ohio Watercolor Society 2021 Annual Juried Show, for his painting "Dance of Love" done on yupo paper with Qro's watercolors, and sized 14X11. The exhibit runs from July Through September 3, 2021 at The Gallery at Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, Ohio. They will also



Photo by Anastasia Pantsios



Photo by Anastasia Pantsios

be exhibited throughout the state at various venues through May 2022.

Sean Mabin, board member of Parma Fine Arts Council, and owner/operator of Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique, won the "Ethereal Spirit" award for his photo "St. Michael Looking Over Gordon Square" at the "Emergence of Being" exhibit, a Spirit Art Show at Holistic Health and Healing, 28895 Lorain Rd. in North Olmsted. This exhibit closes August 31st. Additionally his photo titled "Reflective Beads" was accepted in the Walk All

Over Waterloo juried exhibition August 6th through September 18th.

The recently opened **Cleveland Craft Nook, 13803 Ridge Rd** in North Royalton, houses 100 vendors of hand-crafted items, several vendors have Parma connections. Stop in.

Donald Truly, husband of Doris Truly passed away July 2, 2021. Doris is a Lifetime Member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Doris is a watercolorist and has taught numerous classes in the area. Our sympathies to Doris and family.

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