

“Whenever there’s a deep tragedy, there’s also present something of the ridiculous.”- Phil Ochs

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# ParmaObserver

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

## Brennan To Seek State House

by Crystal Flynn

Hello Parma Observer readers. There is some very exciting news to share with you this month. Parma City Council President Sean Brennan has decided to run to be your next State Representative for the 15th Ohio House District which includes Brooklyn, Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills. As you may know our current State Representative, Jeff Crossman, has decided to run for Attorney General of Ohio. Representative Crossman has served us honorably in the Ohio House of Representatives and will make a great Attorney General.

Mr. Brennan feels strongly that his entire life has prepared him for serving you well in the Ohio General Assembly. Sean



relates that "growing up the son of a single mother, after my father left, we struggled financially. My mom reluctantly signed up for food stamps to supplement her menial wages at the May Company. She mod-

eled for me the satisfaction of a hard day’s work and I miss her very much". "I worked hard because I wanted a better life and to, one day, be a better father and husband to my future children and wife. In short, I wanted the American dream. I am living proof that that dream can still be realized. While attending college at the University of Dayton, it was love at first sight when

I met Deena Denk who grew up on Pinegrove Avenue in Parma. I am so happy to say that we have now been married for over 27 years and have raised two incredible children at our Parma home".

Sean goes on to say "My entire adult life has been dedicated to serving others. In fact, in my 28 years as a public school teacher, I have taught thousands of students about

the miracle of America, our government, and the importance of civic engagement. I have also served on Parma City Council for almost 18 years. In that time, my elected colleagues and I have worked together to make Parma one of the strongest and safest inner-ring suburbs in the nation. I have also dedicated much time

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## It’s Time To Establish A Writing Community In Parma

by Jeremy Jusek

Over fifty years have passed since Shock Theater ended. The program’s cancellation ended Ernie Anderson’s wig-loving Ghoulardi caricature, who at the time was a famous, over-the-top late-night performer who helped solidify Parma’s image as a town populated by polka-lovin’, high-socks-wearin’ working class people obsessed with pink flamingo lawn ornaments.

The Parma identity has shifted somewhat but we still love our flamingos. The Parma high school girl’s rugby team named themselves the Parma Pink Flamingos, and Polish

Village started Flamingo Fever as recently as 2013, an event spearheaded by local businesses to auction off flamingos and feature the pink plastic birds decorated by local artists. It’s clear that regardless of how its younger generations shift Parma culturally that the pink flamingo will remain ingrained within the community’s DNA.

I am part of that shift. A few weeks ago, Tim DeGeeter and Parma’s city council established a poet laureate position for the city. I am honored to be the first to hold this position. What does the poet laureate do? Put simply, the laureate is a poetry advocate. They promote

local writers, create events, and give the community stuff to celebrate. And I know we have a large cache of writers to recognize, our city simply lacks the infrastructure to properly manage Parma’s creative assets. In 2015 I started the West Side Poetry Workshop through the Parma library, and during that time I’ve learned that our city harbors heaps of untapped talent who are disconnected, waiting to be coalesced into a creative community.

My first order of business was to create the foundation for that infrastructure. That

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## Message From Parma Law Director Mail Theft On The Rise

Numerous complaints have been made by residents to local authorities recently about having had personal checks stolen from mail that had been deposited in USPS signature blue collection boxes. This crime is not unique to Parma. Thousands of mail thefts have been reported in the Northeast U.S. in the past two years; Approximately \$200,000 in checks were stolen from a collection box outside a New Orleans post office last year; and mail theft in Peachtree City, Georgia got so bad that the police department warned residents on Facebook to stop dropping their mail at the main collection box in town.

Mail theft is about as old as the postal service itself. In current circumstances, thieves are using a tactic known as mailbox fishing to pluck envelopes out of collection boxes. Mailbox fishing usually involves dropping a handmade tool consisting of string tied to a sticky rodent trap or bottle slathered in glue into a collection box, reeling in envelopes stuck to the device, and sifting through the stolen mail for cash, checks, and gift cards. Other tools of the trade include double sided

duct tape placed on the lower ledge of a box’s pulldown lid to catch envelopes, and special master keys (a/kla arrow key) stolen from the USPS which enable the thieves to open any USPS controlled mail entry/exit point such as blue collection boxes, parcel lockers, cluster box units at apartment and condo buildings, and even some gated communities.

After a successful catch, thieves employ old-fashioned methods to alter checks. Common household cleaning products such as bleach, nail polish remover, or paint thinner are used to wash the ink off checks. They then change the name of the payee, increase the value of the payment, and deposit the altered check via an ATM or smart phone. In various iterations of the scheme, thieves deposit altered checks into their personal account, or into the account of an accomplice, or even into the account of an unsuspecting third party whose personal identifying information was stolen and used to open the fraudulent bank account. The more sophisticated thieves will keep the payment amount below a

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## This Month’s Script Parma Photo



This month’s script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Deborah Piotrowski. It includes Deborah, Dave, and Emily who moved to Parma from San Antonio, Texas in December, 2020. It snowed 12 inches their first day here! 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.

Interested In Writing For The Observer? - Join Us At Our Public Meeting At Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd.) Every Tuesday 7 PM

COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

In recent weeks, I have had many questions about the structures of our local, state, and federal governments. As an American government teacher for many years, I love these questions. So, for the next several months, I will utilize my column to provide you with what I hope to be helpful information about the different levels and branches of government in a series I will call Civics 101. This month I will begin with your local municipal government, focusing on Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills.

Your municipal or city government consists of the executive and legislative branches. The legislative branch consists of your elected city council. Their job is to make the laws for your city. Parma City Council consists of ten members. Nine of the members represent each of the wards or districts of the city, while, as President of City Council, I represent the city at-large. Parma Heights and Seven Hills City Councils are made up of seven members, with four ward council members and three at-large members.

Law making at the local level requires that a member of city council introduce a bill. It then has to be read at three different meetings to give members of council and the



public sufficient time to consider the legislation. However, state law does allow suspending the rules, which allows a bill to pass in one or two meetings, if time is of the essence. Once passed by council, the mayor has the power to sign the bill into law or veto (reject) it. This reflects the system of checks and balances, which is a quintessential aspect of American government.

City council also has power of the purse. In other words, they are empowered with scrutinizing and approving how your taxpayer dollars will be spent each year by approving the budget designed by the mayor.

Meetings of Parma City Council typically take place on the first and



Mayor Anthony Biasiotta of Seven Hills, like Mayors Timothy DeGeeter of Parma and Marie Gallo of Parma Heights, leads up the executive branch of his city government.

third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm, while Parma Heights and Seven Hills City Councils typically meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm.

The executive branch is run by your elected mayor, which includes Mayors Timothy DeGeeter of Parma, Marie Gallo of Parma Heights, and Anthony Biasiotta of Seven Hills. The main jobs of the mayor is to enforce laws and run the city. Now, although the mayor does not issue tickets and citations, they do oversee those who do and are ultimately responsible for laws being properly enforced. In short, the buck stops with them. This all means that the mayor has authority over the safety, service, recreation, building, engineering, economic development, and other departments of the city.

A few years back I gave a speech at a meeting of the Cleveland American Middle Eastern Organization (C.A.M.E.O.), following Mayor Frank Jackson of Cleveland. Prior to serving as mayor, he served on Cleveland City Council. I recall asking him what he felt was the biggest difference between being a member of council, as opposed to mayor. He said, "As a council member I could request, as mayor I can require." This is the essence of the difference between the executive and legislative branches. The mayor has authority over the employees of the city, while members of city council do not.

Parma Heights and Seven Hills

also have a quasi-judicial branch of government called Mayor's Court, which only hears misdemeanor criminal tax and traffic cases. In both cities, an appointed magistrate typically hears the cases, not the mayor. Parma does not have a mayor's court, due to Parma Municipal Court being located there.


It should be noted that your school district is a separate government from your municipal government. Further, the judicial branch, which consists of courts are really a part of state government. Both will be covered in future columns. To find out more about your municipal government, simply visit its website. As always, if you have any topics that you would like me to write about, send me a line at councilmanbrennan@msn.com. Happy New Year!

2022

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

New Options For Westside Parents  
Needing Help With Car Seat Installation

by Kristen Kutina

For parents who need help with car seat installation or have questions about the safest way to transport their children in motor vehicles, getting expert advice and assistance just got a little easier. University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's along with UH St. John and Parma medical centers, will open car seat checking stations at the following fire departments: Bay Village, North Olmsted, North Ridgeville, North Royalton and Olmsted Falls.

Choosing and installing a car seat can be one of the most important parts of getting ready for a new baby, and an important part of baby's transition from infant to toddler, and from toddler to preschooler. That's because motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death and injury for children over the age of one. The proper use of child car seats is the simplest and most effective method available for protecting the lives of young children in the event of a motor vehicle crash.

Before getting a car seat check or installation, parents should ask if the individual is a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician—that means he or she has completed an in depth standardized training course prepared by Safe Kids USA offered locally by the UH Rainbow Injury Prevention Center. CPS Technicians

have demonstrated skill in the proper use of child restraints and safety belts, and take part in continuing education to stay abreast of developments in the field and keep skills sharp.

Meeting with a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician for a car seat check is an interactive, educational process. The CPS Technician should take all the time necessary to ensure that you feel competent and confident in your car seat choice, installing the car seat into the vehicle and buckling your child into the car seat on your own.

UH Rainbow's Injury Prevention Center has had a car seat fitting station at the hospital's main campus in Uni-

versity Circle for more than 10 years. In response to community requests, UH Rainbow is making it easier for westside families to get expert help in choosing and installing car seats with the opening of car seat fitting stations at five area fire stations.

**The service is provided free-of-charge, beginning in January 2022, at the following fire departments from 2–5 p.m.:**

**Olmsted Falls Fire Station** - 1st Thursday of the month (Jan. 6, 2022)  
9274 Columbia Rd, Olmsted Falls, 44138

**North Ridgeville Fire Station** – 2nd Thursday of the month (Jan. 13,

2022)  
7000 Ranger Way, North Ridgeville, 44039

**North Royalton** – 2nd Thursday of the month- email Kathy Salvo for scheduling (Jan. 13, 2022)

7000 Royalton Rd, North Royalton, 44133

**Bay Village Fire Station** – 3rd Thursday of the month (Jan. 20, 2022)  
28100 Wolf Rd, Bay Village, 44140

**North Olmsted Fire Station** – 4th Thursday of the month (Jan. 27, 2022)  
24291 Lorain Rd, North Olmsted, 44070

Brennan To Seek State House

to serving my Parish of St. Charles Borromeo, along with numerous other organizations and volunteer projects. It is truly an honor to serve and pay it forward, and, it will be my distinct honor to serve you as your next State Representative. Please know that, if you select me, I will dedicate my life's work to serving all 125,000 residents of the district". To find out more, feel free to email him at [brennanforohio@gmail.com](mailto:brennanforohio@gmail.com), Follow on Facebook at [brennanforohio](https://www.facebook.com/brennanforohio), check out his website at [www.brennanforohio.com](http://www.brennanforohio.com), or call him at 567-309-0318. He looks forward to meeting you during the campaign and would be honored by your support.

Let's all get ready to start 2022 with a feeling of hope and great anticipation for the positive change that we all need as we go through the next year and make wise choices that will hopefully bring satisfactory results in all of our lives. Our future and that of our children depends on us having

excellent representation in our legislative body. Although we did not meet in person, my telephone conversation with Sean Brennan left me feeling that he is a sincere and dedicated public servant. Sending someone from Parma like Sean Brennan to our Statehouse will most definitely be a good start and hopefully lead to better and better things in the future of our great state.

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# GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA



## Inaugural Cox Business First Responder Campaign

by Jeff Lavery

Cox Business announced today that the Olmsted Township Fire Department was nominated by members of the community as one of the most revered fire departments in greater Cleveland as part of the company’s first-ever campaign dedicated to recognizing the efforts of local first responders.

The fire department was recognized with a catered Thanksgiving luncheon and a \$500 donation in the station’s name that was shared between the Marine Corps Reserves’ Toys for Tots program and the Christians in Action organization. The campaign, organized by Cox Business, sought to highlight the efforts of first responders who keep residents safe and took on new responsibilities over the past year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Olmsted Falls enjoys a long history of firefighters who strive every day to keep residents safe, and we are fortunate in that all of our first responders – police, fire, and EMS – work tirelessly to put the needs of our community first,” said Donna Winter, executive director of the Olmsted Community Center, who submitted the nomination. “We are proud to partner with Cox Business in recognizing the great work our fire department does day in and day out, along with the vital role of community partners like Toys for Tots and Christians in Action.”

The initiative saw tremendous response from the community, with Cox Business ultimately recognizing fire stations and EMS facilities across its Northeast footprint, which includes Connecticut, Ohio, and Rhode Island. The nominations highlighted the tremendous personal sacrifice first responders already make every day, and how those responsibilities grew

throughout the pandemic and with vaccination efforts.

“The inaugural Cox Business first responder campaign captures perfectly how members of the community feel about the impact local police and fire personnel make on a daily basis,” said Robert Brill, market vice president, Cox Communications. “The members of the Olmsted Falls Fire Department have our admiration and respect, and we hope this recognition helps to express a token of the gratitude we have for their dedication.”

**About Cox Communications**

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**About Cox Business**

The commercial division of Cox Communications, Cox Business provides voice, data, security, networking and video services for more than 355,000 small and regional businesses nationwide, including health care providers; K-12 and higher education; financial institutions; and federal, state and local government organizations. The organization also serves most of the top-tier wireless and wireline telecommunications carriers in the U.S. through its wholesale division. For more information, please visit [www.coxbusiness.com](http://www.coxbusiness.com).

## Message From Parma Law Director Mail Theft On The Rise

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certain threshold to avoid detection,

The USPS is replacing and retrofitting mailboxes in areas particularly impacted by this scam to eliminate the pull-down handle in favor of a slender mail slot. At a cost of \$700 to \$1,200 per box however, this change may take the USPS a long time to fully implement. In the interim, consider no

longer using checks and adopt a new, modern modality of payment. If you can't or simply won't stop using checks, please heed the following advice on ways to protect yourself against mailbox fishing.

## ON 2ND THOUGHT BY GREG OROSZ



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# Parma Rising



Pop-up Covid 19 Testing Center at Snowville Shopping Center on December 27 the line of cars waiting for the testing site stretched out of the shopping center and way down Snow Rd.

## Covid 19 Still Hanging On Into 2022

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In the springtime of 2021, it seemed that there was a definite end to the Covid 19 Pandemic of 2020, with vaccines now available, a decent rate of vaccination, and mild weather allowing much more activity to occur outdoors in the sunshine. We had all wished very hard for what we hoped would be this pandemic in our rear view mirrors, but like they always say, "be careful of what you wish for, because you may surely get it". What we got was a lot of politicizing of something that should never be politicized, and that is public health measures, in general. Couple that with the phenomenon of internet messaging travelling faster and deeper than any form of communication in history, and we have what is commonly referred to as a "hot mess".

In the summer, along came a new variant called Delts, which first appeared in India (variants will continue to mutate and develop in places where vaccinations are low, since the virus has room to grow, which is all it needs) and soon the Delta variant spread around the planet in short order, quickly becoming the dominant strain in the majority of cases. Just before Thanksgiving the newer Omi-

cron variant emerged, first in South Africa, then anywhere and everywhere at a truly astonishing pace. Suddenly there was a pop up Covid 19 Testing site at Snowville Shopping Center near my home. First the lines of cars filled the parking lot by the afternoon, and by the last few days of 2021, the cars spilled out into Snow Rd. and lined up for more than a quarter of a mile.

Not sure what will happen as we go into 2022, but it is quite apparent that caution should still be abundant. I'm planning on following the same guidelines that saw us through the pandemic in the earliest days, which is to wash my hands frequently, stay six feet apart, and wear a mask when inside of buildings, and of course vehicles and any kind of public transportation. Although I've received two Pfizer vaccinations and one booster so far, I've never stopped carrying my mask with me, and following the common sense protocols, no matter who won what election. Let's just try to stay healthy by doing our part so that we can protect each other as we experience this global crisis further, hoping to learn enough that we can avoid the worst of what could be a much longer inconvenience than we thought.

## Apex Dermatology Named 2021 Weatherhead 100 Winner



Dr. Jorge Garcia-Zuazaga and Apex COO Marty Felder proudly display Weatherhead 100 Winner award.

by Ruth Sensale

Apex Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center announced today it has been named a 2021 Weatherhead 100 Winner by Case Western Reserve University School of Management. The notable award recognizes Northeast Ohio companies with net sales of \$100,000 to \$1 million that demonstrate outstanding entrepreneurship skills, dedication to growth, and serve as an inspiration to area business owners.

"We are honored to be included in such an elite group of leaders," Founder and CEO Dr. Garcia-Zuazaga

stated. "I am proud of the growth Apex Dermatology has achieved in just 10 years through our commitment to strong teamwork, a focused vision, and unending dedication to bettering dermatological care for patients."

The 33rd annual Weatherhead 100 award recognized winners in a virtual ceremony on December 9, 2021, and will feature the companies in an upcoming special edition to Crain's Cleveland Business Magazine. Apex Dermatology previously received the award in 2019. The 2020 awards were put on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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INSPIRATION



Good News

by Susan Banks - Yurik

Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.  
**Luke 2:1-18**

Tis' the season we celebrate Heaven's Good News and welcome in a New Year, a better year. A year filled with hope and faith which will return our lives to some normalcy as before Covid and her pandemic offspring Delta and Omicron.

In the days of Jesus' birth, there were great divisions among the people, much like today. Divisions over taxation, religious practices, violence and death, shortages of food, loss of shelter, and fearful isolation of those with leprosy ruled the masses. Sound a little familiar? Heavy under the weight of oppressive divisions, we question, "Where is my faith for a better new year in all of this? How do I offer my best during these troubling times?" When we hear, "I have Good News" we hope it is true. We want it to be true.

We need it to be true!

The Good News announcing the birth of Jesus began a new day of hope for the oppressed. The Good News of the birth of Jesus taught us the importance of allowing the Gospel light shine in our lives, bright with hope and anticipation. We were taught to be a light which dispels the darkness, to become better versions of ourselves regardless of the many conflicts, great losses or heart rendering grief we endure. Whether we believe in Jesus, or not, when we serve others as Jesus taught, His Good News is broadcast to the oppressed. Christ's Good News shines through us when we choose to live our lives gloriously and choose to treat others kindly in today's trembling world.

What would Jesus wish for us this Christmas and for this New Year? Perhaps He would say to let each of us put in his share of loving kindness, humble encouragement, and out-stretched hands of tolerance. These are the shining gifts which make peace on earth. Wishing you and yours these shining gifts for the New Year ahead.

Happy and Blessed New Year 2022!

FAITH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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- All Saints Episcopal Church**  
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**NEW LOCATION**

# Neighborhoods

## Hey RTA- Bring Back The #44 Bus Route

by Daniel P. McCarthy

After the formation of the Regional Transit Authority in the 1970's, there was a super dependable bus line called the #44, which ran from the Garfield Mall on Rockside Rd. in Garfield Hts. west on Rockside Rd. through Brecksville, Independence, Seven Hills, Parma and Brookpark, before ending at the Brookpark Rapid Station. It ran once per hour dependably. One could catch this bus in order to go downtown via the rapid transit, or head in an easterly direction all of the way to Garfield Mall, and connecting to other eastside bus routes from there. The straightforward path of this bus served many people, especially in Parma, on one of our biggest streets. Then for some reason around 20 years ago, the #44 bus was eliminated altogether, in a typical move by the RTA Board that makes little or no sense.

Flash forward to today in 2022; There is virtually no bus that runs anywhere on Snow Rd. in Parma, again one of our biggest and busiest streets in a city of 80,000. Back in the day, the Rockside/I-77 area

had businesses and jobs already- today that number has increased dramatically, and certainly many people in the Parma Area would benefit greatly if they could jump on a bus to and from their jobs in that traffic clogged corridor. Just as usefully, they could travel to Downtown Cleveland on the bus via the Brookpark Rapid Station in a time saving and convenient manner. Reviving the #44 bus could actually be a significant profit center for RTA. Having no single bus travelling on one of the busiest streets in Parma, where several bus lines cross and could be connected to by riders needing them makes no sense whatsoever. Why does RTA refuse to even consider improvements to service that would actually benefit the public? For starters, call them and demand that they restore the #44 bus now, or face the drumbeat of change that will result in the disbanding of the RTA as we know it and the formation of a new public agency that responds to the needs of the community they serve.



## It's Time To Establish A Writing Community In Parma

continued from page 1

is why I created the Flamingo Writers Guild. Yes, it's little ridiculous, it's meant to be! Parma's flamingos began as a tongue in cheek that were elevated to a point of pride. Parma's pride. And I'd like to help further elevate that pride.

So, if you are interested in joining a local writing community, attend events, or simply swell our numbers, please join the Flamingo Writers Guild

on Facebook! Some efforts will be specifically tailored—for instance I am working with the Parma Senior Center to bring biweekly poetry classes to its members starting in February—but we will offer plenty of regular events for writing enthusiasts and supporters. I invite you to join us to witness and participate in all our community has to offer. As the saying goes, birds of a feather...

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PERSPECTIVE

A Day Of Infamy That Changed The Nation Forever

by Lee Kamps

Last month the nation recognized the 80th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and our entry into the Second World War. Prior to that day the United States was divided as to whether or not the country should enter the war that had been raging in Europe for more than two years.

But at the same time Japan had been at war in Asia for a decade as it expanded its imperial empire. However, we were not paying much attention to what was happening in Asia regarding Japan's aggression. In fact, Japan had signed into an agreement with the Axis powers of Nazi Germany and Italy.

Before that "day of infamy", the United States was fairly isolationist with strong sentiment for remaining neutral. In fact, after the conclusion of the First World War and the conference in Versailles in 1919, the nation had retreated back to 19th century isolationism. The country was tired of war and getting involved in other country's problems and wanted a "return to normalcy".

However, the United States return to isolationism and refusal to join the League of Nations only ensured that another bloodier war would come. But on December 7 1941, that isolationism ended, perhaps forever. Four days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Germany declared war on the United States, honoring its agreement with Japan. That made

President Roosevelt's decision easier since he had wanted to join the war in Europe against Nazi Germany, but it wasn't politically feasible until that day.

Within days after the attack on Pearl Harbor thousands of young men volunteered to serve in the armed forces to fight in the war. One of the first was Cleveland Indians star pitcher Bob Feller who enlisted in the Navy even though he was exempt from the draft because he was the main support of his family. The first member of congress to enlist was a young 33 year old representative from Texas named Lyndon Johnson. Another young man who enlisted in the Navy was a young recent graduate from Harvard named John F Kennedy. Another young man who enlisted in the Navy later, leaving Yale, was a son of a prominent Senator George H W Bush from Connecticut.

Almost immediately America's industry quickly ramped up to produce the material necessary to fight the war as civilian industries became converted to making war material. The government instituted increased taxes and a new idea called "income tax withholding" so the government could collect taxes right away through withholding from the payroll what was due. This was supposed to be a "temporary" thing during the war.

In fact, it was the leadership and energy of the American troops that led the allies to defeat Nazi Germany and Japan in the war. The British had been fighting Germany for two years

already and Russia was busy fighting the Nazis on their own soil. It was the United States fighting the war in Asia practically on their own.

However, what really changed on that "day of infamy" eighty years ago was America's isolationism. The United States could no longer be isolated from the other problems of the world outside our borders. Because of advances in technology and warfare, the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans could no longer keep the United States safe from being attacked by a hostile foreign power.

In 1945 as the war was ending, there were guided missiles that could be launched from far away to destroy large cities as well as an atomic bomb that could destroy an entire city and had the potential to destroy civilization as well. President Franklin Roosevelt had learned from the mistakes of the victors in the First World War, and he took the lead in establishing the United Nations as a force to prevent future world wars. After

his death, his successor Harry Truman took over where Roosevelt left off.

But what made the postwar period radically different in 1945 than in 1918 was that the United States helped rebuild the countries that we had helped destroy during the war. It was our resources and money that helped create a new Europe as well as a sound and prospering economy in Japan. Instead of having two very bitter defeated enemies, we had turned our former enemies into strong allies.

As far as the United Nations, since 1945 there have been numerous wars throughout the world. But there has never been a world war where almost every nation was at war at the same time. What wars have been fought have been confined to regions of the world where it has been unstable. Therefore, what happened eighty years ago in December 1941 changed the United States as well as the entire world.



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Earth First

# New Year Resolutions Can Be Hazardous To Your Health

by Tony Kessler

I am quite sure that most of us are optimistically looking at 2022 as being a good year. One in which we are not inundated with news items about covid 19, vaccinations and quarantines. A year where we can go to restaurants and visit family, enjoy party gatherings and sporting events, or visit a friend or relative in a hospital or nursing home without any fears. The impact of covid over the past two years has certainly altered our lifestyles and enhanced our awareness of health issues. There is one health issue that has taken a toll known as the silent killer.....Stress !

Many people suffer from stress unknowingly. Many health conditions are related to being overly stressed, including heart attacks and strokes which can be fatal. The Holidays are a time of year that stress becomes more prominent, then add to that the wor-



ries of Covid. It is also the time of year when people add to their stress levels by making unreasonable New Year's Resolutions

Back in the mid 80's when I was on tour giving personal development and motivational seminars and workshops

to small business owners and entrepreneurs, one of the subjects on my seminar agenda seemed to always catch the attention and skepticism of the attendees. It was a segment topic titled "Goal setting can be hazardous to your health." Setting a New Year's resolution is the same as setting a "goal."

Although New Year resolutions are great in theory and can be healthy when they are realistic, we often tend to jump into setting a goal without giving it much thought. When the goal is not reached by the end of the year, we feel as though we have failed. By setting goals for their New Year's resolutions that are neither realistic nor reason-

able, we inevitably fail which can be damaging to mental health, causing anxiety, stress, depression, or low self-esteem. It has also been known to lead to suicides.

When setting your resolution, (goal) be honest with yourself. Ask yourself, is this something that is really within my ability to accomplish. If you have a lofty goal that you realize you may not be able to accomplish this year, consider breaking it down into smaller goals.

Example: If your goal is to lose one hundred pounds this year, you might want to consider rethinking and shooting for 20 or 30 pounds, if you hit that goal you would feel like a "winner", feel good about yourself, and would want to start making plans to lose the other 60 or 70 pounds. But if you keep it at one hundred pounds, and you fail to reach it, you will feel yourself to be a loser, thus creating stress and anxiety and lowering your self-esteem. The fact is that you are not a loser, you just set your sites too high and made an unreasonable resolution. Set your resolution just hard enough to give you the challenge, but easy enough that you have a realistic chance of reaching your objective.... Have happy, safe and Healthy 2022...

## AARP Tax Aide - Free Tax Preparation

by Stephen Donovan

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program will be getting underway again this year starting the first week in February and ending the 15th of April 2022. This IRS-supported FREE tax service is offered on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. We give special attention to those with low or moderate incomes and/or aged 60 and older. Taxpayers do NOT have to be retired or a member of AARP.

**Tax-Aide sites in southwest Cuyahoga County are located at:**

**Brook Park United Methodist Church,**

6220 Smith Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. Open Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Call 216-676-4738 Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM for an appointment.

Middleburg Heights Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 16699 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Middleburg Heights Library and complete sign-up book.

North Royalton Branch,

Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5071 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133. Open Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment, go to the North Royalton Library and complete sign-up book.

Parma Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6996 Powers Blvd., Parma, OH 44129. Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Parma Library and complete sign-up book or call 440-885-5362.

We are opening fewer sites than in past years due to a reduced number of volunteers. Appointments will be taken starting the first week (second week for Brook Park Methodist) of January 2022. Availability of appointments is subject to the status of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please bring to your appointments copies of your Federal and Ohio 2020 and 2019 returns; 2021 forms W-2, 1099, and 1098; social security cards for all persons on your tax return; a picture ID (i.e., a valid driver's license) for you and your spouse, and any IRS or Ohio Tax correspondence. We anticipate using a drop-off process to prepare returns, necessitating a return visit to the site to finalize them.

## Virtual CASA Informational Session

by Hannah Wiltshire

Child and Family Advocates of Cuyahoga County invite you to become an advocate for abused and neglected children.

What is a CASA volunteer? A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a trained community volunteer appointed by the Juvenile Court to represent the best interests of an abused or neglected child. This one-hour session will provide information about the role of a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteer and the process in which our volunteers advocate for children who have been abused or neglected in Cuyahoga County. Join us to learn what it means to be a CASA volunteer in our community.

- CASA volunteers:**
- Are at least 21 years old
  - Pass a background check
  - Participate in pre-service training
  - Make a two-year time commitment (10-12 hours monthly)
  - Communicate effectively orally and in writing
  - Investigate, advocate, facilitate, and monitor
- This session will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 5:00 - 6:00 pm. The Zoom link will be provided to those individuals who RSVP. Please RSVP to Hannah Wiltshire, CASA Program Director, at [hwiltshire@cfadvocates.org](mailto:hwiltshire@cfadvocates.org).
- We hope to see you there!

Wishing a blessed holiday season and joyous New Year upon our Parma residents.

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GRATITUDE  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2021

I'm grateful for the support of Parma Ward 7 voters. I can't wait to meet each and every resident. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

- Kammy Shuman, Parma Ward 7 Councilwoman

Paid for by the Friends of Kammy Shuman campaign

## Play Chess Here

by Gerald Belfer

Play chess just for fun, without having to belong to a formal chess organization, or pay dues. The Adult Chess Club meets every Saturday in the Parma Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6996 Powers Blvd. You can come any Saturday you wish between the hours of 9:00 AM when the library opens until 4:30 in the afternoon, and leave at your convenience. The library is located behind the fire station on the corner of Ridge Rd. and Powers Blvd., next to the Donna Smallwood Activities Center,

and across the street (Powers Blvd.) from UH Parma Medical Center. The library is also very near the Shoppes at Parma (formerly Parmatown). Entrance to the library is at the back of the building. Bring your chess set and board (if you have one) and enjoy playing the ancient and fascinating game of chess just for pleasure, in an informal setting. The library requires that masks be worn, and no food or beverages brought into the library. For further information about the Adult Chess Club call 440-842-5599.

Observer



Mr. Jingeling was presented with a proclamation by Mayor DeGeeter at Rudy's Strudel, joined by Parma Council President Sean Brennan, Rudy's owner Lidia, and Ward 2 Councilwoman Deborah Lime.



# Supporting Ohio's Food Banks

by Sherrod Brown

We've worked to get Ohio food banks support to keep up with increased demand and changing health recommendations over the past two years. And the expanded Child Tax Credit has meant more money in bank accounts for 92 percent of Ohio kids' families – and fewer families struggling to feed their children.

But food banks across Ohio are facing shortages this holiday season, just as demand increases.

I know the generosity, compassion and spirit of service that Ohioans have – I see it every day, in people like the volunteers I meet at food banks around Ohio, in our National Guard servicemembers, and in Ohioans all over our state.

So today, I'm calling on Ohioans to join me and do their part, and donate to their local food bank this holiday season. I have no doubt that the people of our state will step up to fill food banks' shelves and help these volunteers brighten so many families' holidays.

But food banks can't do the job alone. They're not a replacement for money in people's pockets. We also need to do our part in Congress, to make sure that Ohio families' tax cuts continue next year.

The Child Tax Credit is the most consequential thing we've done to make Ohio parents' hard work pay off and help them keep up with the cost of raising a family. After the monthly CTC tax cuts started going out this summer, the Census Bureau saw a drop in families who reported food insecurity. Forty seven percent of families who got the CTC reported that food was one of the expenses they spent it on.

And we know CTC has also been a lifeline for working parents, helping so many Ohioans afford child care, so they can earn the paychecks that pay for their families' groceries.

We must make sure those tax cuts continue next year. Family's expenses aren't going away in January. Parents will still need to feed their kids.

I will continue to press my colleagues and do whatever it takes to make sure the Child Tax Credit expansion continues. And I know we can count on Ohioans to serve their communities, and help their neighbors have food on their tables this holiday season.



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter along with his son Jack marching in the Christmas Parade on 12/5 along Ridge Rd.

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# Parma Art Scene



Mysterious owner and curator extraordinaire Sean Mabin.



Holy Name High School Show at the Parma Artspace and Gallery, with Parma Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime.




Long surviving public art in Parma, familiar to many from the Parmatown Mall, now standing at the Ridgewood Drive entrance to the Shoppes at Parma.



Parma Artspace and Gallery premiered a show by an artist named Emily, whose vibrant work saptivated all who viewed it. She sold more than 15 paintings at this one show, and more than \$1000 was paid for just one piece of work.



Retired Parma Police officer, artist and filmmaker Richard Lasky discusses works with another artist while making the scene at Parma Artspace and Gallery.



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- **Daily social activities** that use visual aides and functional routines to promote independence and well-being.
- **Activities and recreation** provided by a Certified Dementia Practitioner.
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