

"November at its best- with a sort of delightful menace in the air."- Anne Bosworth Greene

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**November, 2021  
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# ParmaObserver

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## RTA Still Needs Change More Than We Do

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In February of 2010 I wrote a story entitled "RTA Needs Change More Than We Do". This was in response to cuts in service that occurred here in Parma, and how out of touch the management of the agency had grown as it related to the largest city in Cuyahoga

County outside of Cleveland. Sadly, when I read it now, it seems as if I had written it only moments ago. There is absolutely no doubt that whenever changes are made to routes, our community experiences less and less than we deserve of the public transportation service citizens should expect in

the 7th largest city in Ohio.

It must be noted that the State of Ohio spends less than Wyoming on public transportation, and that state has the least population of all 50 states, so the challenges of meeting service requirements is made all that more difficult, for sure. That is still no excuse

for what has happened when it comes to the latest changes made by RTA concerning routes throughout the Parma Area, apparently with no consultation beforehand with our elected leaders. It seems many requests had to be made to management before they finally journeyed to Parma City Council Chambers in order to address questions and concerns from officials.

When they did appear, they were greeted by skeptical council members who had many urgent questions about critical issues having to do with changes in bus routes, elimination of routes altogether, and the fact that no one had consulted anyone in our city beforehand. The response from RTA officials present was far less than satisfactory. One actually said that he had not had access to his computer for several days. It's not often that we hear a "dog ate my homework" excuse from an employee of a major institution like RTA. In my opinion, this was one of the more glib presentations that I have ever witnessed. Definitely a "don't worry your pretty little heads" answer to what are serious questions from our local leaders about why Parma seems to be on the pay no mind list when it comes to planning changes and cuts.

Insisting that slashing services in a way that clearly disadvantages people who depend on public transportation is somehow an "improvement" is really an insult of the highest order. RTA receives 1% of sales tax revenue in Cuyahoga County, so when a city as large as Parma, which certainly contributes a sizable amount of sales tax, gets in return less and less each time this game of musical chairs is played, remains completely unacceptable.

The creation of RTA in the 1970's from the beginning was in response to obvious incompetence from those in charge of the former CTS. I believe that we have gone full circle and the time has come once again to demand major changes from this agency, with ballot initiatives if necessary. We can start with replacing the entire RTA Board, with the mandate that a new board must completely re-design a transit system that will attract new riders, additional revenue, and meet the needs of average working people, instead of repelling them with dwindling expectations. If that doesn't work, then it is probably time to scrap RTA as we know it and start all over again somehow. I'll say it again- RTA needs change more than we do.

### Seven Hills

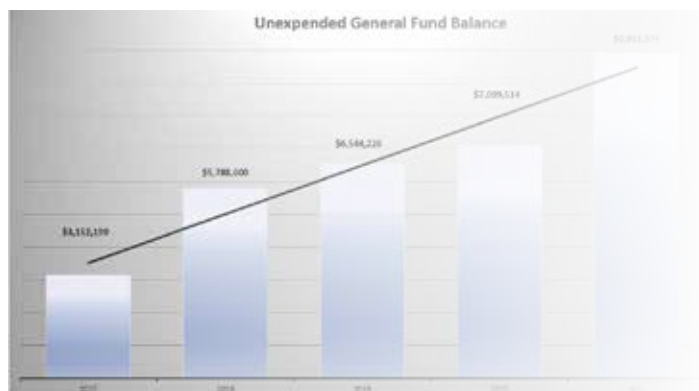
## Financial Progress Continues

by Tony Biasiotta

This time of year, we often take pause to give thanks. We as a community and me personally as Mayor of Seven Hills have so much to be thankful for. Over the summer we enjoyed a summer concert series, farmers market, an Oktoberfest and an extremely well attended Home Days. None of these would be possible without an a very dedicated staff, a long list of loyal resident volunteers and sponsors that help keep the cost of all these events at a minimum. We have witnessed the soft opening of a 20-acre nature preserve and the start of many park improvements. Most notable this year was the improvements to our ball fields, but this is just the tip of what is to come over the next 3 years. We have welcome backed our various senior groups to our renovated city hall community room and watched our community/recreation center fully rebound from last year's state mandated closure

Over the last 3 years, 23 roads have been resurfaced and 9 projects related to water management and sewers were completed. We have 8 more sewers projects planned and intend to commit 100% of our American Recovery Funds to road resurfacing in 2022. I give thanks to all the staff and volunteers that contributed to these projects and more. I give thanks to our residents who have repeatedly had faith in myself and our administration.

As a municipal manager my top priority is the safety of my residents but an extremely close 2nd, so to speak, is our city



Based on September 2021 financial statements.

finances. When the finances are in order, they are catalyst for which everything else is possible. I'm pleased to report to that Seven Hills Finances continue to improve. Our General Fund Unexpended (Cash) Balance is \$8.9 million (see the chart below)

We are projecting a year end surplus of around \$1.5 million. I will ask council that this year's surplus be transferred into our capital fund for future use on roads, sewers and potentially upgrades to our service garage facility.

Many factors often contribute to great news that is represented in our recent September YTD financials. One factor is expense management. While the nation is currently experiencing 6% inflation, we have been able to hold our general fund expense growth to only 1.8% (adjusted for accounting entries) through sound fiscal management. A second factor has been our ability to increase revenue without raising taxes by adding new businesses such as Meijer. A third factor has been our ability to bring extra value to numerous projects through the of utilization partnerships (almost \$3 million) in the last 2 years. Lastly, a key factor, one often looked by poor

managers, is your team. Our administration has been successful in building a good working environment where morale is high and most take great pride in the service they provide. This type of work environment encourages performance and celebrates success. The ultimate winners are our residents, with better services, more events and a consistently improving infrastructure!

## Script Parma Photo Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Rita Shaw. The picture includes members the Parma Senior High School Marching Band Class of 2020 from the July 4, 2019 Parade. Rita's son Eric Shaw now goes to Ohio State University. 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

Do you have any unused and/or expired medications in your medicine cabinet? Do you know the best way to dispose of them? Well, the Parma Police Department has the answer. All too often unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs end up in the wrong hands or are literally flushed down the toilet. Stories of family members and visitors stealing them abound. In fact, there are some folks who visit homes on the market simply to raid medicine cabinets. Further, all too often drugs can end up in the hands of curious children, sometimes with tragic consequences. Drug disposed of down the drain have shown to have negative environmental impacts.

According to the 2019 national survey on drug use and health, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription tranquilizers or sedatives. The survey also showed that a majority of misused



prescription drugs were obtained from family and friends, often from the home medicine cabinet.

To keep people and the environment safe, the best and safest way to dispose of your unused drugs is to take them to a community collection bin. Luckily, the Parma Police Department has a collection drop box in their lobby at 5555 Powers Boulevard, where you



can dispose of them anonymously and for free. Be sure to remove all identifying information before you turn them in. If you do take prescription or non-prescription medications, always keep them in a safe a secure location. To find out more visit the Food and Drug Administration website.

On another note, the Parma Police Department will be holding the next rendition of its popular Citizen's Police Academy. The free program will begin on November 16 and will run for 10-weeks. The Academy is a great way to open lines of communication between the community and the police department. Interested residents must be at least 18, have no serious criminal

history (a background check will be performed), be physically able to participate in activities, commit to attend the 10-weekly three-hour sessions, and sign waivers and agreements.

More information and applications may be obtained by contacting Captain Thomas Siedlecki at 440-887-7329 or by emailing him at tom.siedlecki@parmajustice.net.

A word of thanks to all of our military veterans as we honor you on Veterans Day, November 11.

# Senator Antonio Recognizes National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

by Nickie Antonio

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and on October 5th, I was honored to be presented with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network's Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN) created the Croucher Family Award to recognize Jim and Elsa Croucher of Monroe, Ohio who were trailblazers for domestic violence education in Ohio. The Crouchers became advocates after their youngest child, Tina, was tragically killed by an abusive ex-boyfriend. They founded Citizens against Domestic Violence in 1996 and created a Teen Dating Violence Prevention Program.

I want to thank both ODVN and the Croucher family from the bottom of my heart for the important advocacy they do on behalf of survivors of domestic violence in Ohio. More than a million women in the United States are physically assaulted by an intimate partner every year,

and more than one in three women in the United States will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime. The increased isolation and closure of support services resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic have only made domestic violence situations more dangerous.

In past operating budgets, I have always advocated for additional dollars for domestic violence services, as well as the creation of the Domestic Violence Programs line item in 2019. In House Bill 110, the operating budget passed earlier this year, I successfully championed the inclusion of \$7.5 million for domestic violence support services across Ohio, which will be used to sustain current programs and serve more survivors seeking help.

Additionally, over the years, I have worked on many pieces of legislation to protect victims of domestic violence, including Senate Bill 90, which would expand the offense of domestic violence to also prohibit strangulation and classify strangulation as a

felony rather than a misdemeanor. SB 90 has had two hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee and is awaiting further hearings. Another important piece of legislation I am working on is Senate Bill 198, which would end the statute of limitations on rape and sexual assault. SB 198 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee and is awaiting its first hearing.

This month and every month, I promise that I will never stop fighting to make sure every Ohioan is able to live safely without the threat of domestic violence in their homes.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network is there to help. For more information on contacting ODVN, click here or call 1-800-934-9840.

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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## School Is In, Bullies Are Back!

by Deborah White

Bullying happens every day and we all know what a bully is, or do we? Before we try to answer this question, it must be understood that some bullying victims may not always let on that they are being bullied. They may hide it because they may fear consequences of more bullying, not being believed, or that the situation might be ignored by adults.

So, how do we recognize a bully?

Are bullies always boys? Are bullies fat or skinny? Do they look frightful or pleasant? You should know, of course, that bullies cannot be recognized by their appearance. Bullies can be tall, short, fat, skinny, or pleasant. This is why they are hard to recognize. Hence, they come in all shapes and sizes. There is one way to recognize them and that is by the way they act or behave. Their behavior puts them into one of two categories. I label these categories as

Belligerent and Deceptive.

Belligerent bullies use physical means to bully their victims. Deceptive bullies use mental and emotional ways to bully or control their victims. Which type is more harmful to your child? They can be equally harmful and have to be dealt with a little differently. Belligerent bullies are easier to recognize because of the physical aspect; they like to push, hit, kick, or make their destructive intentions known very boldly. Deceptive bullies are a lot less obvious. These bullies can, “fly under the radar”, as it were. They subtly influence their friends and acquaintances to do things that are harmful or hurtful to others. They may even influence their friends to do things that are illegal. Since all children want to “fit in”, they may do exactly what the bully tells them or dares them to do.

In order to combat these types of situations it is imperative that children have open communication with all trusted adults. If your child is being bullied, then talk to the school staff members and teachers. Working with the school personal, a plan can be built to keep bullying out.

To learn more about bullying and ways to build your child’s confidence and skill set, visit the Barnes & Noble’s online bookstore for, “Be Bully Proof with BP4”.

Deborah White Black Belt Instructor, Author, MBA, (The Self-defense Guru)



## Citizens Should Beware Of This Scam And Others

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On 10-13-21 Three men from New York were arrested by Parma Police and charged with theft by deception of an elderly person using what is sadly an old scam almost always aimed at our vulnerable Seniors. Someone convinces them that a relative is in jail for a serious offense and is in need of bail money. They sent a courier to expedite the pickup of the money, before the target could process the information or check with other relatives. In this case they obtained \$18,000 from the victim. The Parma Police Department was able to solve this case, with help from the Westlake Police Department, and took these three

suspects into custody, The case is still ongoing and under investigation. The suspects were driving a 2021 gold Nissan Acura. Anyone who may have also been approached by these suspected criminals or knows anything at all which can help the police should contact Detective Marc Karka at 440-887-7322. Everyone should be aware of these type of crimes, how they are perpetrated, and by all means keep an eye on elderly relatives and neighbors. If you see something, say something. Another fine example of excellent police work by our top notch police department, keeping Parma safe and making criminals fear bringing their crime to our city.



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# GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA

## Mr. Chicken Has Deep Local Roots

by Daniel P. McCarthy

=Mike Simens, owner of Mr. Chicken, is a fascinating guy to talk with. Their first store was at Southgate mall in Maple Hts. He was barely a teenager when he helped his Dad with the tile work in the brand new building at Snow and Stumph Rds. in 1970. This was the very first location in Parma,, at that time known as Famous Recipe. For 53 years they've been in business, with 7 stores now serving the Cleveland Area. Not long after the store opened there was a strike at the nearby GM plant. Mike's Dad had been a union bricklayer and general contractor, so in support of the workers on the picket line, every night he brought any extra food to them, and the strike lasted for months. They never forgot this and were loyal customers after that. Mike married Cynthia, a Parma girl from Farnsworth Ave., in 1989.

=1985 saw the second store at Broadview and Snow Rd., then in 1998 at Pearl and Ridge. In 2009 the Broadview Rd. landlords sold the property to Walgreen's, and they moved to the Pleasant Valley and Broadview Rd. location. In 2014 when they were unable



to reach a lease deal with the property owners at Snowville Shopping Center, they were forced to close what had been their first location, after 44 years. This prompted a decision to purchase their properties in order to bring stability and longevity to the company.

The menu has always been based on farm fresh chicken, hand breaded with a custom designed spice mixture, cole slaw chopped daily with dressing made from scratch, mashed potatoes with gravy, and delicious biscuits straight from the oven. Mike

firmly believes that team members have always been the key to the success of Mr. Chicken, and indeed hundreds of young people chose to work there all during High School, and others stayed for 15-20 years, making a career out of working for them, which makes Mike very proud. There are always employment opportunities, especially now in 2021 with the well publicized demand for workers in many fields.

It is good to recognize a local company like Mr. Chicken that has been here for 53 years and counting, especially when it is a fact that many giant companies have also chosen our area to do business. With fierce competition everywhere you look, staying the course with a tried and true product seems to have worked well for this dedicated family and their loyal employees- we are all that much better for it.

## Mobile Food Pantry At Parma Heights Branch Library

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Boxes of shelf stable food items will be available for curbside pickup—first come, first serve--at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesdays, November 17th, December 15th and January 19th, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. -12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

## Food Distribution At All Saints Episcopal Church

Food distributed by volunteers to people that drive up or walk through. Held in conjunction with Parma Heights Baptist Church on their grounds. Third Saturday of each month.



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AUTUMN ALMANAC

# Polish Village's Treat And Greet Recap

by Kathryn Mabin

This year's Treat & Greet fell on Saturday, October 23rd. It was a cool, overcast morning, and as the day moved forward the weather cooperated, the sun was shining and the kids accompanied by adults grew in volume. This event has occurred for the last ten years, with one cancellation due to the pandemic. Several volunteers work diligently to bring

this to the community. Supply chain issues, higher costs of candy, printing and decorations, and less donors were experienced this year. But through all this, the Polish Village Parma non-profit volunteers, with the assistance of Ward 2, Councilwoman Debbie Lime persevered. New this year, as you drive through the business district of Polish Village you'll see multiple large flower pots lin-

ing the main street, decorated for the season by the Polish Village volunteers. This free safe family friendly event is a win, win situation for children, accompanying adults, small businesses, and the community at large. Children experience the joy of dressing up and getting candy. Adults get to visit local businesses in the area, that they may not have known existed, in addition to participating in a raffle where this year 18 prizes were awarded with a value of \$50 or more. Participating businesses

in Polish Village get the opportunity to show the adults what they have to offer, in the hopes of encouraging return business. The last few years the police and fire department have also participated, as well as U.H. Parma. Due to the success of Treat & Greet the Polish Village volunteers and participating businesses are in the process of planning Christmas in Polish Village, to occur mid-December. Stay tuned for details. Follow Polish Village Parma on Facebook for further information.



## AARP Tax Aide Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers to assist taxpayers in southwestern Cuyahoga County. Volunteers do not have to be retired or members of AARP. We plan 2 tax preparation sites in Parma and additional sites in neighboring cities. All of our sites are electronic filing sites. Volunteers are expected to work for at least 5 hours per week on weekdays during the tax season, which runs from the first week in February through the 15th of April. In light of the pandemic, our operational processes are still being finalized. Each volunteer must have an email address and computer experience is preferred for tax return preparers. Volunteers do not need previous income tax experience. We provide a free two-week virtual course for tax return preparers during January. We are also looking for greeters who do not need computer experience and provide them with a free one-day course. Tax-Aide is a very rewarding IRS-supported program offered by the AARP Foundation providing free assistance to taxpayers with special attention given to senior citizens with low to moderate incomes. It is a great way for volunteers to become involved in their communities and learn about the preparation of the 1040 tax form. Our recruitment of volunteers is on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

For more information please call Tax-Aide District Coordinator Steve Donovan at 440-237-7348, call AARP's toll-free number at 888-687-2277, or visit Tax-Aide's web site at [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp\\_taxaide/](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/)

## Next Century Of Sirl's Automotive

by Laura Oravec

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INSPIRATION

Hometown Heroes

by Tony Kessler

Parma Fire Chief Tagged as Hero in a Different Role Associating the word “Hero” to a first responder, be it a law enforcement officer, fire fighter, EMT or hospital worker, is quite common just because of the dangers they encounter daily. But there is one Parma Fire Fighter who has been tagged with the word Hero for reasons beyond the call of his everyday firefighting duties. This Months “Hometown Hero” is Parma Fire Chief Mike Lasky for his outstanding efforts in keeping the Parma Fire Department and the Parma community prepared to meet the challenges of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Chief Lasky Joined the Parma Department in 1995 and was promoted to Chief on July 8th, 2015. He is a graduate of the exclusive Executive Fire Officer Program and maintains Paramedic certification. He is married to his lovely wife Amy and has three children, Mary a nurse at UH Parma, Jake currently a junior at Ashland University and Grace a Junior at Cuyahoga Heights High School.

Chief Lasky has seen the department achieve the honor of becoming



an ISO Class 1 fire department. This honor is bestowed upon only 185 municipal fire departments (out of approximately 50,000 throughout the United States) and one of only five fire departments in the State of Ohio. Chief Lasky was instrumental in the development and implementation of necessary protocols for the entire City of Parma throughout the recent Covid 19 pandemic. Lasky was in constant contact with officials from the Cuyahoga County Health Department, the State of Ohio Health Department, and in the development

of effective safety protocols for not only employees of the City of Parma but that of various organizations and corporations in their development of safety protocols. Lasky collaborated with officials from the State and Cuyahoga County to ensure the timely rollout of vaccinations for front-line workers to ensure that these workers were available to complete their mission.

Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter says... “Fire Chief Mike Lasky was well prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic because our fire department had a robust infection-control policy in place for years. He had to make alterations to the plan and enhance training for our firefighters, because this was a novel virus.” He went on to say, “Early in the pandemic, he carried the emergency manual everywhere, and I could see Post-Its sticking out that marked important pages or

provided additional notes. He met weekly with Cuyahoga County Board of Health and local hospital leaders and shared that information at our briefings he oversaw for all of 2020. Lasky played a vital role in leading us through the pandemic. Without question, it was the most challenging and longest year in his career. He did a stellar job. I would not want to experience another year like 2020 again, but if I had to, I would want to do it with Lasky next to me.”....

This year when you give thanks at your Thanksgiving dinner table, give a big thanks to our 1st responders and frontline workers... If you would like to nominate an individual or organization for our “Hometown Hero” of the month. Please forward info to: Tony Kessler... tonyk.parmaproud@yahoo.com

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# Neighborhoods

## Find Eyewear That Suits Your Style And Pocketbook

by Emery Pinter

As someone who has worn glasses since I was twelve, I know the struggle of getting a new pair of glasses all too well. But thanks to 168 Optical, you can now shop easily and inexpensively for prescription eyeglasses. 168 Optical is located at 6315 Pearl Road on the 2nd floor, Ste #206 in Parma Heights. At 168 Optical, frames start at just \$38 and carry a line called Twelve84. 1284 represents the year that glasses were invented in Italy. Twelve84 is a line that blends style, function and affordability with a simple all inclusive pricing structure. These frames are ideal for the occasional eyeglass wearer or the budget and fashion conscious.

Making really good prescription glasses requires an advanced level of skill and Amy, the manager, pays serious attention to detail. 168 Optical also accepts vision insurance or funds from flexible spending or health savings accounts, so if you're looking for a way to use up FSA or HSA dollars by the end of the year, this is it! This is a great local store to shop because of their combination of attractive glasses, and a super-affordable price-point. And one also has the options for upgrades like progressive lenses, anti-reflective coatings and transition lenses.

Visit their website at



[www.168opticalshop.com](http://www.168opticalshop.com) for business hours, a full list of vision care plans, and current promotions. If you're in the market for a new pair of prescription glasses, you can't go wrong with the options at 168 Optical. For the holidays this year, why not support small, local businesses? And at the end of the day, you can feel good knowing you helped out a small business, and you know who you are directly supporting.



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PERSPECTIVE

Where Did All The Workers Go?

by Lee Kamps

It was just eighteen months ago after the pandemic forced a massive shut down of the nation's economy that the Department of Labor's unemployment rate reached over 14%, a rate not seen since the 1930s. Now the unemployment rate has fallen to almost pre pandemic levels. Yet there seems to be a severe shortage of workers in many businesses and industries.

During the pandemic, bars, restaurants and hotels shut down. So did entertainment venues such as theatres and movie houses. The travel industry was hard hit as airlines, cruise lines and resorts laid off millions of workers because people weren't traveling. Retail stores also laid off personnel as more people began shopping on line or using delivery services.

Now, as the nation is emerging from the pandemic forced shut downs, there seems to be a shortage of workers in many companies and industries. There are container ships waiting on our coasts to unload their cargo. But there is a shortage of dock workers and truck drivers. Restaurants are closing because they cannot find enough servers and cooks. So where are all the workers from the days before the pandemic shut down?

Some politicians are saying that

people just got lazy and because of special pandemic unemployment benefits that many workers were better off not working and collecting government payments. But those pandemic unemployment benefits ended a few months ago and for most people those pandemic unemployment benefits were not as much as they made when they were working.

With the government's official unemployment rate down significantly from the highs during the pandemic shut down, where are all the workers? The "official" unemployment rate counts those workers who are employed full or part time, receiving unemployment benefits and are actively looking for work whether collecting unemployment benefits or not. It includes part time as well as full time workers and "gig" workers as long as one is employed somewhere.

Perhaps the answer is that many workers just left the labor force entirely. I know a number of people who were furloughed from their job during the pandemic and had the time and luxury due to the generous pandemic unemployment benefits to take stock of their situation and didn't like what they saw. Most of those people I know were at or close to retirement age and decided that it was time to retire. After all, the

rising stock market had increased the value of their retirement accounts.

I am sure that many were working parents, mostly mothers with dependent children and are unable to return to work because they cannot find dependable child care while they are working. Others, I presume mostly married, learned that the hassles of working such as commuting and juggling child care as well as the expenses of child care and just working wasn't worth the money that they made on the job and decided that they could just become a stay at home parent while saving that money. Perhaps that job just didn't pay enough to make it worthwhile to work.

I am sure that many workers in low wage retail and service jobs came to that conclusion, especially married people whose spouse had a job that could adequately support the family. I know that when I was married and had young children, my wife worked at a


part time job. But the cost of child care as well as the low pay of the job wasn't worth the time. I was earning enough money to support the family, so she voluntarily left the labor force to be a stay at home mother. Therefore, I can understand that situation.

Perhaps many workers decided that it was time to return to school, even with on line learning to learn new skills that could lead to a much better paying job. People who are attending college full or part time and not employed are not considered as being part of the labor force.

Then there are those people who simply decided that low wage job with poor working conditions and a bad boss wasn't worth the trouble of working there. I am sure that might explain why there is a shortage of servers and cooks in food service jobs.

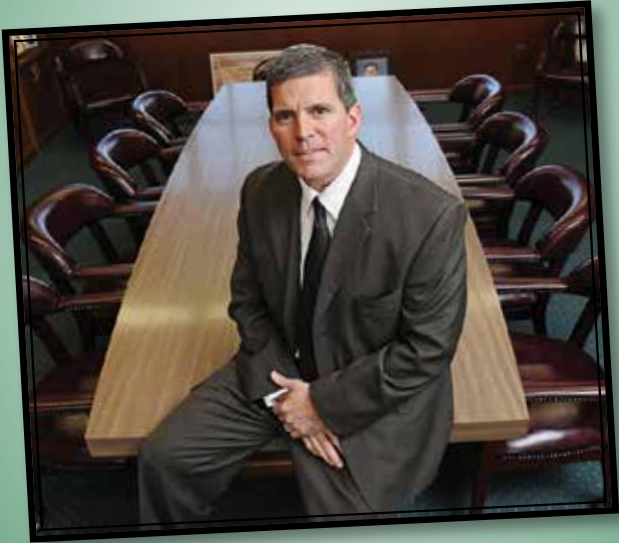
All I know is that this is a complex problem that cannot be solved with a simple solution in a sound bite.





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FIRST RESPONDERS

# Something To Say About Parma Police

by Kevin Kelly

I have something to say about our Parma Police Department. Despite all the negative criticism about our law enforcement in this country, the Parma Police have always been there when called upon. I have lived and worked in the City of Parma half of my life. Over the years, I have been an on-call emergency maintenance technician on several properties in the city, one of which was Forest City's Midtown Towers on Broadview Road. In addition, I have also worked as a Residential Manager on several other properties including Camelot Apartments on Stump Road.

In my line of work as a Residential Manager, I find that many times the job can be like baby sitting adults who just cannot seem to be rational when emotions flair out of control in certain situations. Examples include people not getting along with their neighbors, and residents becoming out of sorts after receiving a friendly reminder from the property manager's office about money they may owe.

When the police needed to be called, the Parma officers that respond have always been there to diffuse the situation which helped to calm everyone down. So, having



a police department that is always there when you need them is a god-send. Even with non-emergency calls to the Parma Police front desk, officers will always eventually show up to investigate and assure the safety of everyone concerned.

Yes, there are some Parma officers that no matter how volatile a situation may be they will come up with any excuse to get out of doing paper work and filing a report. However, these types are few and far between. The great majority of officers in Parma go

out of their way to make sure reported disturbances do not escalate further once they appear on the scene.

I remember at one of the prop-

erties I managed, a group of unruly residents were cussing and threatening property staff. This started after they were asked to remove their huge moving truck from the middle of the court yard lawn. The Parma police officers that arrived on the scene that day to handle the compliant went above and beyond their duty. The officers would not leave the property until they were sure the safety of management and everyone else was ensured. They even checked back shortly afterwards to make sure the incident did not escalate again once they had gone.

The next day, I wrote a letter to the mayor of Parma commending those officers. I was later informed by the mayor himself, that the letter would be posted on the wall of the Parma's Police Department to act as inspiration for the other officers. So, hats off to Parma's finest.

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## News You Can Use

by Gene Lovasy

### RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse:

From The Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking (GCCCR2HT):

Their technical assistance program can assist organizations to align with the State of Ohio’s Human Trafficking Standards and develop strategies for program growth to better serve survivors.

From the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety (related to the above) ....Download a copy of the Governor’s Human Trafficking Resource Guide for Ohio’s Public Children Services Agencies released September 2021.

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 how the issue of Human Trafficking is being effectively addressed locally. Follow the Collab on Facebook here and visit the Collab’s website where clicking on the PARTNERS tab will display the more than 60 organizations working together to address this issue. To stay current in regards to HT-related events and activities sign up for their E-newsletter here.

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (<https://clevelandrapecrisis.org/>) ...Services for Survivors During COVID-19, i.e.: counseling, victim assistance, and case management are available by telehealth and teleservices, accessible by smartphone, computer or phone. Learn more about accessing services remotely. For an immediate response call (216) 619-6192 or (440) 423-2020 24/7, or request an appointment online.

### LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

From Ohio Dept of Education (ODE)... Ohio’s Safety and Security Grant Program - Funding is now available for safety and security enhancements at religious institutions, chartered nonpublic schools, licensed pre-schools and nonprofit organizations. Go here for more information and a link to the application page. Deadline to apply is November 12th.

From Cuyahoga Community College... Learn more about TRI-C’s ACCESS CENTERS. The purpose of the Access Centers is to support individuals and families by providing affordable

as well as no-cost community-based educational and workforce programming. If you’re looking to sharpen your job skills and/or expand your career options or goals, give this site a visit.

### From Achievement Center for Children/Camp Cheerful:

Looking for a unique, feel-good volunteer opportunity? Consider Camp Cheerful’s Equine Assisted Services/therapeutic horsemanship program. Click here for details. Or, perhaps working w/kids in one of their Adapted Sports programs, i.e.: tennis (new), football, soccer, basketball, or baseball would be more appealing. Go here to learn more.

From Down Syndrome Association of NE Ohio (formerly the Up Side of Downs)... Visit their website at <https://www.dsaneo.org/> to learn about the wealth of services, resources, events & activities available.

### Grant Sources for Nonprofits...

Go here to check out ANOTHER SET of five grantors identified by the MyCom network. Considering the wide range of areas supported I would expect you to find at least one match.

From OCALI (<https://www.ocali.org/>)... In case you missed it, October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month. If you’re an employer considering bringing someone on board, know of, or are working w/someone having a disability, or are disabled, here are some tools that may prove helpful:

Employability/Life Skills Assessment – Format for Families; Format for Transition Team Professionals

Community Health & Safety Training & Job Seeker’s Guide

The Disability Benefits 101 (DB 101) will assist in determining the

Read the rest if this article with live links on: [parmaobserver.com](http://parmaobserver.com)



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# Parma Art Scene

## Prama Art, Crafts And More

by Kathryn Mabin

**Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique**, located at 5411 Pearl Rd is currently showing Rock and Roll Nightmare. Owner/operator Sean Mabin loves Halloween and he loves Rock. Overjoyed that the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremonies are here in Cleveland this year, he decided to join his loves for this exhibit. This exhibit has rock, shock, and horror all rolled into one fantastic show. Artists include; Kendall Hogan, Ryan Jones, Tabbitha Kirkpatrick, George Kocar, LTP Art, Sean Mabin, Victor Melarango, Karen Novak, Nico Pico Train, Jill Sampson, Shawn Sloburn, and Patrick Tighe. The exhibit runs through November 21st. In addition to outstanding art exhibits, Prama also has boutique items for sale. These are unique, hand made items, made by local artists. Prices are reasonable and start under \$10. Great place to find stocking stuffers. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram. Prama Artspace also has a YouTube channel, and web page.

Craft season has begun. Michelle Behal, President of **Parma Area Fine Arts Council**, owner/operator of **Bear Tracks Art**, acrylic painter and wood burning specialist currently has items for sale at 4 retail shops, The Rift Shop, 8135 Columbia Rd in Olmsted Falls, Handmade Treasures, 6879 South-



land Dr, Middleburgh Hts., Cleveland Craft Nook, 13803 Ridge Rd., North Royalton, and Rooted Oaks, 9296 Market Dr., Streetsboro. She'll also be in a show, Nativity in Akron.

**Katrina Lindsley, owner/operator of Devotions**, is a very busy lady too. She makes smelly jelly room fresheners, sprays, candles and more. You'll find her at The Rift Shop, 8135 Columbia Rd in Olmsted Falls, and Rooted Oaks, 92296 Market Dr., in Streetsboro. You'll also find her November 5-6 at Mentor United Methodist Church, November 12-13 Middleburgh Hts. Grace Baptist Church, and November 19-21 at Christmas Connection in the IX Center.

### Frosty's Fest 2021

Save the Date!

Sunday, December 5th, 2021

We'll see you then!!!

## Frosty's Fest Is Back!

by Kathryn Mabin

We Are Parma Proud proudly announces the return of Frosty's Fest 2021. Frosty's Fest will follow the Parma Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 5, 2021, at the Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse. Admission to this event is FREE. Many freebies and family oriented activities dur-

ing this indoor and out event, as well as items for sale. The star is Santa, of course! S'mores, food trucks, bakery, face painting, children's crafts, holiday music, professional photos with Santa, and so much more! Follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook for details and updates.

## Announcing Our Upcoming Exhibition: Leaves And Leaving, Curated By Art Books Cleveland

by Belle Mercurio

A long standing partnership between The Morgan Conservatory and Art Books Cleveland (ABC) continues this year with the upcoming exhibition entitled Leaves and Leaving. Leaves and Leaving shows work created by Art Books Cleveland members before, during, and after the Covid quarantine. Artist books, collages, and other paper-related art express the wide range of interpretations of the dual-themed exhibition from leaves as objects to renderings of what has left or been left behind. "Because of its varied structures, book art benefits from in-person viewing. Many of the pieces are intended to be held and manipulated: pages turn revealing new perspectives," says Bette Bonder of ABC, and one of the featured artists of this upcoming exhibition. This will be the first ABC in-person exhibition since the beginning of the pandemic, and will continue with a spring show at the Beachwood Community Center.

Along with this exhibition, ABC will be holding a community project throughout the duration of their show. The Leave a Message Community Project will invite the public to participate in the exhibition and their mission for the show. Anyone can come and take a leaf, write a message, and place it in the green basket. The messages will be



collected and hung through the duration of Leaves and Leaving, October 15th to November 20th, in the Morgan Gallery. The subject of your message is your choice, but idea prompts include: poems, thoughts, wishes, hopes, farewells or just words that mean something to you.

At the end of the exhibition, November 20th from 5pm to 8pm, there will be a special reception where we will read the messages aloud and burn the leaves in order to release the messages into the universe.

The opening of the show will be October 15th, and will run through November 20th. There will be an opening reception October 15th from 5-8pm here at the Morgan Conservatory. We are so excited to continue with this annual exhibition with ABC!

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