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February, 2022  
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# ParmaObserver

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

## Seven Hills Looks Ahead In 2022

by Tony Biasiotta

Looking ahead, the outlook for 2022 is bright.

We finished 2021 strong. Our general fund revenue exceeded expenses by \$1.4 million. We transferred this savings to the city's Capital Fund where it will be set aside for projects in Seven Hills.

Infrastructure will once again be of the utmost importance. We are looking to add a streets program for 2022 that will be paid for with ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds and the transfer of our General Fund surplus noted above. This program will include the following streets: East Dartmoor from Northview Dr. to Voyager Circle, Mayfair Dr., Meadowlane Rd., Hickory Lane, and in a partnership with Brooklyn Hts., Belmont Dr.

This is particularly exciting because at the completion of this program, we will have



Mayor Biasiotta presents Wesley Gillespie (Regional President of ERIEBANK) a \$2 million ceremonial check that represents the first deposit in the new location.

completed one of our goals that we started in 2018, which was to resurface all city streets which the City Engineer has advised are most in need of improvement. In 2022, we will continue to administer our water management task force's comprehensive plan to solve ongoing issues. This plan, of course, includes

preventative measures such as increased cleaning through our

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## Parma Mayor Will Record And Share On-line His Annual State Of The City Address

by Carolyn Kovach

For a second year in a row, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter will not address a live audience when he gives his annual State of the City speech. Instead, he will have it recorded and linked on the city's website the last week of February for residents to view safely from the comfort of their homes. "Because of the number of COVID-19 cases in the county, we want to be cautious and not bring together a large crowd," DeGeeter said.

Pre-pandemic, State of the City speeches were given in various venues throughout the city to highlight city partners such as General Motors, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus and Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Center. "I had plans to give my presentation at WorkHub 99 on the corner of Brookpark Road and Chevrolet Boulevard," DeGeeter said.

The former GM training facility now houses various businesses and is an example



Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter

## Scholarships Available To Parma Scholars

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2022 award season. In its fourteenth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) or you may call the Parma City Council Office at (440) 885-8091



for a copy. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2022 - 2023 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service and accomplishments

are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is Friday, April 1, 2022. For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact Parma City Council President and Board of Trustees Member Sean Brennan at [sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:sbrennan@cityofparma-oh.gov) or 440-885-8091.

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## Script Parma Photo Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Mike Giebe. The photo taken during the annual Cranksgiving event sponsored by Bike Parma and Bike Cleveland. Riders rode around Parma purchasing food and necessity items for the Parma Hunger Center. Mike 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](mailto: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

This month I am continuing my series titled Civics 101. The hope is to provide you with useful information about your local, state, and federal governments. Last month I covered the municipal or city governments of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills. This month I will focus on school district government, focusing on the Parma City School District.

One of the most important things to understand about public schools in Ohio is that they are separate governmental entities. In other words, your city council and mayor have no legal authority over the schools. Instead, each of the 614 school districts in Ohio have an elected Board of Education which is authorized to set policy for their respective school district. The Parma City School District (PCSD) Board of Education consists of Cynthia Bratz, Amanda Karpus, Jack Krise, Jr., Mark Ruda, and Steven Vaughn. They are each elected by the voters of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills to four-year terms.

The role of a school board member is sometimes misunderstood. According to the Ohio' School Boards Association, "The board is a policy-making body and members are the



chief advisors to the superintendent on community attitudes. Board members do not manage the day-to-day operations of a school district; they see to it that the system is managed well by professional administrators." They do not hire or evaluate teachers or discipline students, for instance.

The board of education does hire the superintendent, as well as the treasurer who are currently Dr. Charles Smialek and Sean Nuccio is the PCSD. The board works closely with these educational leaders to set short and long-range plans for the school district, including ensuring the financial health



I recently had the honor of swearing in Parma City School Board President Steven Vaughn for his second term.

of the district. Like everyone who works for the school district, the ultimate goals of the Board are to maximize student well-being and academic growth.

The Parma Board of Education typically meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 6:00 pm. However, school board members spend hundreds of hours preparing for those meetings, attending school and community events, taking part in seminars and training sessions, reading and analyzing reams of reports, among a multitude of other duties throughout the year.

While funding for your city government comes primarily from income taxes, school districts receive the lion's share of their revenue from property taxes. In fact, the PCSD receives 71% of its funding from local property taxes, while 25% comes from the State of Ohio. The Parma City Schools are on sound financial footing, showing positive revenue through June, 2025. The district recently received a perfect audit from the Ohio Auditor of State. As a result, the PCSD was awarded the state's Four-Star Rating – the state of Ohio's highest achievement in financial responsibility and open and transparent government.

As homeowners know, counties in Ohio recently reappraised property values, as they do every three years. In most cases property values increased throughout the state, including in our communities. It is important to note that in 1976 the state passed House Bill 920 to protect property owners from higher property values increasing their taxes. H.B. 920 requires that when property values increase, the amount of money going to the schools remains essentially the same, as voted property tax levy monies are frozen. As a result, school districts must place levies on

the ballot occasionally so that they can continue to provide adequate services to the students they serve, due to rising costs, as well as state and federal unfunded or partially-funded mandates.

To learn more about the PCSD visit their website at <https://www.parmacityschools.org/Page/2603>. Best wishes for a safe and healthy February.

## Parma Mayor Will Record And Share Online His Annual State Of The City Address

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of how Parma partners with business leaders to repurpose structures for new commercial or retail use. "Over the past two years, WorkHub has brought 10 rapidly growing businesses to Parma representing 50 jobs," DeGeeter noted. "I spoke to owner John Puskar, and it is already on our 2023 calendars to have my next State of the City there."

DeGeeter said his administration's approach has always been to combine

common sense and hard work to produce positive results. "We're proud to share information about the city's achievements, ongoing projects and new developments. I hope residents take time to watch the presentation online."

The State of the City will be promoted on the city's Facebook page @CityofParmaOhio and the mayor's Twitter page @ParmaMayor. It will be posted on the city's website in late February at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

## Message From Parma Heights Mayor Marie Gallo

continued from page 1

uary 1, 2022. I have had the pleasure of serving the public for nearly two decades and look forward to working for our residents as their mayor.

January was a busy month as we have been working on our annual budget which needs to be implemented by March 31, 2022. Our focus during the next four years will be flooding solutions, addressing funding for streets

repairs, expansion of recreation and senior services, protecting safety and city services, property maintenance and attracting and retaining businesses. I have staffed my administration accordingly and am grateful to be working with directors, employees and council members who have the vision and work ethic that our residents expect and deserve. I am looking forward to this new chapter in Parma Heights!

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Pharmacists At UH Parma's Chronic Care Clinic Help Patients Manage Multiple Medications

by CJ Sheppard

For patients on multiple medications prescribed by different doctors, the Chronic Care Clinic offers a solution: a pharmacist to meet with patients to explain their prescriptions and help them understand the purpose and dosage for each one. “Having a Chronic Care Clinic has allowed us to better care for patients with long-term conditions that will impact their health,” says James Hill, MD, Chief Medical Officer & Chief Operating Officer of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. “We have seen great benefit in the care of patients with diabetes, heart failure, respiratory conditions and many other chronic disease states. The pharmacy-led clinic has done a great job working collaboratively with primary care physicians to improve patient’s quality of life and keep them healthy out of the hospital.”

The concept developed by Pharmacy originated with the Anticoagulation Clinic. For the past decade at UH Parma Medical Center, pharmacists have collaborated with physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to regularly check patients’ INR and adjust their warfarin dosage accordingly.

Now Pharmacy is expanding its services to care for patients with poorly controlled disease states such as diabetes, heart failure, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder

(COPD). Pharmacists also can tackle smoking cessation and polypharmacy, which is the simultaneous use of multiple drugs to treat a single condition.

Clinical Pharmacist Stefanie Lehmer emphasizes that this referral in no way supplants the physician’s relationship with their patients. Primary care physicians and specialists can enter collaborative practice agreements with the Chronic Care Clinic and put in referrals for individual patients for this service. The pharmacist can then schedule an

initial 30-45 minute visit and subsequent follow-up visits. Patients are typically discharged from the program within three months, much better informed about their medications and medical conditions. “Within these visits, clinical pharmacists work with patients to provide medication management, education, and assist in meeting provider established health goals,” says Dominique Loparo, a Pharmacy Resident who is helping to spread the word about the Clinic. “Our goal is to work with patients

in between visits with their primary care provider to help with medication selection, titration, monitoring and more.”

The Chronic Care Clinic is located in Medical Arts Building 1, Suite 302, on the campus of UH Parma Medical Center. It is staffed Monday through Friday with one to two clinical pharmacists and two medical assistants. For a referral from your physician at UH Parma, talk to your doctor. For general questions, call 440-743-4730.

The Morgan Provides Opportunity For Artistic Excellence Ten Years Running

by Belle Mercurio

The invention of paper was a catalyst to the surge of education and development of art around the world. For the past 2000 years, the paper has evolved in a multitude of directions, many directly connected to our daily lives. Here at the Morgan, we not only preserve the authentic techniques of papermaking but celebrate the innovative techniques artists are using to create with paper as a medium. It continues to trigger inspiration and impact almost every aspect of our lives. Calling forth periods of isolation throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our vision behind the theme for this year's exhibition, Introspection/Retrospection, is to celebrate the art that was conceived in times of isolation and reintegration. Once these ideas were triggered or planted, they could spark periods of introspection and retrospection during a time of quiet respite.

Our jurors this year are Sienna Brown, a curator at the Cleveland Clinic, and Jared Ledesma, the senior curator at the Akron Art Museum. A total of 92 artists hailing from coast to coast submit their work for this year's decennial, totaling just under 240 works! With our annual juried exhibition, we are able to continue this exploration and celebration of the paper arts! The show will open March 25, 2022, and will run through May 6, with a virtual experience to be made available on our website closer to the opening date!

Looking toward summer on our campus, we will have a full schedule of workshops running! These will take place either virtually or in one of our three studios. If you have been on the fence about participating, we urge you to not wait another year! Our winter season, which kicked off last November, has been proving to be one of the most successful since the beginning of the pandemic, with the majority of in-person workshops filling up quickly due to our reduced class sizes. Head over to our website, [www.morganconservatory.org](http://www.morganconservatory.org), to stay up-to-date on our summer season!

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# GLIMPSES OF THE THE TRI-CITY AREA

## Erin Lally Named New Director Of Donna Smallwood Activities Center

by Carolyn Kovach

Erin Lally joined Mayor Tim DeGeeter’s administration full time this past January as the director of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging at 7001 West Ridgewood Drive. The former assistant to recently retired Parma Heights Mayor Mike Byrne is filling the role left vacant when JoAnn Mason retired in September 2021 after 16 years of overseeing the Activities Center. “JoAnn leaves a legacy of outstanding service and lifelong friendships from her distinguished career serving Parma’s senior residents. I hope she becomes a frequent visitor and member of the Activities Center,” Lally said.

Lally is no stranger to state and city government. Earlier in her career, she was twice elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, served with former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero and, most recently, worked the past 10 years in the Parma Heights Mayor’s Office. A Strongsville resident, Lally has been married for 22 years to her husband, Francis Lally, a lieutenant with the Cleveland Fire Department and president of Local 93. They have five children, ages 20 to 14. She said, “In addition to football, cross country, wrestling and track, master juggling is one of our favorite sports!”

Those juggling skills will come in handy as Lally and her staff keep adjusting to changing pandemic protocols. The Activities Center reopened in July 2021 after being closed for 16-months, but a spike in county COVID-19 cases during December led Lally and Mayor DeGeeter to post-



Erin Lally takes over direction of the Donna Smallwood Activites Center.

pone reopening the Center to Jan. 10 following the holiday break. “We’re remaining vigilant, but we also know it’s really important for our senior residents to stay connected and to have a safe space to socialize, exercise and participate in a wide variety of programs. Right now, we will keep making and delivering meals to seniors who can’t get out and offer exercise classes and activities to vaccinated seniors who want to come here,” she said.

As the year progresses and COVID cases decline, Lally said she wants to eventually bring attendance and activities back to where they were pre-pandemic, create some new programs and boost transportation services for members. mDeGeeter said Lally is not wasting any time. “She already applied and received a \$10,000 Ohio Department of Aging grant for the center.

## Share Care A Comfortable Alternative

by Geoffrey Moore

Home Instead has created a way to receive 24-hour care in a single-family home at less than half the cost of our traditional home care. We call it “Share Care,” and for some clients, it’s the perfect solution.

With a caregiver-to-resident ratio of three to one, our residential facility is very different from a traditional “group home.” Our caregivers engage with our residents at a level no other facility in the area can match. Our care is provided by screened, bonded, trained and specially-selected Home Instead Caregivers. At least one caregiver is in the home at all times and caregivers never sleep in the home.

Home Instead Vicksburg offers a safe, quiet and comfortable alternative to larger facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that limiting one’s exposure to a small number of people is a good defense against the virus... or any virus. Home Instead Vicksburg is

licensed by the State of Ohio as an R-2 residential care facility and can accommodate up to four residents.

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space for residents to enjoy music, games, crafts, puzzles and their favorite TV shows.

- Room & board includes all meals, snacks, beverages, utilities, cable, phone and wireless internet. Transportation to appointments is available as an add-on service. • 24-hour care includes third-shift, hands-on care.

- Each resident has their own bedroom, filled with their own personal belongings. We will also make room for a resident’s favorite chair in the family room, if desired.

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# Parma Rising

## Election Of Two New Parma City Council Members Signals Change Called For By Voters

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The November 2021 election saw two council seats go to new people. In Ward 9 Rob Eurlle won his race against long time Councilman Roy Jech. In Ward 6, Kevin Kussmaul defeated Larry Napoli, who was the longest serving council member in the current era. Some might attribute this to a change of demographics in Parma, others might suggest that voters in these wards were restless for someone different, and dissatisfied with the representation they've had these past years. Either way, change is what was voted for, and change is what will take place.

Will the replacement of two members of a nine member council result in noticeable differences moving forward? Will the new members try and be the change they promised, or will they settle in and try not to "rock the boat" any more than they find necessary to embrace their new positions? Only time will tell. We're in the third decade of the 21 st Century, and it is



Councilman Kevin C. Kussmaul

refreshing to see people in office who weren't even born when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, I must say. These two young men probably don't remember a time when there wasn't such a thing as the internet, or cable TV, or even ever used a rotary phone. This is not a bad thing.

What do those in the City Administration think of having new council members? When asked, Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter responded "Prior



Councilman Rob Euerle

to Ward 6 Councilman Kevin Kussmaul and Ward 9 Councilman Rob Euerle taking office, I had them meet directors at City Hall so they could ask them questions and learn more about our departments and city services. During their first council meeting in January, they were engaged and asked questions. I look forward to working with them as City Council and I continue to collaborate and strive to improve the City of Parma." having

been in office for 10 years, the mayor is certainly positioned to understand what it is like to be a new member of council, having served on the Parma City Council himself. He also knows full well that the voters in Ward 6 and Ward 9 expect cooperation from City Hall when it comes to working with their new City Council members in order to deliver needed services and address issue important to them and their families.

I attended the meeting of council in January which marked the first meeting for both of the new members. If they were confused or intimidated, it certainly didn't show even one bit. They both spoke well, seemed to follow the pattern of the meeting clearly, and were genuinely interested when they asked questions of the various people who addressed council on issues before it. Time will tell just what these changes that voters made will ultimately bring. We will wait and see what they are prepared to do and what indeed they can accomplish. The voters have spoken.

## National Guard Called To Help Hospitals Through Latest COVID-19 Surge

by CJ Sheppard

Throughout the latest surge in the COVID-19 battle, dozens of National Guard members worked alongside frontline caregivers at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. In scrubs and combat boots, they assisted in the Emergency Department, COVID units, transporting patients, cleaning rooms and making beds, restocking supplies and other duties as needed.

Gov. Mike DeWine called up the National Guard to deploy to busy hospitals just after Christmas. UH Parma Medical Center welcomed 43 members of the Army National Guard and Air National Guard in three different waves. A dozen UH hospitals across Northeast Ohio received help from the National Guard.

Nurses, doctors, hospital leaders and staff from Dietary, Environmental Services, Transport, Admitting and other areas arranged multiple clap-outs to cheer their new colleagues as they departed for their home bases after their tour of duty. Caregivers' held handmade signs displaying their thanks: "National Guard: Thanks for coming to our rescue!" "Thank you for your service!" "Forever grateful" and "Thank You Angels in Camo."

Guard members were called over to take pictures with the teams they supported. "We couldn't have asked for a better place to work," said one Guardsman. "We appreciate your hospitality," added another. "We felt very welcome here."





# INSPIRATION



Leo Zampedro with Bob Hope in 1981.

## Remembering Leo Zampedro

by Kathryn Mabin

In 1969 Leo Zampedro became the head golf pro at Ridgewood Golf Course. A position he held for 8 years before moving on to Hawthorne Valley Country Club in Solon, and eventually opening his dream facility, Troy Hill Golf Center in Burton, where his motto was “We Reach the Pros”. During his life he accomplished a great deal. He was runner-up in the U.S. Amateur Public Links Tournament in 1965. Won the Ohio Public Links Championship in 1967. He also built a strong teaching reputation. Named NOPGA Teacher of the year in 1992, 1995, and 2005. He was recognized annually from 1999 through 2007 by Golf Digest and Golf Magazine as one of the best instructors in Ohio and the U.S. He was inducted into the Parma Sports Hall of Fame in 1995, NOPGA Hall of Fame in 1999, and Warren Sports Hall of Fame in 2008. His students were sports stars like Buddy Bell, Bill Cowher, Austin Carr, Bob Lewis and Barb Mucha. In 1981 he played a round of golf with Bob Hope.

Leo Zampedro grew up in Warren,

Ohio. He and his wife Jane raised their three children here in Parma. Jane is an accomplished artist, life-time member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council and currently serving as Vice-President. She is also involved with The Great Lakes Wood Carvers and High On Dolls. Their three adult children also have ties to Parma.

Sadly, Leo passed away in 2007, but his legacy lives on. The eldest son, Tony, coaches golf to the Lake Erie Catholic High School Girls Golf Team. His two daughters, Leo’s granddaughters, are involved with golf. One a senior playing golf and captain of the team at her university.

To honor Leo, son Tony Zampedro has organized a fundraiser to create a golf instruction studio at Lake Catholic for the youth teams. An important component is a SkyTrack Simulator which would allow players to practice off season. It’s a great tribute to Leo. If you are interested in donating, or need additional information on the Leo Zampedro Golf Studio please contact [ajzampedro@gmail.com](mailto:ajzampedro@gmail.com).

## Parma City Council Honors Holy Family Catholic Parish



by Carolyn Kovach

Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Shuman nominated Holy Family Catholic Parish at 7367 York Road, Parma, as the city's January Citizen of the Month. At the Jan. 18 City Council Meeting, Shuman was joined by Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis (center) and Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter (far left) in presenting Holy Family's Pastor Richard Evans (second from left) and Pastoral Council President Patrick Osysko (far right) with resolutions honoring the church's 150th anniversary. The church has planned a year-long celebration to recognize its milestone.

Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Shuman nominated Holy Family Catholic Parish at 7367 York Road, Parma, as the city's January Citizen of the Month. At the Jan. 18 City Council Meeting, Shuman was joined by Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis (center) and Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter (far left) in presenting Holy Family's Pastor Richard Evans (second from left) and Pastoral Council President Patrick Osysko (far right) with resolutions honoring the church's 150th anniversary. The church has planned a year-long celebration to recognize its milestone.

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**NEW LOCATION**



# Neighborhoods

## Valentine's Day Local Shopping Guide In Parma Heights

by Emery Pinter

Whether you plan to celebrate Valentine's Day at home or out this year, here are just a few of the best locally owned shops to find that special gift for yourself, your friends, and that special Valentine!

If you are setting the mood, Natural Creations Soaps & More, 6597 Pearl Road, has a fantastic collection of natural scented candles that come in a variety of unique scents for all candle lovers: Merlot Wine, Midnight Romance, Vanilla Champagne, and Dr. Feel Good are the perfect gift for any occasion, especially Valentine's Day. They also have Natural soaps, essential oils, Yoni Steamer Herbs and customize gift packages. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the authentic smell of their 100% soy wax candle.

Another favorite in town is Village Cards & Gifts, 6643 Pearl Road, where one will find a fantastic collection of love and friendship cards. Shop their collection and find the perfect necklace, earrings, or Kedzie purse for your Valentine. Pamper yourself or a Valentine with many choice items in their Spa collection. Celebrate Valentine's Day with Scarlett and Tickle, the two newest Squish-A-Boos, and find great plush Valentine's gifts for kids.

Looking for something sweet other than chocolate? Samosky's Home Bakery, 6379 Pearl Road, makes the perfect Valentine's Day dessert and they have flavors the whole family will enjoy. Come in and get your Valentine a sweet treat: decadent fudge brownies, fine pastries, handmade pies, cookies or scrumptious cupcakes.

Find someone you love, or even like, and let them know with flowers. Rose Haven Florist, 6656 Pearl Road, has the stunning Valentine's Day flowers to WOW someone you love. With so many varieties, colors, shapes, and sizes to choose from the staff will help you find the perfect bouquet of flowers. Trained floral artists who listen, and everything constructed is made with attention to detail.

And turn any night into a Valentine's celebration with a range of menu options at the ClubHouse, 6365 Pearl Road. This restaurant is perfect for delectable swoon-worthy home cooked meals. Love is in the Air here, or is that the scent of chicken paprikash?

More than ever, our choices support local businesses and our community. And remember to shop and love yourself, too. You, your friends, and special Valentine are worth it.



Spread love everywhere you go at Village Cards & Gifts, Parma Heights

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PERSPECTIVE

On What Side Of History Will You Find Yourself?

by Lee Kamps

As I was getting ready to write my column for the next edition, two events happened that gave me the inspiration for this column. The first event was the celebration of the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. The second was the failure of the Senate to change the filibuster rules to vote on a pair of voting rights bills before congress.

The right to vote is fundamental for any democratic society and any restrictions or impediments to voting is detrimental to democracy. Throughout our nation's history, the right to vote in elections has been expanded to include more citizens. When our constitution was written, only white males over the age of 21 who owned

property were allowed to vote. Later the requirement of property ownership was eliminated.

In 1870, the 15th amendment to the constitution granted all citizens of the United States "regardless of previous condition of servitude" the right to vote. This included many immigrants who had become naturalized citizens as well. Then in 1920 came the greatest expansion of voting rights in the nation's history when women were given full voting rights when the 19th amendment to the constitution was ratified.

Then in 1924, the Snyder Act gave full rights of citizenship to native Americans and under the 15th amendment, they were granted the right to vote and hold elective office. In 1967,

the 24th amendment was ratified banning the payment of poll taxes as a condition of voting. Then in 1971 the 26th amendment lowered the voting age from 21 years of age to 18.

Although the 15th Amendment granted the right to vote to black people, after the federal troops were withdrawn from the southern states in 1877 it wasn't long before the white people of those southern states had taken control of their state governments and by a series of acts disenfranchised almost every black citizen. Selma Alabama was the county seat of Dallas County which had a black majority, yet almost no black people were registered to vote and almost none voted.

People were killed attempting to

register black voters in Mississippi. Then many others were beaten for peacefully marching from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery just for the right to be allowed to vote. Some were killed during that protest.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 placed sanctions on states that had a history of preventing certain groups from being able to vote and allowed the federal government to enforce those sanctions and make sure that every eligible citizen could be allowed to vote.

But despite all the laws expanding the voter rolls, very often voting is difficult because of limited poll hours and the time it sometimes takes to vote. Now, as a result of a record number of voters turning out to vote in the 2020 presidential election, several states have passed new laws restricting mail in voting and limiting the number of polling places.

Seven Hills Looks Ahead In 2022

continued from page 1

contract with Cuyahoga County Public Works, and targeted projects around Calvin Park and the Cricket Lane area.

We are also excited about the many city events planned for 2022. To name a few:

- Memorial Day Parade Monday, May 30th, 10am
- Summer Concert Series beginning June 24th
- Seven Hills Home Days July 22nd -July 24th
- Farmers' Market each Thursday beginning July 7th – September 29th

- Oktoberfest Saturday, October 1st
- 2022 will include a traditional Santa Parade along Broadview Rd., finishing with a holiday celebration at the City's new gazebo on December 3rd

We are also looking forward to the first phase of the park's improvement project, which will see new structures added to North Park, Calvin Park, and Meijer Park. As in all other cities, responding to the COVID pandemic remains a challenge. Nonetheless, our Recreation Center has fully recovered from the state mandated closure of 2020. In fact, the leadership team

there has posted a tremendous year from both an operating standpoint and number of programs offered.

**Economic Development**

The grand opening of Erie Bank's Regional Headquarters on January 27, 2022 solidifies Seven Hills' standing in the business community. This celebration sends a message that Seven Hills is not only open for business but that the city is an outstanding place to conduct business. The Erie Bank project brings the total of recent corporate invest-

continued on page 9



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PERSPECTIVE

# Facing The Nation

by Davidione Pearl

Having now passed the one year anniversary of the violent attack on our nation's most hallowed halls, the U.S Capitol, we each with some degree of conventional wisdom must have paused to reflect on the abject decay that swept in unresisted and paved the road to the event, solidifying its scalding place in infamy and the dialogues in our lives.

We can wonder how the blatant televised hypocrisy of removing nearly 700 mail sorting machines and tens of thousands of mail boxes in a hijacked party just before an election went unchallenged, while those very same legions decried that the other side were cheaters.

We can wonder how those that for months championed Blue Lives Matter alone, having no part in any other lives that matter, remain in support of attacks on actual blue lives - insisting desperately at once that the assault was a leftist faction, when at present the over 700 attackers jailed or convicted, predominantly remain in steadfast allegiance to the former president.

We can wonder how they could dismiss such a trial on Capitol Hill as



a, "witch hunt against patriots," yet in the same breath insist that if ever murderous vandals stormed and desecrated their City Hall, they'd want them brought to justice and with extreme prejudice.

We can wonder how they could give a pass to a leader who for reasons of optics, purposefully refrained from

leveling with the nation sick and dying from a catastrophic virus, as to not, "cause panic," yet they would insist on the removal and conviction of a city leader if that official ever withheld crucial information of a poisonous leak that killed hundreds in their community.

We can wonder how they teach their children to be honest and straight forward with people, to have the integrity to accept losses and move on, to not deride women, the differently abled, or the indigent - we can wonder these things about them, the things we all universally teach our children, yet still

they give veritable buffets of passes to a former president who monumentally went against the very things they instill in their young, the type of behavior they would not want to see as teachers in their school system, or in a significant other their child brings home to the dinner table.

We can wonder how they could support any politician that boasts he could shoot a person in the middle of Fifth Avenue and not lose voters, yet would deem that very same person a lunatic at the local level running for City Council, never receiving their vote.

We can wonder how they could support someone who never contacted their own Vice President by so much as a text, after riling attackers who sought him out to be captured and killed.

We can wonder how thousands of Republican state officials nationwide confirmed, reconfirmed, and reconfirmed again that there was no subversive activity with ballots, yet this horde still bloviates the narrative that there was.

And we can wonder how they would typically suspect one a serious criminal threat when everyone in their innermost circle is being charged and convicted for high crimes, likely citing the, "birds of a feather" cliché - yet here too, they give a pass - an extraordinary exercise in what will steadfast become, quite possibly, the most egregious hypocrisies of the century entire...

## Seven Hills Looks Ahead In 2022

continued from page 8

ments in our City to approximately \$70 million (Meijer, Vitalia Rockside, Konica Minolta, Sweep Corp of America, among others).

This opening was celebrated with the City of Seven Hills making Erie Bank's first deposit of \$2 million and Erie Bank making donations to the following local groups: Seven Hills Basketball Federation, Seven Hills Garden Club and the Parma Area Animal Shelter.

Construction on the new Dairy Queen is well underway and will be completed this spring. Raising Cane's has received the required approvals and permits to get started as soon as the weather permits. In addition, they agreed to install a marquee similar to the rendering at the entrance to our city along Rockside Rd.

LSB Seven Hills LLC, the owner of the private property development on Rockside Rd. west of the Lombardo Extension continues to work

with Industrial Commercial Properties (ICP) <https://icpllc.com/> on the approximate 9 acres fronting Rockside.

Further, LSB Seven Hills LLC, is working with Pulte Homes toward the development of the back portion of the PUD area there.

### Partnerships and Progress

As the result of our continuing efforts, we were awarded another NOPEC grant, this time in the amount of \$26,427.00. These funds can be used for any electric energy project the city selects. We are considering several alternative projects to apply this grant money to. We have also applied for a \$50,000.00 county supplemental grant to be applied toward outdoor exercise equipment. If successful, this equipment will be installed in one of our parks and free for everyone to use.





Once again, we have been able to report progress on all fronts, but to quote one of my favorite singers, Frank Sinatra the "best is yet to come."

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Observer

# News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

**RAISING AWARENESS:** Human Trafficking/Abuse:

**From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:**

**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.

**Visit Collab's website** a/o Follow them on Facebook. View the close to 70 local partners working collaboratively in support of victim recovery.To stay current in regards to HT-related events and activities sign up for their E-news-letter here.

**From The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force...**Significant progress has been made during the last several years to enhance the state's anti-trafficking policy landscape.

**From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center** to learn more about their free Ambassador Training Workshops, classes for Parents, Students, and Teachers & Staff, as well as specific programs offered out of their Training Institute.

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

**Grant Sources for Nonprofits...** Here is another set of five grantors identified by the MyCom network:

**The Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood;** The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation; The Nordson Corporation Foundation; The AstraZeneca Corporate Contributions Program; The Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation. If you're affiliated with a family/youth-serving organization you s/b visiting these funders' sites to see if your program/service fits their mission. So far, starting w/the Sept. 28th "What's Going On..." issue there have been 40 vetted funders identified.

**From The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce:**

**SAVE THE DATE #1:** PACC is once again hosting the State of the Schools Luncheon on Wednesday, February 23rd at 11:30 am at the Red Reis Room located at Parma Sr. High School. The cost is \$20.

**SAVE THE DATE #2:** The 30th Annual Rib Cook-Off and Music Festival – June 9 – 12, 2022.

**From Best of Parma...**Nominations are now being accepted for "The Best \_\_\_\_\_(business/organization) in Parma".

**Minority Men's Health Fair** Comes to MetroHealth...Mark your calendar for April 28, 2022, the date of MetroHealth's Minority Men's Health Fair. The free event will be held from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at three MetroHealth locations: Main Campus Outpatient Pavilion, Cleveland Heights Medical Center, and Broadway Health Center.

**From Islamic Center of Cleveland,** 6055 W. 130th St, Parma, 44130:

**The Ibn Sina Free Health Clinic....**offers free healthcare services to community members who are uninsured or under-insured. The clinic serves anyone in need regardless of race, gender, religion, or ethnicity. Visit <https://clevelandibnsina.com> for details.

**Offering Free Fresh Produce...** the first Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Federal program income guidelines apply; please bring your ID & your bags/cart; no admittance before 10:30.

**O From The Ohio Afterschool Network – OAN Pitch Challenge...** OAN invites community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, parents, community leaders, schools, libraries, and others to help Ohio K-12 youth to share their great ideas in the Ohio Afterschool Network Pitch Challenge. Youth submit a 30-90 second video pitching an idea for a business or social venture and compete for prizes including \$500 Amazon gift cards. Youth don't need to start a business; they just need to pitch an idea! The entry deadline is Monday, March 28, 2022.

**From Connecting For Kids...** Looking for a camp, program, or adaptive activity for your child this summer? Connecting for Kids posts all of the latest fliers and webinar information it receives from local and national providers on the CFK Flier Connection page on Facebook. And, to learn more about what this local organization has to offer, click on the Connecting For Kids link above.

**From University Settlement/SW Community Based Svcs...** Two free virtual financial workshops are being offered:

**"Real-World Money" Series** – Learn basic financial tips to help stretch a dollar, understand how others see your credit & how to use credit wisely... 10:00 am – 11:30, Feb. 8 & 22, Mar 1 & 8.

**"Lunch & Learn Series – Using EXCEL"** – 11:00 am – Noon, every Thurs. from Feb 24 – Mar 31.

**For more information contact:** Sandra Buckner, Workforce Development Manager, Email: [sbuckner@universitysettlement.net](mailto:sbuckner@universitysettlement.net)

**From Achievement Centers for Children/Camp Cheerful (<https://achievementcenters.org/>)...** Give the gift of riding!!! Register for their 2022 Pony Pals Program! Each 1-hour class includes a 30-minute beginner horseback riding lesson and a 30-minute hands-on ground lesson covering topics such as safety, grooming, stable care & more! Classes are 1 hr/wk, Wed. mornings from 9:30a-10:30 & are limited to a maximum of 10 participants. Each 6-week session costs

\$180.00. This program is offered to typically developing children ages 4 - 14. The first session starts 3/2 – 4/6. Click on the following link and select the PONY PALS program!<https://acc.campbrainregistration.com/>.

**Parma Council of PTA's (PCPTA** - <https://www.parmacityschools.org/PCPTA> or FB at:<https://www.facebook.com/parmacouncilpta/>)

If you're affiliated w/a District school's PTA or the Parma Early Childhood PTA, mark your calendars & plan on attending PCPTA's Family Health & Safety Fair scheduled for 9 – 11 am, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, in Parma Sr. High School's Cafeteria. Judging by the list of exhibitors, this promises to be a great event. If your organization would like to participate, contact Dalenna Zingalis at 216-799-4396 or [bbndz1087@gmail.com](mailto:bbndz1087@gmail.com).

**PCPTA Kalahari Night Fund-raiser...** March 24, 2022. Make it a Spring Break getaway!!! Support PTA while having fun and enjoy a special rate for families and friends! \$142 for 2 Queen beds and INCLUDE waterpark passes for 4 guests! A portion from EACH room booked will benefit the Parma Council of PTA. ROOMS MUST BE BOOKED BY MARCH 8TH. Additional discount rates are available for March 22-26th. Book your room here: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50175630>

**O From Parma City Schools:** Attention NEW incoming families to the Parma City School District! Online Student Registration for the 2022-2023 school year will open on February 1st..

**Join the free, Embracing Parenthood** sessions on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The topic for February's session, coming up on the 16th, deals with issues related to "Our Identity".

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org](http://www.parmacityschools.org) for the most current information regarding COVID Dashboard/protocols, community walking, and open swim programs, the latest "PCSD in :60" video, and much more.

**From Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL):**

**NOTE:** All Cuyahoga County Public Library branches are now opened to the public

for regular hours of operation. Masks are required. Meeting rooms and in-person programs are unavailable until further notice.

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

**Specific Branches will be hosting a Cleveland Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry.** Locally, the Parma Heights Branch will be offering free boxed food for those in need from 10 – 12 noon on Feb. 16th & March 16th - rain, snow, or shine — on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last.

**The CCPL Board of Directors** has approved renaming the Parma and Southeast branches. The Parma Branch will now be called the Parma-Powers Branch and the Southeast Branch will now be called the Bedford Branch.

Use your CCPL library card to take advantage of just some of these more unique services/programs available at your library.

Get access to these free online learning platforms taught by professionals in their fields

WiFi Access & Computer Classes  
Learn how to hold a conversation in over 70 languages

Learn more or register for any of 50+ virtual programs for adult learners

Take your pick from thousands of streaming movies & TV shows from Hoopla, Kanopy & Overdrive

Design something & use the 3D printing capabilities of the Parma-Snow Innovation Center

Learn more about Library2You, their homebound delivery service

Check out programs available for pre-school & school-aged youth. From there scroll down to see resources available for Teachers.



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Parma Art Scene

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique, 5411 Pearl Rd, will be featuring new works by Sean Mabin, photographer, February 4th to the 21st. On February 25th a new event, in process, will feature Amanda Nix and others.

Coming soon, March 25th, Pip Logan, will feature his figurative, expressive paintings, created during the pandemic. Duo Decibel, will be performing opening night. Don't miss it!

On April 22nd at 6 PM is the opening of A Common Denominator: Max A Denney +. Max A. Denney has had the good fortune to work with many great artists. This show features collaborative work and solo work. Artists in this show include, Adam Chollet (writer), Amy Crognale (water color),Brett Hill (painter), Wendy Means (drawing), David Curtis (musician), Neffie M. La La (drawing), Angela Funovits (photography) and Max A Denney.This gallery also has a boutique which features numerous hand crafted unique items affordably priced. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram for more information on upcoming events.

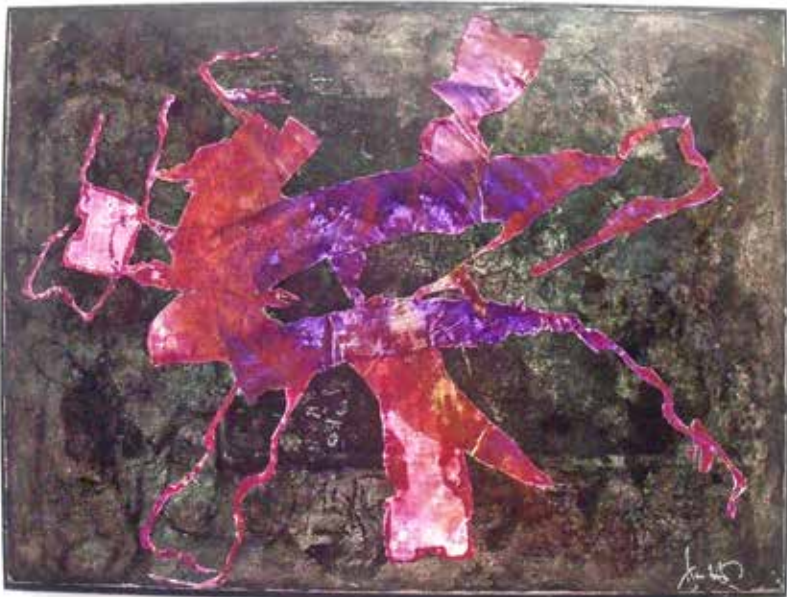
The Great Lakes Wood Carvers are an affiliate organization of the Parma Area Fine Arts Council. They meet weekly on Tuesdays, 6 PM to 8:30 PM at the Donna Smallwood Community Center, for open carve night. This is a friendly, laid back group that enjoys carving, sharing ideas, techniques and conversation. Covid protocols are fol-



More work by noted Cleveland Artist June Hund.

lowed. All participants must mask up and show their vaccination cards upon entry and log in with their contact information. If you are interested in wood carving stop in and visit to see if you are interested in joining this group.

Edwin Arthur Allen, Sr., 68, of Wooster, Ohio passed away on January 15, 2022, at Wooster Hospital from complications of Covid. Ed was an avid woodcarver and often gave demonstrations and taught classes. While living in the area he was a popular carver at the Great Lakes Wood Carvers and also served as the Vice President.



painting entitled "Beyond Closed Eyes" by June Hund, in an exhibit at Prama Artspace and Gallery on 1-28-22

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The portion of the Metroparks in Parma Heights features the wonderful bridge across Big Creek, which serves a very useful purpose to hikers and average people in the community. Before this bridge was built, in order to get to the other side where the hiking and biking path is, people had to walk nearly an extra mile.



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