

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”- George Orwell

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Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter Shares Success Stories In Virtual State Of The City

by Carolyn Kovach

For a second year in a row, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter gave his State of the City address as a recorded speech, which was posted on the City of Parma's website Monday, Feb. 28 at www.cityofparma-oh.gov.

"When we made the decision to record the address, COVID cases her high," DeGeeter explained. Next year, the mayor plans to return to a live presentation and has already arranged to speak at WorkHub 99. The former General Motors training facility, the new complex offers co-working space for small businesses and independent contractors to network and connect with the local business community. "Over the past two years," DeGeeter said, "WorkHub has brought rapidly growing businesses to



Parma and created new jobs."

DeGeeter said his administration's approach has always been to combine common sense, hard work and collaboration to produce positive results. "Our slogan is 'Progress Through Partnerships.' In fact, it was a collaborative effort with Parma City School District that made this video possible. I appreciate PCSD's communications

staff for shooting and editing the video." In his presentation, DeGeeter highlighted how the city partners with local businesses, organizations and area leaders to boost economic development; update aging infrastructure; ensure residents' safety; and improve recreation, senior and city services.

He talked about GM's commitment to invest \$46 million in its Parma Metal Center, Spitzer Motor City's \$4 million expansion at its Brookpark Road location and Prince & Izant's \$2.4 million investment. He also noted the completion of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center's \$27.5 million surgery department renovation and expansion. In addition to manufacturing, corporate

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7 Hills District Proposal

by Tony Biasiotta

Before we get started on the topic of this month's article, I want our Ukrainian community to know that I stand with them. I send my thoughts and prayers to the brave men and woman fighting for their freedom in the Ukraine. Further I urge our national leaders to take an even stronger stance against this unacceptable aggression.

Last Month, Seven Hills LSB LLC presented a pre-application concept to a joint session of Seven Hills City Council and Planning Commission. The concept consisted of the 2 sections. a Solon-based developer Industrial Commercial Properties LLC will take the lead on the portion of the development facing Rockside Rd. The proposal for this approximate 9-acre section is 93,000 square feet of class "A" office space, about 50,000 square feet of restaurant / retail space and luxury apartments above commercial. The southern section is approximately 35-acres and will be



Rockside View Of the Proposed 7 Hills District

developed by the Pulte Group. This proposal includes at least 100 townhouses and some single-family homes with values around \$400,00

This mixed used development project is in the earliest of phases. Over the next several months we will work through detailed information such as economic return and traffic studies. Our planning process also includes several checkpoints designed for resident feedback. Along the way be on the look out for three major milestones a development agreement between the city and

the developers, a new TIF (tax increment financing) agreement with Parma City Schools and council approval of a preliminary development plan. This is a complicated project based on the fact the land is an abandoned rock quarry and on a steep slope. Further we compete against external factors such as the economy. That said we are cautiously optimistic and stand ready and willing to work to turn this property into something the whole community can be proud of.



Parma Stands With Ukraine

by Daniel P. McCarthy

February 27 there was a rally to support Ukraine during their most difficult time held at Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma. Massive show of solidarity between people from all

over the Greater Cleveland Area. Many elected officials were in attendance, religious leaders, and hundreds of citizens wanting to lend their voices to the outrage over this egregious action by one dictator. go to page 5 to see photos of this memorable service.

Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse Demolition Funding Approved By Cuyahoga County Council

by Joe Nanni

At the most recent County Council meeting, unanimous support was voiced for legislation providing \$175,000 in County funding for the demolition of the clubhouse at the historic municipal-run Ridgewood Golf Course. The proceeds for the demolition will come from the County's Community Development fund, which is funded by the gross casino revenues distributed to Cuyahoga County. "As a resident of Parma, I know how important this golf course is to the City. It generates necessary revenue for Parma

and serves as a recreational hub for the community. I am proud to sponsor this legislation and honored that all my County Council colleagues joined me in supporting this important project," said County Councilman Scott Tuma.

Tuma praised Parma's leaders, noting the unified approach the City offered to garner this necessary funding. Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter echoed Tuma's comments. "My administration worked closely with the County

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Lydia Dowell. Lydia is joined by her husband Timothy Dowell. 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

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. So far I have covered municipal (city) and school district governments in Ohio. This month I will focus on the judicial branch.

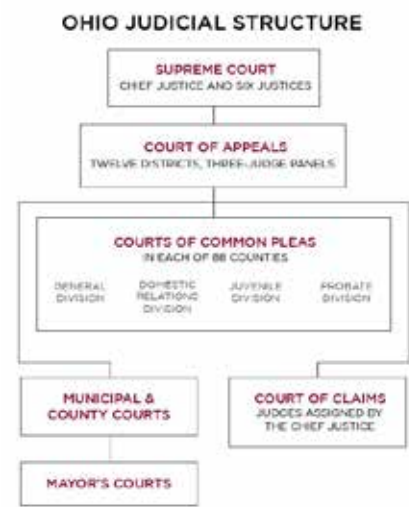
Ohio's judicial branch consists of mayor's courts, municipal courts, county courts of common pleas, district courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court of Ohio.

The lowest courts in Ohio are mayor's courts. Ohio and Louisiana are the only states with mayor's courts. Seven Hills and Parma Heights each have mayor's courts, however, Parma does not due to the fact that Parma Municipal Court is located here. Although they are technically not part of the judicial branch and are called mayor's courts, typically the mayor appoints a professionally trained magistrate to preside over the cases. In fact, Mayors Tony Biasiotta of Seven Hills and Marie Gallo of Parma Heights both hire magistrates. Mayor's courts have jurisdiction over local ordinances which involve minor criminal misdemeanors only. The lion's share of these cases are traffic violations. They do not



hear civil cases like lawsuits.

The next level of courts in Ohio consist of municipal courts. For instance, Parma Municipal Court's jurisdiction includes Broadview Heights, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Linndale, North Royalton, Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills. The court is run by the Clerk of Courts. In our case, this is Martin Vittardi. Judges Deanna O'Donnell, Kenneth Spanagel, and Timothy Gilligan, preside over the cases that come before this court, while Magistrates Edward Fink, John Spellacy, and George Longjak hear the more minor cases. Judges in Ohio are



elected every six years, while magistrates are appointed by the judges of their respective court.

Municipal courts hear misdemeanor criminal matters and hold preliminary hearings of felony cases. Misdemeanors typically carry a punishment of no more than 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine and include crimes such as theft, passing bad checks, criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, and reckless driving. They also hear civil matters involving less than \$15,000. Parma Municipal Court also has a small claims court where cases involving less than \$6,000 are heard. In these cases the right to a jury is waived and you are not required to hire an attorney.

The most serious cases in Ohio are heard by each of the 88 county courts of common pleas. For instance, the Cuyahoga Court of Common Pleas General Division hears all felony cases, including murder, robbery, rape, etc. These crimes carry a penalty of over one year is prison and/or a fine of over \$1,000. The court also hears civil matters involving more than \$15,000. It also has domestic relations (divorces, for instance), probate (wills, estates, and issuing marriage licenses, for instance), and juvenile divisions.

The aforementioned courts are all trial courts. Appeals from municipal courts and courts of common pleas are held in the district courts of appeals. Cuyahoga County falls under the jurisdiction of the 8th District Court of Appeals. In that court a three-judge panel decides if mistakes were made in the trial courts.

The highest court in Ohio is the Supreme Court of Ohio in Colum-

bus. It consists of the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices. On a side note, Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor is a former Parma resident. Like all judges in Ohio, they must practice as an attorney for at least six years and are elected to a six year term. The Supreme Court has judicial discretion, meaning the court selects which cases it will hear with only a few exceptions. For instance, all death penalty cases have the right to be heard before this court.

I hope you found this month's column enlightening. There is a lot more to know about our courts in Ohio. In fact, I teach a semester course about Ohio's courts and that still only scratches the surface. Maybe my column will inspire you to learn about them. You can start at the websites of the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Bar Association. Best wishes for a lucky spring!

Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert 3/13/22

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a LIVE Classical Music Concert on Sunday, March 13 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights performing: Mozart: Violin Concertone Mari Sato & Andrew Sords, soloists and: Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23 Elizabeth DeMio – soloist Also: Liszt: Prometheus Symphonic Poem No. 5, “The Fortune Teller” - Victor Herbert

The orchestra, in its 53rd season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM or from any member of the orchestra. Tickets paid with cash are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family



Elizabeth DeMio to perform with PSO Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 23

passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. Advance Sale tickets are available online at parma-symphony-orchestra.square.site Credit card purchases include \$2.75 per ticket handling fee.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. Parma City School Board requests wearing of masks when entering and exiting the building.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

New Chief Medical Officer Appointed At UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

Christopher J. Dussel, MD, MBA, FACHE, who has served as Associate Chief Medical Officer over the past year at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer. James Hill, MD, MBA, CPE, FASA, FACHE, who previously held the dual role of CMO and Chief Operating Officer, will continue to lead UH Parma Medical Center as COO.

“Dr. Dussel has represented our hospital well throughout the pandemic with agile, responsive leadership,” said Kimberly Togliatti-Trickett, MD, Chief Medical Officer for University Hospitals’ West Market, which includes UH Parma, Elyria and St. John medical centers. “He cultivates positive relationships with physicians and staff, as well as our emergency responders.”

As Associate Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Dussel has actively participated in Hospital Incident Command operations, helping to manage through multiple surges in the pandemic. He also has served on numerous quality committees and process improvement initiatives and helped to expand the hospital’s advanced practice program.

Dr. Dussel has served as Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services since June 2019, overseeing operations of UH Parma’s Emergency Department and EMS in the eight



r. Christopher Dussel, who previously oversaw Emergency Services at UH Parma Medical Center, has been promoted to Chief Medical Officer.

cities under the hospital’s medical control. In this capacity, he has also overseen the EMS Education Pro-

gram that has trained and provided continuing education for paramedics and EMTs throughout the com-

munity for more than 35 years. A practicing emergency medicine physician, Dr. Dussel will maintain a clinical presence in the ED.

Prior to joining University Hospitals, Dr. Dussel held various leadership roles within the Summa Health System, including Vice Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine. He earned his medical degree from Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOMED) in Rootstown and completed his Emergency Medicine Residency at Summa Health System. Dr. Dussel earned his MBA from Youngstown State University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).

Dr. Dussel and his wife and four sons live in Portage County on a working farm that has been in his family for six generations.

Ridgewood Golf Course Clubhouse Demolition Funding Approved By Cuyahoga County Council

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to gather funding for the demolition. This is a great example of collaboration between our local leaders,” DeGeeter stated. Parma Parks and Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi was pleased with the pace this legislation was approved, allowing Ridgewood to continue to host golfers this summer. “With the timing of this demolition, we will be able to continue to provide necessary facilities and accommodations to our golfers while this project moves for-

ward. I am very excited that Ridgewood will soon have a new clubhouse to serve our local golfers,” he said.

Parma Law Director Timothy G. Dobeck was excited that the Cuyahoga County Land Bank will be performing the demolition of the Ridgewood clubhouse. “The staff at the Land Bank has expertise in demolition matters. With their involvement in this project, we can be sure the building will be razed appropriately and safely, while helping Parma quickly move forward with the construction of its new

state-of-the-art clubhouse.”

Demolition is set to commence in the Spring. Parma officials will procure temporary on-site structures to assist golfers during the demolition period. The demolition of the clubhouse is the first step in a multi-phase process to provide much needed upgrades to the Ridgewood Golf Course and maximize the recreational experience for Parma residents and local golfers.

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Senator Antonio Announces Passage Of Bill To Allow Solar Panels In Condominiums

by Nickie Antonio

On January 26th, the Ohio Senate passed my bill, Substitute Senate Bill 61, to strengthen a number of consumer protection provisions for condominium owners and make changes to the law regarding solar panel installation in condo properties and planned communities.

The legislation, which is joint-sponsored by Louis W. Blessing, III (R-Colerain Township), will prohibit homeowners associations (HOAs) from blocking an individual’s ability to install solar panels as long as the HOA does not own or maintain the roof or exterior walls where the panels will be placed. The bill now heads to the Ohio House of Representatives for referral to a committee.

In Ohio, the clean energy sector is growing, providing increased employment opportunities and supporting our state’s economic development. According to a report by Clean Jobs Midwest, more than twice as many Ohioans worked in clean energy than the number of lawyers, account-

ants and auditors, web developers, and real estate agents combined in 2020. Substitute Senate Bill 61 will help Ohio become a leader in renewable energy and green jobs.

The economic case for homeowners to install solar energy systems is also strong. Not only does solar energy reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but it also lowers utility bills, combats rising energy costs, and provides reliable backup power in the case of a widespread electrical grid outage. In addition, homes with solar power systems are more attractive to many potential buyers, which leads to increased property values and bolsters community growth.

Substitute Senate Bill 61 strikes a balance between preserving the character of planned communities while enabling Ohioans to make clean, renewable energy choices on their properties. I am proud to do my part in supporting our state’s economic vitality and ensuring solar energy is accessible for all Ohioans, regardless of where they live.

Robert Oravec Celebrates 45 Years Of Service At Sirl's Automotive

by Laura Oravec

Robert Oravec started working at Sirl's Automotive February 1st, 1977 when he was 18 years old. He has become the manager of the towing department and has been granted the Order of the Towman award 3 times, the highest honor a towman can receive. Since receiving the Order of the Towman award he has become the Captain of the Order of the Towman, was recognized as one of 40 towing leaders by Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio, and has also received the ACE award twice. His boss, Dale R. Sirl Sr., has expressed how proud he is of the work that he has done and the time that he has committed to the company. He stated that Robert has "given the most dedication that any one person could give " and that he is the "heart and soul of towing department." Robert has dedicated his life to being



a tow truck driver and has dutifully given up many weekends and family functions to perform the duty that is required of a tow truck driver. Congratulations Robert on your 45 years of hard work at Sirl's Automotive.

Deep Cover Cuyahoga County

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Deep Cover Cuyahoga County on Monday, March 14, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Author Laura Peskin will talk about her three-volume book series Deep Cover Cuyahoga County and share a Power-Point presentation with video. Learn

fascinating information about suburban Cuyahoga County and marvel at local history—including Space Age architecture off Pearl Road! In-person program. Book sale following the presentation. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.



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Parma Stands With Ukraine



Magnificent Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma was ultimately filled to capacity for an event to show community support for Ukraine in their most dire time



Young people demonstrate their support and outrage with their signage.



People lifting their voices and making their thoughts known on February 27.



Young people demonstrate their support and outrage with their signage.



Community members flocked to Saint Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral and listened to many passionate speakers, including Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter, US Representative Marcy Kaptur, and US Senator Rob Portman.

INSPIRATION

People You Meet Along The Way

by Susan Banks - Yurik

Weather alerts flashed across the television screen warning viewers of the incoming snow storm, so many people rushed out for last minute items. Preparing for a week of icy cold temperatures, gusting winds, and blowing and drifting snow, I was one of the many who chose to do the same. I decided to make a quick stop at the bakery just a few streets from my home. Surely, kolaczki, paczki and pierogi would make staying indoors for the days ahead a bit more tolerable. Cold and dreary with only one other car in the parking lot, I decided to go for it.

Inside the bakery, while maintaining proper covid distance, I noticed a senior gentleman and son who apparently shared the same idea of blizzard bakery. We were the only customers in sight, and the weather was becoming increasingly worse. A lovely young girl at the counter engaged in general conversations about the weather while decisions of utmost importance were being made as to which delicacies to take home.

As the senior gentleman turned to leave the store, I caught a glimpse of the military insignia on his cap which read, "Navy Vietnam Veteran." "I noticed you are a Navy Vietnam Veteran, and I wish to thank you for your service, Sir. You and I both come from Navy families! You see my son was in the Navy on a nuclear submarine." I told him.



To our men and women in uniform, past, present, and future, God Bless you and Thank You.

He had a spirit about him which was pleasantly engaging and most uplifting. He was kind, gracious, and wore his cap with great pride and humility. "Thank you, very kind of you to say. I have seen more than most people, and I have traveled around the world." was his reply.

He then stood at attention and saluted. I could not speak, as I held back tears of gratitude. The expression on his face spoke a million words to my heart. We were from a time in history when many of our family, friends, and high school classmates lost their lives in Vietnam. Then he looked toward the lovely young girl at the counter and asked, "How old do you think I am?" Smiling, she answered, "Oh I'd guess you must be 24 or 25." "I am 80 years

old." he cheerfully replied. There was something about meeting this gentle soldier in the middle of a pending storm which would, in moments, shut down roads. His spirit was most engaging. Seasoned with all he must have experienced in his life's journey, his comments brought a positive and cheerful perspective on living life at its best. Speaking with him, the storm no longer mattered, and time stood still. His name is William

"Pops" Wagner. His son-in-law held the entrance door open waiting for him with kind patience while we exchanged pleasantries. We never know whom we are going to meet along life's journey. The observance of the Vietnam War Veterans Day is Tuesday, March 29. My meeting with "Pops" aligned perfectly. God's timing is always perfect. It is most appropriate to honor Mr. Wagner's service along with the many veterans, who without their service and sacrifice, would leave us destined to live without the freedoms we have today. American Veterans have done everything asked in their missions to serve and protect our country and our freedoms. It is never too late to give them a hero's welcome home.

The key to Mr. Wagner's positive outlook on life is simple: to love others and to live with a heart of gratitude. Every Sunday, one can find Mr. Wagner leading a team of Brown Bag Ministry volunteers who travel to the inner city providing food, drink, clothing, prayer and hope to the homeless. Truly, it is in giving, that we receive.

FAITH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

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Keeping Customers Happy With Great Service At Martini's Drive Thru

by Emery Pinter

Located at the intersection of "I want a drink" and Pearl Road and Commonwealth Blvd., Martini's Drive Thru beverage store, 6505 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, may very well be the pinnacle of American convenience. This drive thru is worth a detour on your next road trip. The best part about this drive-thru? It's actually a drive-through, as in you drive inside the store, right up to the cashier. Plus in addition to selling beer and wine, they sell all your basics from chips, snacks and candy. The building used to be an old oil change store, but the owner grew it into a local establishment that is servicing the community in more ways than just selling beverages. The wants and needs of the customers are the No. 1 priority in key to being successful. Being greeted with a familiar and smiling face, and a bright, cheerful store stocked with a wide variety of craft suds, and even offer hand-selected wines by the knowledgeable owner. There are a variety of options for those who enjoy Cabernet, Chardonnay, or Merlot. And unique wines such as 19 Crimes Snoop Cali Red and 19 Crimes Cabernet

Sauvignon, and commemorative Browns-themed wine bottles. An extra bonus is that there is a limited delivery area. So when you need a couple of bottles of the good stuff, a private stock, if you will, Martini's Drive Thru is stocked with the stuff that you'll break out for special occasions: St. Patrick's Day, Father's Day, graduations. And eventually a friend of yours is going to have a birthday, a housewarming, a Summer party, or some other milestone worth marking with a bottle. It's times like these where the convenience of Martini's Drive Thru pays off so you can stock up in advance for special gatherings of family and friend. One can also order a hefty gift basket that comes with wine, snacks, and lotto tickets, and then have it delivered directly to your cherished recipient. While sprinting to the grocery store for a last minute Pinot Noir is not a deplorable idea, don't leave the convenience of your car when wanting to celebrate with your family and friends. Try Martini's Drive Thru where a relaxing atmosphere, and genuine smile will greet you every time!



Saturday Afternoon Book Discussion

by Bridget Lavelle

Join a librarian from the Adult Services Department at The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library for a brand new, staff-led book discussion with registration required before picking up a copy of the book at the circulation desk. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313. Join us for Saturday Afternoon Book Discussion on Saturday, March 19, 2022 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C as we discuss *Yellow Wife* by Sadeqa Johnson. Registration required for this in-person book discussion and spaces limited.

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PERSPECTIVE

COVID And Tobacco

by Lee Kamps

I read a very interesting article this week in The Atlantic magazine on the future of COVID in the United States and the world. The thesis of the article was that COVID infections, hospitalizations and deaths will resemble the illnesses caused by chronic tobacco usage. I found that very interesting and decided that would be the theme of my column.

For many years, an estimated 400,000 Americans die each year as a result of diseases caused or aggravated by the use of tobacco, mainly from smoking cigarettes. I remember when the Surgeon General declared that

there was a link between tobacco use and lung cancer back in 1964. Almost immediately the tobacco companies began questioning the research and the science behind the link between smoking and lung cancer.

For more than fifty years the tobacco industry and their enablers in congress fought against any restrictions on tobacco use and sales in the United States. But in 1998 came the revelation that tobacco companies deliberately manipulated the amount of nicotine and Big Tobacco settled the lawsuits against them for billions of dollars.

Since then, tobacco use in the

United States has fallen significantly as many companies became “smoke free” and some even refused to hire tobacco users. In 2006 the voters of Ohio banned all indoor smoking in public places. Just last year the complex where I live went “smoke free” in all buildings including personal residences. Now one cannot smoke even in their own residence.

I was doing employee benefit meetings and enrollments twenty years ago when companies began surcharging tobacco users for their health insurance. There was a lot of resistance to that move with many employees threatening to lie on the form about their tobacco use. But lying or a deliberate misstatement on an insurance form could get one fired or accused of fraud.

Now, it has been said that the current surge in COVID cases requiring hospitalization and deaths have become “a pandemic of the unvaccinated”. For more than a year there have been three highly effective vaccines available as well as booster shots to stop the spread of COVID. Yet a significant segment of Americans are still refusing to get vaccinated. Some are even saying that they would rather die than get vaccinated.

Such resistance to getting vaccinated against a disease that could potentially kill them is not going to go away, just as cigarette smoking has not gone away. But if one notices just who currently uses tobacco, it is concentrated mostly among the least educated and those who might be less affluent. The same is true about those who are unvaccinated against COVID.

In my circle of friends and family, who are mostly college educated business and professional people; everyone is vaccinated and boosted against COVID. Also, among my circle of friends and family just about everyone is college educated. So, perhaps I do have a prejudice there. But I also grew up around health care as my mother

was a long time RN at Lutheran Hospital and I studied science in college. So, I respect the science and how vaccines are developed and tested.

I am also old enough to remember when the polio vaccine came out in 1955. It was revolutionary and was created using dead polio viruses. No one questioned the vaccine then as most families knew someone who was crippled from polio. Also there was no internet, social media and 24/7 cable news. My parents wasted no time in getting us vaccinated at our family doctor’s office.

Then a few months later, they brought the polio vaccines into the schools. I was in the second grade at Ridge Brook Elementary School when they set up in the school cafeteria and vaccinated the children. My mother, who wasn’t working then because she had three children at home, put on her nurse’s uniform and volunteered to assist the doctor giving the polio vaccine to the children at Ridge Brook school.

Seven years later a new more effective polio vaccine came out that was given orally. The new Sabin vaccine used live polio viruses and was administered on a sugar cube. We had “Sabin Oral Sundays” where entire families went to the public schools to get the vaccine after church. I remember going to the brand new Greenbriar Junior High School for that vaccine in the summer of 1962, prior to its opening in September 1962 when I entered the ninth grade there.

COVID is not going away. The disease will continue to be around and will pose a continuing health hazard. But those who remain or refuse to get vaccinated are just like those who continue to use tobacco, despite all the scientific evidence that tobacco usage is harmful to one’s health. But the presence of vaccines and boosters will prevent COVID infections from becoming deadly among the vaccinated.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter

Shares Success Stories In Virtual State Of The City

continued from page 1

and healthcare growth, the city saw retail and restaurant growth with the opening of several new stores and restaurants, including its first brewery – Schnitz Ale Brewery.

Of course, infrastructure improvements play a big part of encouraging economic development and preserving housing stock, which is why DeGeeter, council members, city engineers and service workers focus much attention on roads and storm-water management. Last year, \$19 million was invested in roads, as well as the city’s water and sewer infrastructure. York Road resurfacing was completed and Pearl Road paving began. In 2022, Ridge Road should be completed, and, in partnership with the county, the city will start work on West Ridgewood Drive.

DeGeeter said the city continues working closely with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to increase

capacity of large basins to alleviate flooding issues. With the support of the county’s Public Works Department, the city spent \$4.5 million on the upkeep of its sewer system. Furthermore, the city made improvements to its recreation and parks. The new Warrior Fitness Course is a big draw at James Day Park, and, with financial assistance from PITT OHIO, Miller Park was renovated. West Creek Conservancy has nearly completed the demolition of the 80-acre Parmadale campus and purchased the 19-acre former Padua Franciscan Park, which will add public greenspace. These improvements, along with a strong housing market, exceptional safety forces and vibrant senior center, are among the reasons why Parma is a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family, DeGeeter said.

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PERSPECTIVE

Mohammad Isaifan:

Blue Death Of An Immigrant 2

by Davidione Pearl

As we continue to navigate the challenging American social landscape of police accountability, where it intersects vis a vis at the flash point of Qualified Immunity, we are paused to collectively reflect on the polarizing nature of "justice," and what it means to some, while maintaining an entirely different stake of claim to others.

Kimberlee Vaughn, lifelong resident of Summit County, Ohio, is no stranger to these ongoing challenges, nor is her daughter, both plagued by struggles with a legal system they feel is leaving them behind, and with it, the life and honor of their beloved Mohammad Isaifan, killed on the morning of December 15th, 2019, by Akron, Ohio (Summit County) Special Duty officers Jamie Rea, and Matthew Akers.

Vaughn has tirelessly continued her work in seeking accountability, transparency and justice in the shooting death of her late fiancé, (Isaifan), increasing awareness wherever she can about his story, the story of a young Jordanian immigrant, son of a world-renowned eye surgeon, who came to America with dreams of getting into the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), and one day becoming a police officer himself, while working his way through his OPOTA studies as a well-respected master car mechanic in the city of Akron.

A gun enthusiast, no different than any other of the 81.4 million above board gun enthusiasts in America with registered and (legal) weapons, killed en route to the shooting range after running out of fuel not far from his place of residence, subsequently walking home presumably to obtain a gas

can from his property, to take and fill at a nearby station to continue on his way.

He would however never make it home, or be seen alive again.

At approximately 8:30am that morning, Officers Rea and Akers were dispatched in response to calls that came in over the radio about an abandoned car in the road; when the officers located Isaifan walking near Brittain Road and Evans Avenue some twenty-four minutes later, per the statement(s) on their report, a struggle ensued when they attempted to search through his clothing, discovering a concealed carry in the process, unknown to them to be registered at the time.

Isaifan at this point, per witness account, and substantiated by clear video feed, turned to walk away from the officers, who then discharged their weapons into his back, killing him, stating that they were in fear for their lives.

The officers wore no body cameras.

Here is what we now know:

Per the Medical Examiner and toxicology report, Isaifan was shot fifteen times, in his back, chest, abdomen, arms and legs. His toxicology report came back clean, ruling out any possibility of drugs or alcohol in his system that could have counteracted the lethality of or justification for fifteen bullets from two weapons at close range.

The average human free from drugs or alcohol, falls at once when struck by 1-2 bullets from standard issue 9mm weapons at close range, which has escalated the case to determine continual excessive use of force



against a citizen that had already fallen to the ground, still receiving a torrent of steady blasts instead of peacekeepers applying cpr in addition to radioing for emergency services.

Civil liability in the case has expanded the docket to Federal District Court, and is now in the hands of Judge David Ruiz, after the Grand Jury headed by the Ohio Attorney General's office awarded a "no bill" to the defendants in the criminal suit, a proceeding that barred any representation on the part of the plaintiffs and defendants, and moreover, sealed all documents from outside examination by either party.

Hon. Ruiz will hear the case in a status hearing on June 8th, 2022, at the Carl B. Stokes Federal Courthouse in Cleveland, Ohio.

"It's like we're living December 15th 2019 all over again everyday. The legal system, death threats, nails in my tires. It's a horrible process on the family. And my daughter's health has significantly declined from the stress, severely impacting her mobility. They were best friends. It's really hard on us," Vaughn said.

T. Akers, a local social media account with apparent ties to Matthew Akers, recently went onto Vaughn's Facebook page, scrolling back several months to a post involving Vaughn's daughter and the pain she has been through surrounding the death of her father, leaving a message that in many courts would be considered tantamount to cyber bullying.

Vaughn has now been her daughter's caretaker for the better part of three years, as she continues her efforts in the court system to bring forth as she proudly puts it, "Justice for Mohammad," through the embattled eyes of a mother fighting for her life, the life of her daughter, and the memory of their beloved Mohammad Isaifan.

A GoFundme has been setup to help her daughter:
<https://gofund.me/cb47e739>
Ref: the previous article (Dec 2020) <http://parmaobserver.com/read/2020/12/01/mohammad-isaifan-blue-death-of-an-immigrant>
The Akron Police Department could not be reached for comment.

Mobile Food Pantry

In March

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Boxes of shelf stable food items will be available for curbside pickup—first come, first serve--at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, March 16th from 10:00 a.m. -12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

F	Monday thru Friday	Open 10 AM to 5:30 PM	Saturday 10 AM to 2 PM	No Appointment Needed
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Observer

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www.parmaobserver.com/read/news

RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse:

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (<https://clevelandrapecrisis.org/>):

Go here to read about the launch of CRCC's new app designed to engage teens, parents, and educators in preventing sexual violence while connecting survivors to services. To check out the app, click here.

Go here 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.

From Ohio's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force...Learn about “sextortion”, the online exploitation crime directed toward children in which coercion or blackmail are used. Visit their FB page to learn more. Scroll their website for a wealth of information and available resources.

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

To elevate survivor voices and enhance our collective impact work we are launching our Survivor Advisory Council. To apply to join the Survivor Advisory Council, please contact Alicia Ley at aley@collabtoendht.org.

Coordinated by Senator Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo), click here for details and to register for the FREE 13th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Summit from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Friday, March 4th. Throughout the day, among other things, experts will cover the roles played by law enforcement, health care, and social services. Featured this year will be a presentation on the family impacts of human trafficking survivors based on a mother's experience.

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 by clicking here. To stay current in regards to HT-related events and activities sign up for their E-newsletter here.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

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

The Esri Foundation; The Lead-4Change Student Leadership Program; The Pizza Hut Corporate Contributions Program; The Samsung Hope for Children: Solve for Tomorrow Contest; The Taproot 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.

From Cleveland Food Bank – Summer Food Service Program...If your organization provides summer youth programming consider applying for this federal nutrition program from the USDA for school-age children administered by the Ohio Dept. of Education. Go here for details.

From Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)... Job applications are now open - for youth ages 14 – 19 looking for help finding work this summer. Learn more and apply here.

From Ohio Dept. of Education...Financial literacy video series...This new video series introduces students to six critical financial topics. Through short, easy-to-understand video segments, students can learn the basics of interest; Credit Scores; Postsecondary Loans; Paying & Filing Income Taxes; Savings. Check it out here: “Beginning Balance: Financial Literacy”

From Parma Hts Police Dept - THERE'S STILL TIME: The Citizen's Police Academy will begin March 23rd and go for 11 weeks on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 9 pm. If you, or someone you know, wants to learn about who we are and what we do, we highly encourage you to attend! I can attest to this being a great program. Take advantage of the opportunity & register now.

From The Literacy Cooperative & Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL):

Go here to listen to a Sound of Ideas (on Ideastream public radio) piece that aired last month. Guests included a rep from The Center for Community Solutions and an Imagination Library parent sharing how much the program has meant to her family.

To learn more about The Literacy Cooperative & how you can get

involved,click here.

Click here to learn more about the Imagination Library & how to enroll your child in the program.

From The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce:

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

From OCALI - inspiring change and promoting access for people with disabilities:

InspirED Virtual Learning Series - InspirED Virtual Learning Series FOR FAMILIES

InspirED Virtual Learning Series FOR PROFESSIONALS

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

“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

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

Click here to join a local PTA unit

From Parma City Schools: “Building Our Future” progress... Meeting videos: January's meeting; February's meeting

March meeting schedule: 4 pm, Tues, 3/8; 7 pm, Wed. 3/9; 1 pm, Thurs. 3/10. Loc: Red Reese Conference Room, Parma Sr. H.S.

If you live within the district & have not yet completed the COMMUNITY SURVEY, please do so here.

Click here to visit the “Building Our Future” webpage which includes, among other things, a list of FAQ's and meeting dates.

It's PIEROGI DINNER time. Go here for detailsof this traditional event from 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday, March 4th at Normandy High School's Cafeteria

Town Hall Meetings have been scheduled as follows: March 10, 2022, & June 9, 2022. Both meetings will begin at 6:30 pm. and may be viewed on Facebook Live - www.facebook.com/parmaschools.

Join the free, Embracing Parenthood session on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The topic for March, coming up Mar. 16th deals with issues related to “Physical Health”. The program begins at 6:30 pm in the Normandy H.S. Cafeteria...Learn more and register here.

Normandy's Culinary Program will be having a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Delight Sale. Go here to view details & place an order. The deadline to order is March 9, 2022.

SAVE THE DATES: **Saturday, April 4, 2022,** The district-sponsored Community Easter Egg Hunt at Byers Field.Click here if you'd like to help and/or donate some of the estimated 35,000+ candy-filled plastic eggs.

Saturday, August 20, 2022, The Opening Day Kick-off Celebration.

Visit 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):

All branches are opened to the public for regular hours of operation. Masks are encouraged; meeting rooms are again available to reserve & in-person programming has resumed.

>> At-home COVID-19 testing kits are available via DRIVE-THOUGH ONLY at the Parma & Parma-Snow locations; call ahead to check for availability. Alternatively, U.S. residents can also request four free rapid antigen test kits to be mailed directly to their home by the U.S. government at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. Learn more here.

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Parma Art/Literary Scene

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique, 5411 Pearl Rd, new exhibit opened Friday February 25 at 6PM. This exhibit is titled Hard Edges/Soft Edges and features the works of two area artists. Amanda Nyx's work is crystal-like with defined planes. She is a multi-media artist who loves experimenting with color on her 2-D abstract art. Amanda is also a flow dance performer and fire spinner. Danica Zeise's work is soft and organic. She's a Medina artist who loves painting and making metal jewelry. Gallery owner Sean Mabin said "Together they bring a treat for the eyes." Stop in and see for



yourself.

Upcoming and opening March 25th, at 6 PM, Prama will feature artist Pip Logan's figurative, expressive paintings which are new works created during the last 2 years. Prama is excited to to have Duo Decibel System performing around 8 PM during the event.

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 unique hand crafted items affordably priced. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram for more information on upcoming events.

Jeff Suntala, well known watercolor artist, will be demonstrating his technique at the Cuyahoga County Public Library, Parma – Snow branch, March 19th at 1:30 PM. Stop in at 2121 Snow Rd to view this event presented by the non-profit Evergreen Artists, Corp.

Call For Arts Instructors – The Parma Area Fine Arts Council is searching for artists of various mediums interested in teaching classes or workshops. If interested please send an email to kathrynmbabin@att.net, with your contact information and the type of class and/or workshop you'd like to teach.



Dean DePiero President Of Library Board

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On February 7 the Cuyahoga County Library Board of Trustees voted on officers. Former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero was elected President. Since 2005, he has served as counsel for McDonald Hopkins, is presently Law Director for the City of Aurora, and Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor for the city of Broadview Hts. In the past

he served as Ohio State Representative as well. His long career of public service continues in this new position, and he will certainly be busy with this crucial function in one of the most dynamic public library systems in the nation. The board also elected Allyn A. Davies as Vice President, and Maria L. Spangler as Secretary. Congratulations to all.

Introducing Parma's First Literary Magazine: Quill Pro Quo!

by Jeremy Jusek

At the tail end of February, the Flamingo Writers Guild released a literary magazine called Quill Pro Quo and it is actively seeking submissions! Writers everywhere are encouraged to submit their work, but special preference will be given to those currently living in Parma.

The magazine will publish twice a year offering a summer and winter issue. It accepts fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and art/photography submissions. The submission window is revolving, but applicants seeking to have their work included in the summer issue are encouraged to submit their work by the end of March. To learn more about how to submit, please visit the submissions guidelines page at <https://flamingowriters.weebly.com/literary-mag.html>. If you are a writer, we want to read your work. And if you know any, we encourage you to share the info with them!

The Flamingos Writers Guild is a

Parma area resource that offers readings, events, workshops, and other activities for writers and the wider community at large. Every second Tuesday evening at 7 PM is the Mingle with the Flamingos reading series and open mic over Zoom. This summer we'll be offering a bevvvy of in-person events, including a series of writing exercises on a nature hike with Lit Cleveland at the Watershed Stewardship Center, a special workshop with Ohio's poet laureate Kari Gunter-Seymour, and a theatrical monologue & poetry event where local actors will read your writing out loud in person, so writers can listen for beat changes and progression in the hands of skilled vocal artists.

There's a lot to love, so join the Flamingo Writers Guild Facebook page and sign up for our newsletter through the website to stay up to date on new happenings. Happy writing!

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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.
- **Opening Minds through Art Program (OMA).** This is an intergenerational art program for people with Alzheimer's Disease and other forms of neurocognitive disorders. Provides opportunities for creative, self-expression and social engagement for people with dementia.
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