

“No legacy is so rich as honesty” - William Shakespeare

Parma First Responders Mark

## 20th Year Of Hosting Safety Fair

by Carolyn Kovach

The City of Parma will host its 20th Safety Fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13 at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd. The free community event is open to Parma residents of all ages. Safety experts will offer advice and safety giveaways, including bike helmets, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors, while supplies last. The event will run rain or shine. No registration is required.

Several activities are planned, including firefighting, drone and K-9 demonstrations. Free fingerprinting and ID kits will be available for children. Visitors will be able to climb into fire trucks, police cars and ambulances and see first responder equipment up close. There will also be a Kid Zone to help children learn bicycle and pedestrian rules, how to safely board and exit a school bus and what to do during a house fire.

Parma firefighters, EMS workers, animal control and police units, as well as Cleveland Metroparks Mounted



The City of Parma Safety Fair promises to be a fun educational event for the whole family.

Rangers and Ohio State Highway Patrol will be on site to answer questions. For new parents, firefighters will provide instruction about how to properly install child safety restraints in vehicles.

The Safety Fair Committee has asked the University Hospitals AirMed helicopter to visit around 11:30 a.m., but the helicopter's participation is dependent on the weather and its emergency call schedule.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter said the fair is educational for the whole family. “The Safety Fair draws a big crowd. Last year when we brought the event back after canceling it in 2020 due to COVID, we saw a huge turnout. This event allows our police and firefighters to interact with residents in a non-emergency setting and provides a fun way for community members to meet our first responders, see safety equipment up close and learn valuable safety tips.”

The event is a cooperative effort of the City of Parma, Parma City Council, Fire Department, Police Department and Justice Center.

“With the help of the Safety Fair Committee, Traffic



Visitors to the Safety Fair can climb into emergency vehicles.

Division Police Sgt. John Porec takes the lead in organizing the vendors and activities and has done an excellent job of grow-

ing this event,” said Debbie Lime, Ward 2 councilwoman and Public Safety Committee chairwoman.

## Two Generations At Home Days In Seven Hills



Left to right, Seven Hills Mayor Anthony Biasiotta, his Father Anthony Biasiotta, and brother Guy Biasiotta.

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Seven Hills Home Days is indeed a wonderful community summer event, one that I look forward to each year. Seeing Mayor Tony Biasiotta there along with his brother Guy Biasiotta and meeting their

Father for the first time was a distinct pleasure. Mayor Biasiotta is fortunate to have his father with him to see his son's accomplishments, and he is undoubtedly proud of the job he has done so far running Seven Hills. Hats off to you Biasiotta Family.

## Picnic In The Park

by Kathryn Mabin

Saturday, August 6th, from 11:00AM to 2:00PM, stop up at Ridgewood Lake Park, behind the Anthony Zie-linki Splash Pad for the annual Picnic In The Park, an old fashioned community picnic. There will be games and prizes for the kids, music, live entertainment and food trucks. This year there will be about 40 to 45 vendors, non-profits passing out information

about their organizations, and many hand crafted arts & crafts vendors. You'll see Parma organizations like Stearns Homestead, Parma Animal Shelter, Ridgewood Garden Club, Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Great Lakes Wood Carvers, Operation Happy Pups, Parma Early Childhood PTA and more. Many will have raffle baskets and give-aways. Local artisans will be on hand to sell their wares, such as home

décor, mugs, wine glasses, crocheted items, pillows, baby items, soaps, candles, coasters, pet portraits jewelry and so much more. Food, such as cheese-steaks, and BBQ, cold drinks, and cotton candy will be for sale. Don't forget to stop at the We Are Parma Proud tent to purchase your t-shirt, tote bag or hat with the awesome logo,

continued on page 2

## Script Parma Photo Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month depicts the Parma Flyers Hockey team following the Parma Independence Day parade on July 4. 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. Winners 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.



COMMUNITY NEWS

# The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

This month I am continuing my series entitled Civics 101. The hope is to provide you with useful information about your local, state, and federal governments. So far I have covered our municipal (city), school district, and county governments, as well as Ohio's state government and the executive branch of the federal government. This month I will write about our federal legislative or law-making branch.

According to Article I of the U.S. Constitution, "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." Thus, our federal legislature is bicameral – made up of two houses or chambers. You might recall from your schooling that this was due to what was called The Great Compromise. When the Constitution was being debated in 1787, the

delegates from states with small populations wanted equal represented for each state, while those from larger populations preferred proportional representation based on population. The result was that each state is entitled to two senators in the U.S. Senate, as well as a number of representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives based on population.

The U.S. House consists of 435 voting members who are elected to two-year terms with no term limits. They are sometimes referred to as Congressmen or Congresswomen. Each state is guaranteed at least one representative, thus states with small populations like North Dakota and Wyoming have only one. California has the most with 53, while Texas has 36, New York and Florida have 27, and Ohio has 16. Because it is population-based, the number of representatives can change based on shifts in population. This occurs every ten years following the U.S. Census. After the population is counted, the U.S. Census Bureau reapportions or divides the number of representatives allotted to each state. Thus, as a result of the 2020 census, Ohio, New York, and California, for instance, will each lose one representative, while Florida will gain one and Texas will gain two. Ohio is losing one due to our slow population growth rate.

Each member of the U.S. House represents a district, unless the state only has one member. Currently, Parma is divided between the 11th and 16th Congressional Districts. Democratic Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur represents the 11th district which runs from the Toledo area along Lake Erie and includes the northern portion of Parma. Parma's southern half is part of the 16th district which is represented by Republican Anthony Gonzalez. Starting next year Parma will be part of the 7th district, so



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan welcomes U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown to German Central in Parma.

we will be electing a new representative this year. The presiding officer of the U.S. House is the Speaker of the House who is currently Democrat Nancy Pelosi of California.

The U.S. Senate consists of 100 Senators who are elected to six year terms with no term limit. Every state is entitled to two U.S. Senators. Ohio's current U.S. Senators are Democrat Sherrod Brown and Republican Rob Portman. Portman is not seeking re-election this year, so we will be electing a new U.S. Senator for Ohio. Brown is up for re-election in 2024. The President of the Senate is the Vice President, currently Kamala Harris. The Constitution only allows the presiding officer to vote when there is a tie.

Like President of the United States, there are only three qualifications to be a member of Congress and include age, citizenship, and residency requirements. One must be at least 25 to be a member of the House, while the age is 30 in the U.S. Senate. Unlike the President who must be a natural born citizen, members of the House and Senate do not have to be. In fact, in order to be a member of the House, one must be a citizen for at least seven years, while Senators must be a citizen for at least nine years. Finally, members of both chambers are required to reside in the state in which they represent.

Congress is the lawmaking branch of our federal government. In a nutshell, a bill must pass both Houses in order to become a law. This is not easy, as this requires at least 218 members of the House, while a super-majority of 60 votes is needed to pass most bills in the U.S. Senate. If a bill passes both Houses, it is then sent to the President who may sign or veto the bill. If vetoed, the bill may be overridden by a two-thirds vote of both Houses of Congress in order to become a law. Both vetoes and overrides are very rare.

There is a lot more to know about Congress and lawmaking. I encourage you to read the U.S. Constitution and pick up a book about Congress. I guarantee you will find it fascinating reading. I hope to see you in the Ukrainian Independence Day parade on State Road on August 27. Stay well.

## Picnic In The Park

continued from page 1

or buy a raffle ticket for the basket filled with goodies.

Stop up and join in on celebrating summer in Parma! This event is brought to by We Are Parma Proud, who also brought fireworks back to Parma this summer, and brings you Frosty's Fest in December, and the Parma's Visitors Guide, along with other events throughout the year.

For more information on upcoming events follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook and Instagram. This non-profit survives on donations, and the kind volunteers who work to bring these events to you. If you are interested in volunteering for one or all events, email [parmaproud1@gmail.com](mailto:parmaproud1@gmail.com) with your name and contact information.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Mother Reunites With UH Parma Team Who Saved Her Life From Postpartum Complications

by CJ Sheppard

Just days after delivering her baby three months early at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Natassia Safranek was rushed to UH Parma Medical Center's Emergency Department, her blood pressure spiking as it did in precipitating her little boy's premature birth.

Lenny was born at 27 weeks, weighing only 1 pound, 11 ounces. He spent more than two months in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UH Rainbow. Now a healthy 1 year old, he and his parents, Natassia and Ricky Safranek, reunited with the ED team that saved her life.

"My husband & I cannot speak any more highly of the staff at UH altogether – and for each and every individual who came in contact with us who literally saved my life and my son's life," Natassia said.

She was discharged from UH MacDonald Women's Hospital with a blood pressure machine and explicit instructions to monitor her condition. When she felt terrible and her blood pressure was skyrocketing, she told paramedics to transport her to UH Parma because it was part of University Hospitals, a recognized leader in addressing pregnancy-related complications and providing timely treatment.



Natassia and Ricky Safranek returned to UH Parma Medical Center's Emergency Department with their 1-year-old son, Lenny, to reunite with the team who saved Natassia's life last summer right after her son's birth. Pictured here with the Safraneks, clockwise from left, are Michael Kelley, MD, medic Adam and nurses Brit and Nyah.

"Post-partum preeclampsia is a serious condition," said Michael Kelley, MD, the physician in UH Parma's ED who identified Natassia's post-partum emergency as HELPP syndrome, a rare but serious complication often related

to preeclampsia. "UH Parma is a community hospital with many specialties, but we also know when our patients need a higher level of care."

In July 2021, a sharp pain under Natassia's right breast was the telltale

sign of preeclampsia, a serious complication of pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure. Alarmed, she texted a friend and new mother about her symptoms, and the response chilled her: CALL YOUR DOCTOR RIGHT NOW. THIS IS PREECLAMPSIA.

Natassia quickly got in to see the OB/GYNs at South Suburban Women's Center. The ultrasound showed the baby rotating in her womb, but Natassia could not feel the movement. Doctors scheduled her for a follow-up diagnostic ultrasound with OB imaging at UH Cleveland Medical Center and told her she absolutely must make this appointment.

"I saw on the screen that he was moving, but I couldn't feel him," Natassia recalls.

In the few hours before heading downtown, Natassia began violently vomiting and was wracked by intense pain across her belly. Her blood pressure was skyrocketing. At UH MacDonald, she was whisked off for testing, which found elevated liver enzymes and plummeting platelets. She was given magnesium sulfate intravenously to lower her blood pressure to avoid seizures that could lead to a stroke. Natassia was told her baby

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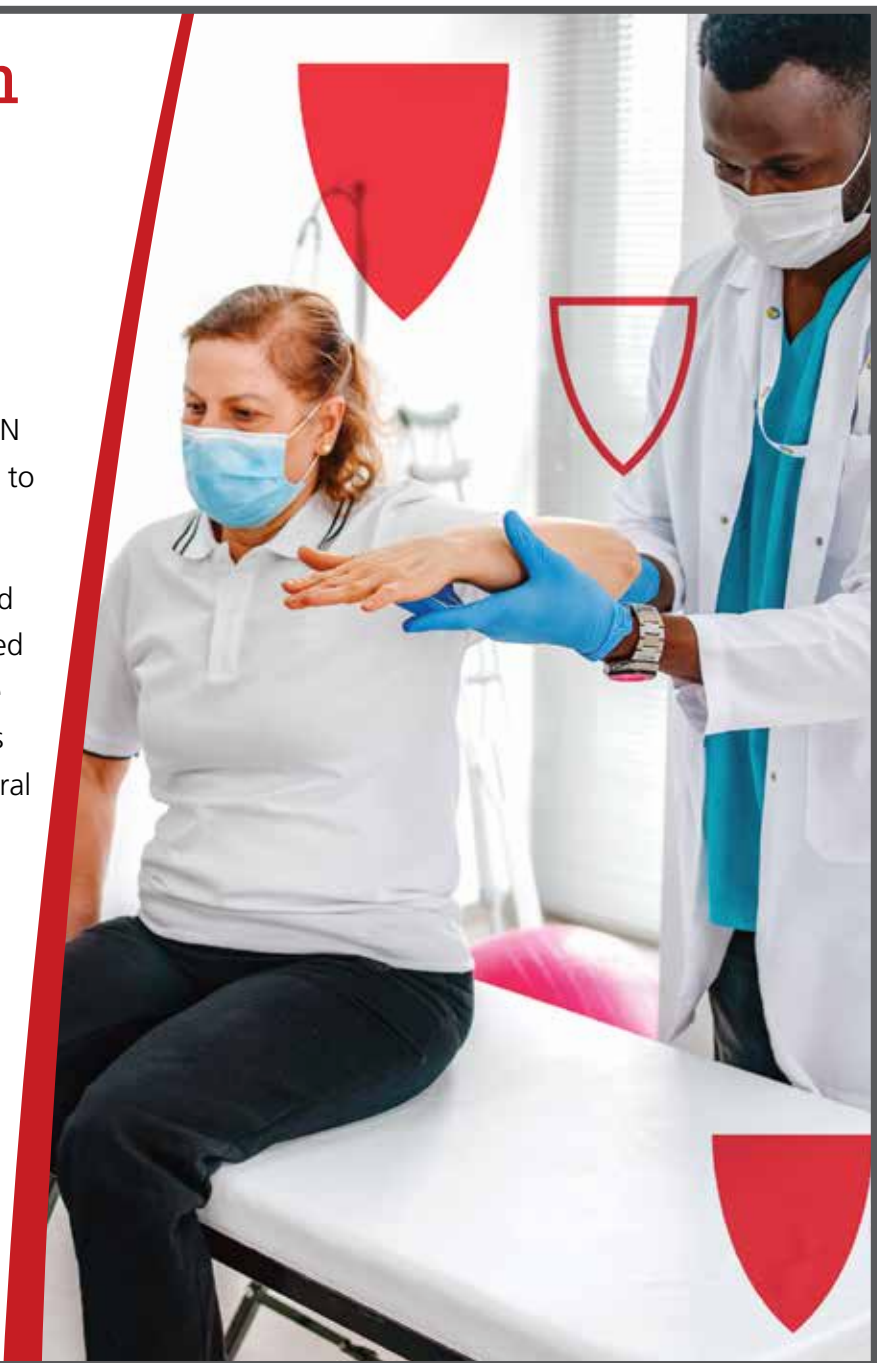
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# GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA



## UH Parma Child Care Center Holds Reunion To Celebrate Turning 40

by CJ Sheppard

The award-winning Child Care Center at University Hospitals Parma Health Education Center was the first school for thousands of children over the past four decades. As the Center turns 40, the teachers – many with decades of service themselves – are welcoming back students and their families for a reunion to revisit their classrooms and see the people with whom they spent their formative years.

The Child Care Reunion, complete with games, refreshments and tours of the classrooms, the Apple Room and other highlights, will take place Saturday, Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Children will even have the opportunity to check out a fire truck and ambulance, which are not uncommon sights at the Health Education Center, where the UH EMS Training program is based.

“Over the past 40 years, UH Parma’s Child Care Center has supported thousands of families through the care and education of their children,” says Manager Leah Anastakis, M.Ed., who enrolled her own daughter 12 years ago, five years before managing the Center. “This was especially important these past few years during the pandemic so that UH staff and other essential workers could continue to report to work

knowing their children were safe with us. UH Parma Child Care is a staple in this town and will continue to be for many years to come.”

Opened in 1982 for infants and toddlers of hospital employees, the Center soon expanded to offer care for preschoolers and pre-Kindergarteners. School-age children up to age 12 are welcomed back during school breaks. In 2007, the Center that was originally available only to hospital employees opened to the public.

The Center earned Five Stars in Step Up to Quality, the state’s highest-possible rating in the quality-ranking program of the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. The long tenure of teachers, five of whom will be honored at the reunion, speak to the quality of this program:

Jennifer Garczynski, Infant Lead Teacher, 32 years  
Debbie O’Connell, Infant Teacher’s Assistant, 32 years  
Maria Armeni, Preschool Lead Teacher, 31 years  
Maria Karlak, Pre-K Lead Teacher, 21 years  
Waydene Farrell, Toddler Teacher’s Assistant, 15 year

To RSVP for the reunion, please email [UHChildCare@Uhhospitals.org](mailto:UHChildCare@Uhhospitals.org).

## Seven Hills Farmers Market For 2022

by Kathy Holland

The 2022 Seven Hills Farmers Market opened this season on Thursday, July 7, 2022, 4:00 – 7:00 PM. A weekly open-air market connecting local farmers and artisans who offer fresh produce, food items and products, to residents and neighbors in our community, the Market is located at 7221 Broadview Road, Seven Hills, Ohio (adjacent to Fire Station #1).

The Seven Hills Farmers Market has something for everyone, from a wide variety of fresh produce to carefully crafted jams, jellies, and syrups to handmade pierogies, pasta, sauces, garlic spreads, jerky, bakery, freshly roasted coffee, honey, and soaps as well as plants to beautify your outdoor space. More than just a fun way to spend your Thursday afternoon, the market is an essential part of our community. You will get to know your food producers as you are helping to support the continued growth of a local food economy. Utilizing our new grant-funded gazebo there will also be musical entertainment for your listening pleasure as you shop.

There is an exciting line-up of food trucks this summer too! Grab something delicious from the following: August 4-Jackpot Chicken, August 11-Parilya

Cle, August 18-Thyme Traveler, August 25-Cheezylicious, September 1-Twisted Grill & Grind, September 8-CLE Chicken, September 15-Zydeco Bistro, September 22 Barrios Tacos, September 29 -Smash Time.

As the Northeast Ohio growing season takes off and produce fully ripens, look for local lettuce, berries, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions, and herbs. Midsummer bounty includes beets, sweet corn, green beans, peaches, cantaloupe, and melons. Fall market produce includes apples, blackberries, grapes, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, and Bartlett pears to name a few. Remember to store fruits and vegetables separately. As fruits ripen, they produce ethylene gas, which decreases the storage life of vegetables. Ask your vendor the best way to keep their items fresh the longest.

Thank you for supporting local, small business at the Seven Hills Farmers Market located in beautiful Seven Hills, Ohio! The Seven Hills Farmers Market is grateful to their sponsors; The Loan Gal Team at CrossCountry Mortgage, Taleris Credit Union, Inc., Vince Hrobat Insurance Agency, Inc. and Warwick, Inc. who provide the funds for advertising, upgrades and musicians.

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PARMA HEIGHTS

# Shop Local And Support Parma Heights Businesses

by Marie Gallo

Parma Heights recently celebrated the grand reopening of McDonald's. Along with the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and Parma Heights Police, it was a fun afternoon with the ribbon cutting and the Chief and Captain even helped serve guests at the drive-thru window. We are grateful to have businesses that give back to the community and encourage building relationships throughout our city.

In June, we hosted the Business Breakfast, in which over 30 locally owned small business owners attended. We focused on how we plan to help market the businesses in the community. Through the city's social media channels, we will promote businesses

with the new Feature Friday. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter followers will discover what businesses are currently in Parma Heights and what goods and/or services they provide. From auto-detailing to frozen custard to bowling to pop culture, there are many hidden treasures and great gems in Parma Heights. Forming partnerships with our local businesses is an opportunity to showcase what we have right here in Parma Heights.

Be sure to follow the city's social channels for the new Feature Friday, along with all the great recreation programs and updates regarding happenings within Parma Heights.

*Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.*



Parma Heights recently celebrated the grand reopening of McDonald's.

## Join The Parma Heights 2ND Friday Pearl Road Scavenger Hunt Aug 12th!

by Emery Pinter

Discover Parma Heights while learning new things about yourself and friends during the 2ND Annual 2ND Fridays Pearl Road Scavenger Hunt. Highlights of the scavenger hunt include visiting spots that locals may or not be aware of, a gentle walk along Pearl road in Parma Heights which can win you or your team prizes from local businesses. This year the scavenger hunt will encourage participants to pinpoint a flower area, landmarks, small businesses, and a few other odds and ends in Parma Heights. It's a stroll with an entertaining (and sometimes educational) purpose, shedding light

on Parma Heights and the environment around you! It all begins Friday Aug 12th-Friday Aug 19th. Pick up a Free 2nd Friday Scavenger Hunt List at the Parma Heights Library, 168 Optical at 6315 Pearl Rd, Village Cards & Gifts 6643 Pearl Road, Diamond Strength Fitness 6690 Pearl Road, or copy it from the Parma Heights 2ND FRIDAY Facebook page beginning Aug 10th. (which will also list the cool prizes) You can do it yourself or round up a few pals to find all 16 things in one day. There are no hard and fast rules, only an invitation to slow down, enjoy a Summer day and open your eyes to the little things Parma Heights has to offer.

## Mobile Food Pantry

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 at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, August 17th from 10:00 a.m. -12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

Outdoor curbside. Drive into Greenbrier Commons and follow the signs for Mobile Food Pantry.

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by Rob Euerle, Ward 9 Councilman  
NOPEC DONOTKNOCK PROGRAM

Seniors rushing to respond to someone at their door, increases the chance to trip and fall. Finding a solicitor at the door adds frustration. Here's an easy fix. An Ohio fuel supplier, NOPEC, offers a free Do Not Knock Program that blocks all but non-profit organizations from knocking. Register online at [blocktheknock.com](http://blocktheknock.com) or at the link on the City of Parma website's main page. Enrollment assistance is also available from my Council Office at 1-440-885-8091.

**How will a door-to-door solicitor know not to come to my house?**

Solicitors must request a permit to sell door-to-door. They will receive a Do Not Knock Registry listing showing the restricted addresses. You will also receive a Do Not Knock window cling.

**What should I do if a solicitor still knocks on my door?**

Don't open the door if you feel unsafe; request identification to be presented through a window or doorbell camera.

If you feel the solicitor is in violation of the Do Not Knock Registry, report them to your local government or city hall.

Never, ever give anyone a copy of your utility bill or any personal information.

**What is done with the information that I provide when signing up?**

Your address is listed on the Do Not Knock registry. Your contact information may be used to notify you when it is time to update your Do Not Knock Registry information. NOPEC will not sell your information to any third party.

**What happens after I sign up?**

NOPEC provides updated lists monthly to solicitors. Your name will appear on the Do Not Knock Registry within 30 days. If you signed up online, you should receive your window cling in the mail within 2 to 4 weeks.

Can I opt out of the registry



**before my initial registration period ends? How?**

Yes. You can have your name removed from the Do Not Knock Registry at any time by submitting a Notice of Removal at [blocktheknock.com](http://blocktheknock.com).

**READYNOTIFY (CODE RED)**

ReadyNotify is a FREE emergency notification system used by Cuyahoga County and participating municipalities to issue notifications to the public. Ward 9 seniors may register at [readynotify.us](http://readynotify.us) or the link on City of Parma website's main page. Enrollment assistance is also available from my Council Office.

**FREE GUN LOCK PROGRAM**

Provided free in partnership with the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Project Childsafe. When used, this device makes a gun inoperable. These are available at the Parma City Council office in a kit that includes a safety curriculum. Gunlock model may differ from that shown.

**FREE PAPER SHREDDING EVENT** in the parking lot of Parma Armory Shooting Center, 5301 Hauserman Road, Parma, on September 24th from 10 am to 2 pm. Unloading assistance will be available to make it easy to safely get rid of all those confidential paper files you've saved for far too long. This helps prevent identity theft or fraud and promotes clean recycling because shredded paper bypasses the landfill.

A personal note from Robert Euerle: Hi Ward 9 friends! Please send me your email address so you can be kept informed of timely information intended for your benefit. Email it to me at [reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov). Thank you!

**Council Office: 1-440-885-8091—  
Direct Phone: 216-418-8342**



INSPIRATION

Once In A Lifetime

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In July Parma was host to what has been described as a once in a lifetime religious event. Practitioners of the Hindu Faith gathered at a private residence for 10 days to partake in a ritual known as Sapta Maha Purn, which is a blessing event for families to honor those who have passed away. I expected to see things that I was not all too familiar with when I went there, but my expectations were greatly surpassed as I entered the area in which the event was occurring. Incredible music, obvious joy, and intense devotion is what I witnessed. I was amazed at how they had turned a back yard in Parma into a sight

that quite frankly photographs do not accurately convey this transformation. By all means, go to the Parma Observer Facebook in order to view a video of this extraordinary event.

Most of those in attendance were from or associated with the nation of Nepal (often described as the "rooftop of India", as I was told by my gracious host and guide, Harka. He explained that they believe in one God, who for them is named Lord Krishna. He informed me that they feel at least once in a life faithful Hindus must attend this 10 day ceremony to enjoy the fulfillment of their beliefs. He stated that the sheer expense of organizing and present-



Crowd assembled for devotion inside of tented area. After being invited in, I was astonished to see that this had been constructed in the backyard of this home in Parma.



Front area of devotional tent, with many offerings and seated religious leaders.

ing these ceremonies is prohibitive. so really, once in a lifetime is very accurate.

Harka said that although many neighbors were initially very curious that this celebration had materialized in their midst. most were very welcoming, and their attendees, hundreds in all, felt very satisfied with the choice of the site. He said that the city had done everything possible in order to make sure that their religious service had occurred exactly as planned. He expressed his utmost appreciation for his neighbors and the people of Parma for hosting this rare and to many exotic and extravagant event. I myself will never forget the sights and sounds that

I experienced during my brief visit, and the warmth and friendliness of all that I met there will leave an everlasting impact on my mind. The Parma of today is becoming more and more a welcoming destination for people and cultures from all around the world.



FAITH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

- All Faiths Pantry**  
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329  
allfaithspantry.org
- All Saints Episcopal Church**  
8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055  
parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230  
www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
- Divinity Lutheran Church**  
11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060  
www.divinitylutheran.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**  
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786  
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**  
6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360  
www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church**  
5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434  
www.Stbridgetparma.com
- Holy Family Catholic Church**  
7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533  
www.holyfamparma.org
- Parma Christian Church**  
7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614  
www.parmachristianchurch.org



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NEIGHBORHOODS

Parma's Christmas In July Food Drive  
Helps Stock Pantry Shelves At Parma Hunger Center

by Carolyn Kovach

Mayor's Office summer intern Lukas George got a workout every Friday when he lifted and loaded into his car the heavy bins of donated food from various collection sites. He then transported the food to the Parma Hunger Center, where the items were later sorted and placed on pantry shelves at 5280 Broadview Road, Parma.

The month-long Christmas in July Food Drive ended Aug. 1 with outstanding results.

"Our collection bins in our float were overflowing during the Independence Day Parade when we kicked off the drive, and the collection bins at our various city drop sites were filled to the brim each week. I tasked the intern with collecting the donations, and every week he took a carload of food and paper products to the Hunger Center," said City of Parma Communications Director Carolyn Kovach, who organizes the Christmas in July Food Drive every year. "I am thankful for the help I received this summer from city Service Department staff, Padua High School volunteers and our summer intern who gathered donations during the parade. I am also extremely appreciative of all those who donated food or money to the drive."

In addition to in-person dona-



A Padua High School student helped collect food for the Christmas in July Food Drive float during the Independence Day Parade.

tions, online donations were accepted at [www.plcparma.org/donate.html](http://www.plcparma.org/donate.html). Hunger Center Co-director Dale Kraemer said monetary donations allow the Hunger Center to purchase more items because food can be bought for less and in bulk at the Cleveland Food Bank. For those who missed the opportunity to donate, it is never too late. The Hunger Center takes donations online throughout the year.

Since the beginning of his administration, Mayor Tim DeGeeter's office has been overseeing the drive. "The

food drive started before I became mayor. We have kept it going because

we know most people make food donations during the holidays but not during the summer when food pantries usually see a decline in donations. For those on tight budgets or fixed incomes who are coping with rising grocery bills, the need for assistance is not seasonal. It's year round," DeGeeter said. "Parma residents are always generous. We appreciate all who donated at Cuyahoga County Public Library's Snow Road and Powers Boulevard branches, UH Parma Medical Center, the Donna Smallwood Activities Center and City Hall."

Established in 1969, the Parma Hunger Center is part of Parma Lutheran Church. The pantry is open 2 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays. For Parma residents interested in registering for food assistance, call 216-316-5772 or 216-351-7828.

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PERSPECTIVE

Where Were You In 1962?

by Lee Kamps

In 1973, a movie premiered titled American Graffiti that had as it's line "where were you in '62? The movie dealt with the adventures of a group of young adults who had recently graduated from high school the previous June over a Labor Day weekend. The movie was set in Modesto California and was directed by a young man who grew up in Modesto and remembered those days of rock and roll music and "cruising" down the main drag of the city on summer evenings. That young director was George Lucas and the success of American Graffiti gave him the credibility to begin on his next project, a science fiction movie that was Star Wars.

What inspired me to write this column on this particular subject was a small piece of information I received on a Facebook post. It was sixty years ago this summer that one of the most popular and influential rock and roll

groups had their first hit in 1962. Of course, that was The Beatles who had a hit in Europe with their song Love Me Do However it would be another two years before audiences in the United States would hear that song since it wasn't released in the United States until 1964 after the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan show.

However, another very popular and influential group had their first national hit in the summer if 1962. That was the Beach Boys with their song Surfin' Safari. The Beach Boys were three brothers, a cousin and a neighbor who got together to form a rock and roll group. The Beach Boys became perhaps the most popular American rock and roll band of the 1960s, just as popular as The Beatles became.

The year of 1962 also saw the first big hit by another very popular rock and roll group as well. The Four Seasons, four young men from New Jersey who had been performing locally for

years finally hit the big time in the fall of 1962 with their first big hit Sherry. Together the Beatles, the Beach Boys and the Four Seasons dominated the charts of rock and roll throughout the 1960s.

But this column isn't just about rock and roll music. I do remember where I was in 1962. I was living in Parma near the intersection of Pearl and Ridge and was about to begin the 9th grade at my fourth school in four years when the new Greenbriar Junior High school opened in September. Back in the 1950s and 1960s Parma was growing so fast that they couldn't build new schools fast enough to educate us baby boomers, In fact, in 1963, I started in the 10th grade at Valley Forge High School, making it five schools in five years without moving. Perhaps half my graduating class of 1966 had the same experience.

Getting back to the summer of 1962, I was about to turn 14 years old

in September. I was between childhood and adolescence that year so it was pretty mixed up for me. What I do remember from that summer was taking a vacation trip with my family to Washington DC. On the way, we visited the Antietam Battlefield one month before the centennial of that historic Civil War battle. I remember walking over the battlefield one hundred years after the battle and finding spent minie balls on the field.

Back in 1962 John F. Kennedy was President and we got to tour the White House and the Capitol building. The country was enthralled with the young President and his pretty wife. Even though my parents didn't vote for John F Kennedy when he ran for President in 1960, they liked and respected him.

But there was a dark side to that year of 1962 and that became apparent in October. On a Monday night in October 1962, the nation and the world learned when the President went on national television and outlined that the Soviet Union was building missile silos in Cuba and that those missiles would be armed with nuclear warheads and could reach American cities within minutes.

The President declared that the United States would not allow the Soviet Union to install nuclear armed missiles in Cuba and that the President ordered a Naval blockade to prevent the arrival of Soviet ships carrying missiles and equipment to launch them. For ten days that October the world waited and came close to the brink of nuclear war. After ten days, the Soviet ships turned around and returned home.

I bring this up because nowadays we often look back and remember nostalgically about the past. But it was not without it's share of problems and issues. One thing going on in 1962 was a little war in a country half way around the world named Vietnam that would dominate the news later in the decade. But for a teenager in Parma, life was a lot of fun in 1962.

Mother Reunites With UH Parma Team Who Saved Her Life From Postpartum Complications

continued from page 3

would be delivered by cesarean section. "They were very fast-acting and very informative at UH MacDonald," Natassia says. "The labor and delivery nurses and doctors were fantastic. I felt like I was on a cloud."

Leonard Edwin, the namesake of his great-grandfathers, was born Friday, July 9 at 2:57 p.m. Natassia and Lenny's father Ricky could not see him for the first 24 hours.

Further testing found that Natasia suffered from HELPP syndrome, a rare but serious complication often related to preeclampsia. This caused her blood pressure to spike, leading to

palpitations in her heart and throat, and she felt awful. Natassia was stabilized before she went home, but nurses gave her a digital blood pressure machine to monitor herself.

When her blood pressure shot up to 188/110 a few days later, she knew exactly what she needed to do. She called 9-1-1 and insisted on being taken to UH Parma, since it was affiliated with UH. Within seconds upon her arrival, nurses Nyah and Britt and medics Sam and Adam were bustling around the room, hooking up IVs and an EKG to check her blood pressure.

"EMS brought me to UH Parma, where they didn't skip a beat," Natassia says. "The staff at UH Parma were truly amazing and extremely compassionate."

Dr. Kelley swiftly facilitated Natasia's transfer to UH MacDonald, where she had delivered her baby. Her postpartum stay only lasted two days. She felt comforted knowing her treatment was delivered in the same location as her son, just a hallway away from her in UH Rainbow's NICU.

"My husband and I are forever grateful to every single person at UH Parma and main campus who have been a part of this wild journey that we are only just beginning," Natassia wrote in a letter of thanks to her caregivers. "I thank you all for saving my life and I am overcome with emotion knowing that it was a very scary possibility that I could very well not be here today along with my son."

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PARMA FUN

# Senator Antonio Joins President Biden In Cleveland For Historic Announcement

by Nickie Antonio

On July 6, I was honored to meet President Biden during his visit to Max S. Hayes High School in the 23rd Senate District. President Biden came to announce the final step in implementing the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance program, which will protect union workers facing cuts to their benefits in multiemployer pension plans.

Before the American Rescue Plan, multiemployer pension plan insolvencies were expected to impact millions of hardworking Americans and their families. Now, with the American Rescue Plan's Special Financial Assistance Program, pension plans can apply for assistance to remain solvent through 2051. Not only will this protect workers facing a reduction in benefits, but it will also fully restore pension cuts for more than 80,000 retirees in 18 multi-

employer plans across the country.

We were joined at the announcement by U.S. Labor Secretary Marty Walsh, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, Representatives Shontel M. Brown and Marcy Kaptur, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, State Representative Michael Skindell, Executive Secretary of the North Shore AFL-CIO Dan O'Malley, Lakewood City Council member Tristan Rader, Lakewood Mayor Meghan George, Judge Terri Jamison, as well as hundreds of union workers and retirees to celebrate this historic success.

During our conversation, I also urged the President to continue fighting to protect America's retirement: Social Security. I am proud to stand with President Biden as we work to ensure retirement security for generations of American workers to come. America is built by the middle class, and the middle class is built by union workers.



Senator Antonio with President Biden.

## Tips To Attract Bees, And Butterflies

by Emery Pinter

Parma Heights has created several "pocket parks" throughout the city. Instead of piles of mulch and empty benches, these spaces could feed and shelter bees, birds and butterflies. Anytime I've taken a break when walking the city, I've never seen anything with wings, anything with feathers or anything with six (or more) legs!

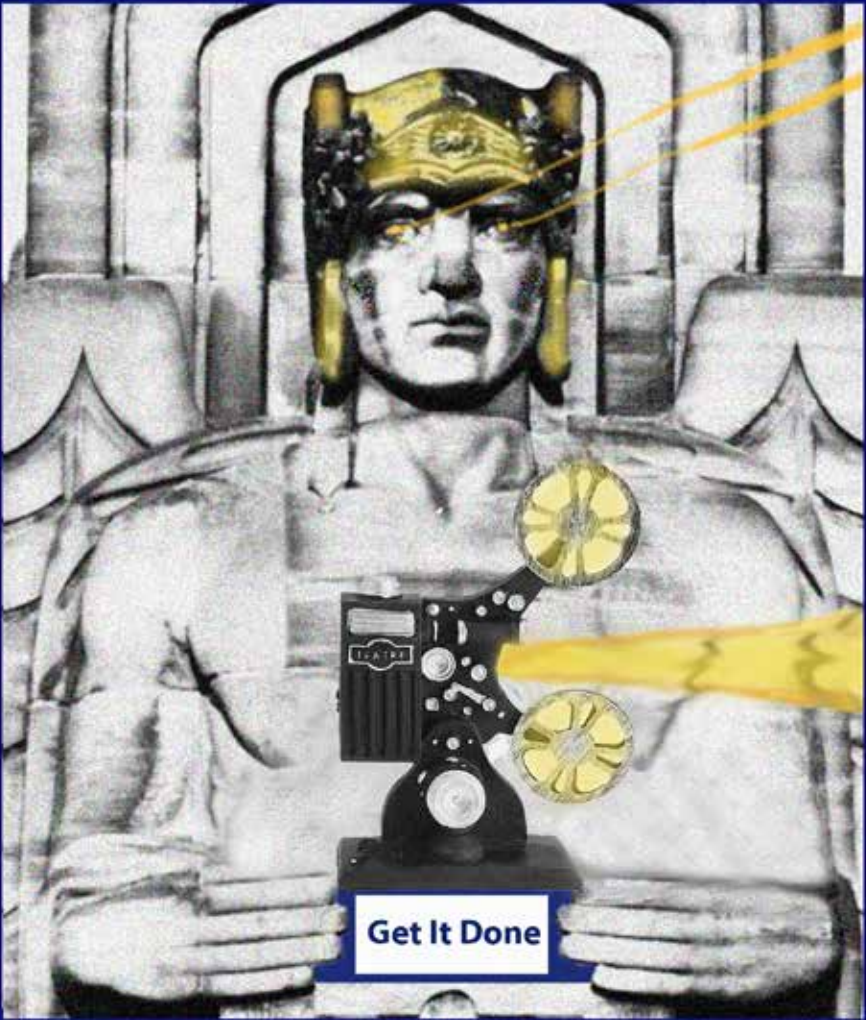
Bees have good color vision and especially like blue, purple, violet, white and yellow. And a little color at the pocket parks wouldn't hurt. If we planted species with brightly-coloured and/or tubular flowers, such as cardinal flower, blue iris, bee balm, bergamot, wild columbine, spotted Joe pye weed and/or annuals such as begonia, cosmos, geranium, petunia, zinnia

and nasturtium, they would attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

I'm sure many of you have dealt with the frustration of seeing blossoms fall off your vegetable plants because they have not been pollinated. Not only do food crops depend on these beneficial insects, but most flowering trees and plants need pollination to set seed and continue their species' survival. Bees are important to our whole ecosystem. Further, the bee population is at risk due to overuse of pesticides so it's important to not only plant flowers that bees need the most, but to also never treat them with pesticides. No matter their size, all native bees rely on blooming plants for sugary nectar and protein-packed pollen to feed themselves and their offspring. Few creatures exist closer to the front lines of climate change than wild, native bees. And few are more important, or as irreplaceable.

in an otherwise concrete jungle. Right now, it's mid season and flowers such as black-eyed Susan, coneflowers, catmint, cleome, milkweed, monarda (bee balm), phlox, daisies, coreopsis, and yarrow are bee magnets. Bees are active until the weather cools down in late fall and still need to feed. Grow some late bloomers like dahlias, asters, goldenrod, Joe Pye weed, and rudbeckias to keep the pollinator garden going and growing! By planting a pollinator garden in your own backyard, you can help to do your part in restoring populations of these important species. By planting native pollinator-friendly plants, you help to feed and restore habitat for these creatures that we rely on for our own survival.

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They've always been subjected to a long list of existential threats: habitat loss through agriculture, construction and urban development; pesticides, insecticides and other harmful chemicals; and competition from domesticated honeybees. Add to that list the growing impacts of a warming planet, wildfires, heat waves and drought all of which are growing in frequency and intensity, and the gravity of the situation lurches into focus.

Is a small wildflower meadow on a small plot of land nestled in the corner of a 'pocket park' too much to ask? Parma Heights and other cities need these small havens for pollinators



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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

*by Gene Lovasy*

RAISING AWARENESS: *Human Trafficking/Abuse: Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – [www.parmaobserver.com/read/news](http://www.parmaobserver.com/read/news)*

## From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

Upcoming events:

Fundamentals of Human Trafficking – BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION... This free, virtual presentation is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9th, from 10:30 – 11:30. Get details & register [here](#).

**Save the date: October 20-21, 2022...** join us in envisioning a new movement focused on creating a road-map for collaboration where all systems and survivors work together for solutions. This county-wide, appreciative inquiry, “Thriving Youth Summit” will be facilitated by the Community Innovation Network at Case Western Reserve University. Watch for more information coming soon.

**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.

**From The Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force:**

The Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Service Standards Self-Assessment is now live! If you provide services to human trafficking survivors in any capacity within your organization and you are a member of the HT Collaborative this assessment is for you! As a community, let's show the vast array of services available to survivors in Cuyahoga County. Only if your organization completes this assessment will you be placed on the Ohio Trafficking Services Matrix. Review the Self-Assessment Standards of Service [here](#). To complete the Self-Assessment, [click here](#).

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

Check out this new app that engages teens, parents, and educators, in preventing sexual violence while connecting survivors to services. The app highlights topics such as healthy relationships and boundaries, bystander intervention, and healthy social media use. It's free and allows users to connect to CRCC's crisis & support hotline, as well as find articles, videos, and information that promote healthy relationships and affirmative consent.

Visit their “Training Institute” page for course offerings coming up during the next several months

### LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

## Grant Sources for Nonprofits...

Here is another set of five grantors identified by the MyCom network. These have a mostly mental health focus: > Build-A-Bear Foundation > The Cigna Foundation > Circle for Justice Innovations > The J.W. Couch Foundation > The Gerber Foundation. If you're affiliated with a family/youth-serving organization visit these funders' sites

to see if your program/service fits their mission.

**From the City of Parma...Plan on** attending the annual Safety Fair coming up on Saturday, Aug. 13th from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Activities will include a fire extinguisher demonstration, drone, and K9 demonstrations; free fingerprinting and bicycle helmets for children; and visits with firefighters, EMS workers and police patrol, motorcycle and bicycle units, and much more

**From Neighborhood Leadership Institute...** Their Healthy Communities team is hosting a Drive-Through Diaper Distribution! On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Expecting mothers and moms of recently born children are invited to participate. The event will be hosted at the Neighborhood Leadership Institute parking lot. Get details and register [here](#).

**From UH/Parma Medical Center...** Starting June 27th to August 22nd, from 11 am to 1 pm, Monday thru Friday, children ages 1 – 18 will be eligible to receive a free healthy lunch in the ground floor cafeteria. Registration is not required but, children must eat in the hospital cafeteria to be eligible.

**From Search Institute:**

Policymakers and practice leaders suggest youth-serving professionals and volunteers play an integral role in supporting youth to thrive. Search Institute is joining forces with the 'Power of Us' initiative to ensure the voice of youth-serving professionals and volunteers is heard. In that regard, they want to learn more about the "Youth Fields" workforce. These are people like summer camp counselors, sports coaches, music teachers, and afterschool program staff; anyone who works with youth in any capacity outside of the regular school day. [Click here for details and to take the Power of Us Work Force Survey.](#)

Their family engagement program, “Keep Connected” offers all kinds of families—and organizations that support them—ideas, activities, and experiences to help build strong family relationships. The goal is to strengthen family relationships to help kids be and become their best selves. [Learn more here.](#)

Interested in learning more about Developmental Assets? As a reminder, the Character Building section of the District's website describes the concept and includes over 10 uniquely designed documents that can help put those concepts into everyday practice.

From NEOSTEMECO (NE Ohio  
STEM EcoSystem):

Our STEM Stipends of \$1,500 are available to individuals and organizations serving BIPOC students and families in northeast Ohio. Go [here](#) for details and to apply.

Looking into the Cosmos...Check out these links for narrative and images captured by the:

James Webb Space Telescope; >  
unfiltered universe. > Deep Field; >

**read the rest of this story online**



PARMA ART SCENE

Prama Artspace & Gallery

by Kathryn Mabin

Located at 5411 Pearl Rd, in Parma, Prama currently has a photography exhibit and sale titled Oh The Places You Will Go. This show is about place, real or imagined. The work of several local photographers are included.

Friday, August 26th is the opening for All Together Now, at 6PM. This exhibit and sale will have a large variety of work, one each, from numerous local area artists. Opening night there's always snacks and beverages. Prama also has a boutique with an assortment of unique hand made items at a reasonable cost. In addition you'll find an assortment of published work by local authors and poets. Frequently there's live music also. View the artwork and mingle with the patrons. It's a great way to start out the weekend doing something new and different. Plus, a five to ten minute drive takes you to several



bars or eateries on Ridge or Pearl Road. Makes for a great date night.

**CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Cleveland Photo Fest's 2022 International Exchange! Sponsored by Cleveland Photo Fest and Len Metcalf of Len's Photo School in New South Wales, Australia. Subject is Metaphor-



Fish Aquarium Project

by Kathryn Mabin

The Great Lakes Wood Carvers have an Open Carve Night on Tuesday evenings at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. They bring whatever project they are working on, share techniques and stories, and laugh a lot for a couple of hours each week. This is a laid back friendly group, and they welcome visitors.

In May they offered a free, four week afternoon beginners workshop, at the Smallwood Center to encourage others to learn the basics of carving. The workshop project was a carved fish. The workshop was well received by the participants. It prompted the group to start a Fish Aquarium group project.

Seven excited group members

participated in the project. One house bound member and the estate of Ed Hrcir contributed, Gerry Hoeltge (natural fish), Bonnie Janelle (staging fish), Jane Zampedro (painter & carver), Laurie Sak (Teacher & Master Carver), Rick Krusinski (carver), Rob Horn (aquarium design), Stan Starry (fishing decoy) and Dave Worsencroft (modern style). An excellent outcome to a team effort. Look for this carved wood aquatic life project displayed at the Donna Smallwood Center in the display case in the center aisle.

If you are interested in learning more about wood carving stop in at the Smallwood Center on a Tuesday evening around 6:30 and meet the Great Lakes Wood Carvers.

org for details.

CALL FOR ART and CRAFT INSTRUCTORS

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council is searching for artists of various mediums interested in teaching classes or workshops. This is a paid position for day or evening classes. If interested please send an email to [kathryn-mabin@att.net](mailto:kathryn-mabin@att.net), with your contact information and the type of class and/or workshop you'd like to teach.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Cleveland Photo Fest is undertaking an event of historic proportions! One Million Photos, the world's largest photography show is an epic event. The exhibit will be held at a gallery on Prospect Avenue in Cleveland in December of 2022. Anyone from anywhere in the world, amateur or professional, is encouraged to submit their photos, and it's free. Use your camera, iPad, tablet, Android or iPhone to submit your digital photos. This is your chance to be a part of a historic event and have bragging rights for the rest of your life. For details, more information, or to submit photos go to [www.onemillionphotos.org](http://www.onemillionphotos.org)

ical Mirrors and Windows. This is an exchange exhibition between Cleveland and Australia photographers. A selection of 30 images received in response to this call will be sent to Australia. Accepted photographs will be printed by the photographer, and delivered to Len Metcalf for a 2022 exhibition this Fall in an Australian exhibition at a gallery to be announced at a later date. The selected images from Australia will be shown at Bay Arts Gallery. Interested photographers should go to [www.clevelandphotofest.org](http://www.clevelandphotofest.org)

Clevelanders Line Up To Smell Death



This week Cleveland Zoo's rare Corpse Flower bloomed. In the release it said it smelled like death or a rotting corpse. That was enough to bring tens of thousands to the zoo for a whiff of death. The wait time was up to 2 hours!

The plant only blooms every 3-6 years, and the flower is only open for 24-36 hours. That along with the smell was more than enough to line Clevelanders up.

We were lucky enough to have a photographer there just as it reached peak of the bloom. He also grabbed a photo of the line. Reporting it was well worth the wait. It was like being in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Thank you to Metro Parks, the Cleveland Zoo, and all of their volunteers!

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Meyers Snowplow Parts And Service

Daniel J. Skonezny

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# Pleasant Lake Villa

## Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation

SUMMER 2022

### Pleasant Lake Villa Community Events!

Pleasant Lake is hosting fun-filled events for seniors this summer. The events are free, but advance registration is required. Register by calling the front desk at 440-842-2273. Refreshments provided. We look forward to seeing you!

**Bingo:**  
**June 2**  
RSVP by May 26  
**August 4**  
RSVP by July 28  
**10 a.m.-12 noon**

**Paint & Sip:**  
**July 14**  
RSVP by July 7  
**10 a.m.-12 noon**



### 2022 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



**June 23 • 2 p.m.**  
Darren Lambert • Singer/ Pianist  
Rain Date: June 29

**July 21 • 2 p.m.**  
Nick Gerad • Singer/ Pianist  
Rain Date: July 28

**August 18 • 2 p.m.**  
Bill Newman • Singer  
Rain Date: August 26

Bring a chair or blanket

Refreshments  
Provided

RSVP to the  
Pleasant Lake Villa  
Front Desk  
440-842-2273

INTRODUCING

## Assisted Living Memory Care Unit

At Pleasant Lake Villa's Assisted Living unit, memory care is provided by specially trained professionals dedicated to the unique and ever changing needs of those living with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Utilizing a SecureCare system allows each individual a safe, secure and homelike environment.



### Our program provides:

- **Compassionate staff specially trained** using HealthCare Interactive's CARES training. HCI has developed the most innovative set of training products for professional caregivers available in the marketplace today. HCI's CARES Dementia Basics and CARES Dementia Advanced Care online training programs qualify individuals for Alzheimer's Association essentiALZ certification.
- **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.
- **Memory Care Activity Coordinator** on staff.
- **Live music.**
- **Psychiatry and psychology services** to meet the changing needs of our residents.
- **Respite, hospice and palliative care** services are available if needed.
- **Private rooms** available.



## Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

7260 Ridge Road • Parma, OH 44129 • 440-842-2273

[www.lhshealth.com](http://www.lhshealth.com)

SKILLED NURSING · REHABILITATION · LONG TERM CARE · ASSISTED LIVING