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ParmaObserver

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

Parma Observer Is 13 Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Sometimes it takes many years for us to be able to look back and understand the changes which have occurred in our lives. Having published the Parma Observer for 13 years, It is easier for me now to reflect on the path we've taken since October of 2009, and I am utterly amazed when I take stock of all the experiences I've had and the many people I've met. Chance favors the prepared mind, as they say, so it would be wise if we recognize the signs of change in our community and prepare for the most favorable outcomes. Events have transpired since 2009 which has undoubtedly made the world a very different place, and the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills has certainly



Our first issue.

experienced our share of these ongoing developments. We've all learned a lot about things we should have done, things we shouldn't have done, and what transpires regardless of our

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Parma City Council Honors Heroic Padua High School Employee



by Carolyn Kovach

At the Sept. 19 Parma City Council meeting, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis and Ward 7 Councilwoman Kammy Coyle Shuman recognized Padua Franciscan High School cafeteria worker Megan Kulikowski for her heroic actions. On Sept. 1, a red-faced student approached

Kulikowski during lunch, leaned into her and gasped the word, “Help.” The four-year cafeteria worker called for assistance and then immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver, saving the choking student’s life. A humble Kulikowski said she does not perceive herself a hero and that any Padua lunch employee would have done the same.



Seven Hills Park Plans Move Forward

by Tony Biasiotta

First, I want to congratulate the Parma Observer on their 13th Anniversary issue. Next would like to thank Parma Observer Publisher Daniel P. McCarthy for his article the 2022 Seven Hills Home Days. The picture he took for article was sadly the last photo ever taken of my father before his passing. I have so much to share about our parks and recreation improvements, but I wouldn't be me if I didn't at least briefly touch upon the City of Seven Hills' finances. The current financial situation remains strong. As of August YTD, financial statements, the General Fund



New Cricket Park Playground Equipment

Unexpended (Cash) Balance is \$8.56 million, a particularly strong balance for a city of this size and revenue stream. The August YTD General Fund Revenue at \$9.35 million out-

paced General Fund Expenses of \$7.93 million. We are currently forecasting to finish the year with a General Fund surplus. We will once again set aside / dedicate any surplus to the capital improvement fund where it will be applied to future projects such as the 2023 road program.

The Seven Hills Community Recreation Center is getting ready to commemorate its 20th birthday. We will be celebrating with new cardio and strength equipment, designed to be more energy and space efficient. Keeping up with building maintenance and upgrades is like owning your home – you want to be

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Summitview Restrooms and Storage under construction (supporting Soccer, Baseball, Bocce, volleyball, walking trail, home days, concert series, picnic pavilion and much more)

Script Parma Photo Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month depicts the sign decorated by Camille Sisson, owner of Draped N' Latex, in commemoration of Ukrainian Independence Day. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@msn.com. 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. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

If you read my column, you are probably aware that our military veterans have a special place in my heart. As an American government and law teacher, I deeply appreciate the sacrifices they and their families make for the good of our nation. This is why Honor Flight Cleveland is so near and dear to me. In fact, over the years I have acted as volunteer and raised funds for the organization.

Honor Flight Cleveland is an organization that is dedicated to ensuring that as many of our local veterans as possible can visit Washington, D.C. to see “their” memorials. In fact, from 2007 to the present, they have flown over 3,500 veterans on all-expense paid trips to the nation’s capital. The focus has been on our World War II and Korean War veterans, however, any veteran who is terminally ill is prioritized and invited. I have had the honor of acting as a guardian for the organization. Below I will describe my most recent experience acting as a guard-

ian for my friend Walter Tchoryk who served in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. John Williamson as a Seaman First Class during World War II.

The day began around 4:00 am when Mr. T and I arrived at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and met Honor Flight’s top brass, as well as the other veterans and their guardians. Every veteran is required to be pushed in a wheel chair by their guardian, due to the fact that it is a long, tough day. Once we got checked in, we processed through security to the gate. Along the way, fellow travelers applauded the vets. Needless to say, many of us were in tears as we made our way to the gate.

We arrived at Baltimore-Washington Airport around 8:00 am where we were greeted by hundreds of travelers who, again, applauded the vets. We soon boarded our motor coach, which took us into D.C. We spent the entire day touring the World War II, Vietnam, Korean, Air Force, Navy, Marine-Iwo Jima, and Lincoln Memo-



rials, as well as Arlington National Cemetery where we saw the changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. What an honor it was to visit the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials with a group who served in those wars!

Although our legs were tired from a long day of trekking around the D.C. area, we were longing for more, but it was time to go around 6:00 pm. Surprisingly, on the bus trip back to the airport and flight back to Cleveland, the conversations were constant, as we were all so excited about what we experienced together and many fascinating stories were shared. Honor Flight is certainly memorable for all who partake.

Honor Flight is funded entirely by donations from patriotic donors. The cost to fly each veteran is approximately \$300. If you are moved and able to donate, please send a check payable to Honor Flight Cleveland, P.O. Box 119, Elyria, Ohio, 44035.

To find out more about Honor Flight Cleveland, visit their website at www.honorflightcleveland.com. Thank you to all of our veterans who sacrificed so that we may be free! As it says on the Korean War Memorial: “Freedom is not free.”

Veterans Memorial Monument Rededication



by Marie Gallo


On Saturday, September 24 the American Legion Post 703 held a rededication for the Veterans Memorial monument behind the Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library. The original monument was dedicated on July 4, 1969.

Thanks to the American Legion Post 703 for their time and efforts to raise the funds for the new plaque, along with the City of Parma Heights staff to prep the space. The number of hours and commitment are a true testament to those that the monument

honors.

Parma Heights is very proud of the rich history and strong ties to the military. The Veterans Memorial monument celebrates and honors those that have served. We take pride in remembering those who have passed before for us and pay homage to those that dedicate their time and service to the country.

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PERSPECTIVE

Your Life Might Depend On It

by Deborah White

If you peruse through the news stories in the national headlines you will see numerous stories of women lost or murdered, men shot and killed, and children lost or forgotten. And even though we see these news stories, we keep moving ahead with the belief that they are not an integral part of our own productive lives. That may be true because many of the stories are at a distance from us. But it always touches us in one way or another. We may start thinking about what kind of danger might be surrounding us or of others we know who suffered an unforeseen fate. So, take another look at the city you live in. The statistics may narrow down the chances of you being attacked, but the danger could be lurking from the corners of your safe world.

So, how safe do you feel? Do you feel that you can jog safely around the local trail or let your kids play in the park? Safety is the most important factor in being comfortable and successful in your life. Successful people are confident and when it comes to your own safety confidence is the key.

Safety starts with awareness of your surroundings. This includes the area in which you reside. Whether you live in an apartment or house, it is important to know who is around you. Even if you do not know your neighbor's names it is good to, at least, notice comings and goings. Would you recognize potential danger if you saw it? It might be a group of kids that are walking around outside late at night making crazy noises and playing loud music? It could be a group of kids walking home from school. Can you be sure which group is not dangerous? What if either group were to mill around in a back alley after dark? Would that change your mind? It should be clear that it is not how people look, but the way they act that make them seem dangerous. Do



Always follow-thru with your technique. Always stay focused.

they seem negatively aggressive, or do they seem passive? The only way to recognize dangerous people are by the aggressive actions they take. What is he or she doing to make you feel afraid, a little agitated, or suspicious? It could be that the suspect might be shifting his or her head back and forth as though looking out for someone. Suspicious behavior could also be considered as wearing out of season clothing or carrying something out of the ordinary such as an axe or tire iron.

Suppose you were to take a walk down the hidden pathway through the woods. As you are walking, enjoying the view, and listening to your music, unbeknownst to you a stranger approaches from behind. Can you hear his footsteps or sense his presence? Chances are that you do not and if you did would you be ready to defend yourself? He may have a rag with ether on it or a knife pointed at your throat. Unfortunately, many women have disappeared this way. There are no limitations on where criminals can go, and no specific city which is completely safe from threats of violence. Federal statistics do reveal where the safest cities are in the USA, but it is absurd to

think there is one city or town where safety is guaranteed. No such place exists, so normal everyday citizens have to be prepared by being aware of abnormal or unusual situations. I have

listed a few tips to help increase your awareness:

- Prepare yourself mentally-stay focused
- Keep your bag or purse close to your body
- Travel in pairs whenever possible

Don't let the attacker take you from the crime scene

Even though we need to be on the lookout for danger, we must consider that not everyone that does something out of the ordinary is a criminal or is dangerous. The point to understand is that it is worth a few minutes or seconds of your time to pay attention. One day your life might depend on it

DD White (2nd degree Black Belt)

Self-Defense Coach/Author (MBA)

Chief Instructor at Pro Martial Arts, Lyndhurst, Ohio

Sounds At Prama
Artspace And Gallery



Alex Henry and Lovest Watson III

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On 9-22 the Jazz duo of Alex Henry and Lovest Watson III brought their exquisite sounds to Parma Artspace and Gallery where a lucky audience appreciated their talent in a cozy and stimulating place.

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OBSERVATIONS

Reasons To Vote No On Metroparks Replacement Levy

by Lucy McKernan

I've been privy to scandalous stories about Cleveland Metroparks (CMP): Murders, accidents, lives lost and saved, low staff morale, wanton greed, public trust violations, and the park system's demonstrably ineffective deer "population control" program, sharpshooting. Now, CMP wants more money for its 10-year replacement levy on the ballot this November.

Park users who live in this circulation area, with a combined population of 111,000 -- 10% of Cuyahoga County's population -- should consider the following reasons for voting against the levy.

Follow the Money: The \$800M, 2.7-mill replacement means an additional \$54 annually for properties worth \$200,000. It's not a huge jump, but where do we draw the line, considering there are five county levy measures on the ballot next month, including one for the hotly debated Parma City School District?

If the park levy fails, home values will not decrease. And it won't result in a less-than-stellar park system.

CMP recently won a prestigious national award. And while CEO, Brian Zimmerman, rakes in a salary pushing \$300K, the park saves A LOT by relying on a volunteer base for big events and

many programs. DUBIOUS ECONOMIC CLAIMS: CMP officials allege economic impact of \$873M via its go-to study by The Trust for Public Land. But the study doesn't quantify the breakdown, is based on citations from agencies outside Ohio, and claims the biggest slice of pie comes from "direct visitor spending" which doesn't hold water. "Visits" doesn't translate to "visitors."

CMP claims to attract more people -- more money -- to the region. But the latest census reveals Ohio's population growth is -0.54%. And populations served by CMP continue to leave Greater Cleveland for places like burgeoning Columbus.

CMP VIOLATES FREE SPEECH: About half a dozen years ago, a suit was filed against CMP for violation of free speech. Now, groups of 20 and fewer are permitted to exercise free speech within park boundaries, permit-free, even if they protest on park properties, except for the zoo.

Or are they? Open session at the February 2019 administrative office board meeting saw me thrown off the property immediately after presenting data -- partly from the park's own records -- that proved its

decades-long deer "management" program of killing thousands failed to meet its own conservation benchmarks.

In their words, I was "escorted" off. But video of it circulated and, when CMP legal counsel got wind of it, I was staring down a potential civil suit for violation of free speech. Instead, I opted to push the park for a more affordable, effective, safer, and humane method of deer management: EPA-approved chemical birth control.

PARK IGNORES SCIENCE, OBFUSCATES: It took almost two years -- suspiciously close to the civil suit statute deadline -- for CMP to finally agree to meet. Officials conveniently couldn't schedule a time before the deadline, only a few days after. They essentially forced me to forfeit the civil suit, and pulled a bait-and-switch.

But we still met, and presented data to park officials on the efficacy of PZP. No other wildlife management program offers such elegant population control, meaning it meets all published criteria and is the preferred method, including that of majority stakeholders, the public.

Then, CMP lead biologist admitted his team has no way to track the effectiveness of sharpshooting because deer move in and out of reservations. But, when he alleged birth control wouldn't work for the same reason, we cornered him.

That should have settled it. But

CMP, a political subdivision of Ohio, still refuses to ask Ohio legislators permission to use PZP via humane dart method because. If officials did, they would be striking at the roots of their own tree: Ohio is a major player in the for-profit hunting industrial complex, and our Division of Wildlife manipulates deer populations for maximum yield.

CMP VIOLATES SUNSHINE LAWS, AND MORE: In order to bypass public scrutiny, CMP and a consortium of area conservation groups (Lake Erie Allegheny Partnership) meet annually with officials from cities like Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills to strategize more deer killing. Members of the public are not permitted, which violates the Public Trust Doctrine.

Taxpayers don't even know that nonlethal measures aren't on the table.

Hey, Parma Heights, wonder how the city got on board with the planned deer slaughter, despite the police chief's opposition?

MORE METROPARKS MESSES: CMP's law enforcement division still hasn't solved the double homicide that occurred in the Rocky River reservation in June 2019, despite acknowledging it wasn't a random crime. Why not? What do they know, since partnering with additional enforcement agencies earlier this year?

Tell Cleveland Metroparks to clean house and act like a public body before asking for more money.

Save The Date For Polish Village's Treat & Greet

by Kathryn Mabin

Mark your calendars now! The much anticipated Treat & Greet in Polish Village is set for Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Headquarters will be located at 5767 Ridge Road.

For those of you unfamiliar with the event, the non-profit Polish Village has hosted this event for the past ten or more years. Kids, accompanied by an adult, trick-or-treat the participating businesses located in Polish Village along Ridge Road, from Pearl & Ridge to Thornton. In addition to the treats at local businesses, each family receives a Passport, with the name and address of the participating businesses. As the family visits the participating businesses they receive a stamp. When the children are finished, or the adults become exhausted, Passports are turned into the headquarters. For each 10 businesses visited and passport stamped, the families receive one ticket entry in a raffle for an array of prizes, such as gift certificates and gift baskets

from local merchants. In previous years, Polish Village Parma, a 501(c)3, has estimated they've supplied the businesses with over 60,000 pieces of candy for the event. Many businesses also supplement the candy with coupons, trinkets and other give-aways. Some shops also dress in costume. Parma police. K-9 unit and fire department usually participate. It's a great way to Welcome The Season!

Because this is a daytime event, you'll see several toddlers and babies in strollers, along with swarms of costumed kids and adults. Residency is not a requirement to participate, so alert all your families and friends. In past years families have traveled from the far West, South and East side to participate in this free, safe, fun, family event. It's also an opportunity for small local businesses to familiarize others with their shops.

After the event photos will be posted on Facebook, for all to enjoy. Follow Polish Village in Parma Ohio on Facebook for updates on this event and more.

Faith Community Directory

- All Faiths Pantry
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allfaithspantry.org
- All Saints Episcopal Church
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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA



Dean DePiero along with Bernie Kosar. Everyone was thrilled to see that the surprise starter of the 5K Run/Walk was Bernie Kosar, who delighted the crowd with his remarks and good humor.

Tiny Bubbles For A Great Big Cause

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On September 17 the North Royalton YMCA hosted the 5th Annual Bubble Blast 5K Run and Walk. This race is dedicated to the memory of Kathlene Cochrane Depiero, a former YMCA Board member, who is credited with starting the event back in 2016, first held in Parma. Her husband Dean DePiero, former Parma Mayor, is always front and center at this event, and this year he brought in a guest starter for the race, none other than former Browns great Bernie Kosar. This was quite a surprise to the participants, on a beautiful

crisp September morning. The event went off without a hitch, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, knowing that this race raises much needed money for many important services and programs at the YMCA. I ride my mountain bike out here from Parma every year and it is usually my last big ride of the season. This year while riding back on those big State Road hills, Kathlene was on my mind as I remember her, and I couldn't help but think how proud she would be seeing her children growing up and her husband keeping her alive in the hearts of so many who loved her dearly.

Senator Antonio Shares Resources For Pet Owners

by Nickie Antonio

On August 18th, I had the opportunity to attend the ribbon-cutting and tour of the Cleveland Animal Protective League's new, fully-renovated animal care and resource center in Tremont.

During the tour, I learned how the expansion would allow more pet owners around Cuyahoga County who cannot afford regular veterinary care to receive care for their pets instead of having to surrender them, so animals can stay with the people they love.

Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic, economic instability, lack of pet-friendly housing options and rising costs have led to an increase in animal surrenders both in our state and nationwide. For pet owners in these situations, many shelters offer diversion programs where they can receive free or subsidized pet food and veterinary care, or where pets can be boarded for short amounts of



Senator Antonio (right) and President of the Cleveland Animal Protective League Sharon Harvey (left) visiting with an APL resident. Photo credit: Mike Petcher, APL Volunteer Photographer

time to prevent permanent surrenders. Many organizations across Cuyahoga County offer pet food pantries, low-cost animal wellness clinics and surrender diversion programs. If you or someone you know is in need of resources, do not hesitate to contact my office at 614-466-5123 or antonio@ohiosenate.gov, and we will help connect you. Pets are a part of our families, and families must always come first.

SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

Difficulty staying awake or unconscious

Slow or shallow breathing

Choking sounds, or a snore-like gurgling noise

Discoloration of lips or fingernails

Skin tone changes
For lighter skinned people, the skin tone turns bluish purple. For darker skinned people, the skin tone turns grayish or ashen.

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PARMA HEIGHTS

The "Undesirables" Are Back!

by Kevin Kelly

1. Creep\ “krep\ vi crept> 1a: to go timidly or cautiously so as to escape notice. b: an unpleasant or obnoxious person.

That's right, the “Creeps” are back and just in time for the Halloween season. These are the ones who crawl out from under rocks to steel and rob Parma

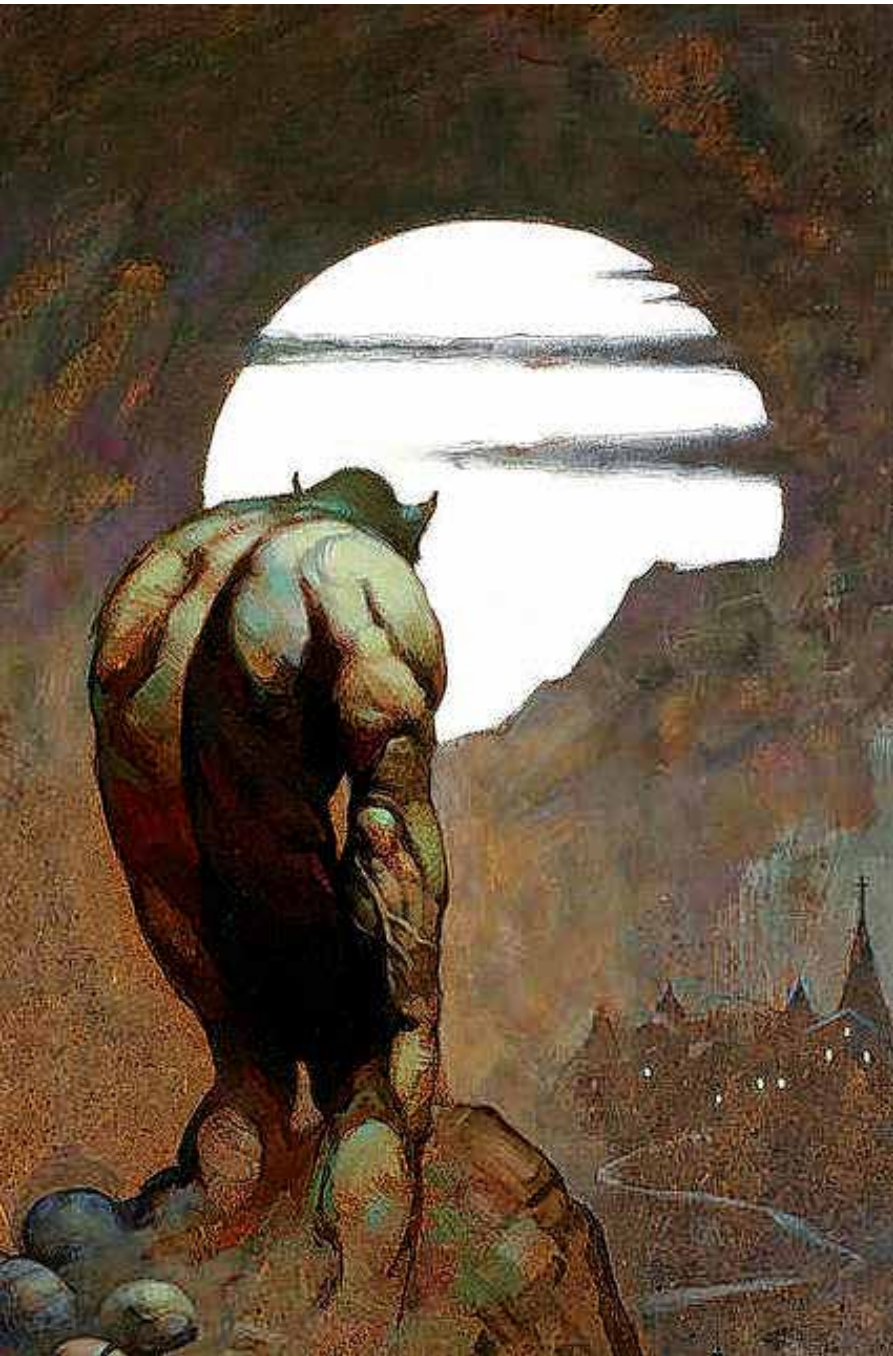
citizens of their possessions. Usually, they just ransack automobiles, at night, that are left unlocked. Others will just take the whole automobile. Possessions left on porches will also be snatched away for a few bucks it may bring. When spotted, or a light is shined on them, they scatter away like roaches back into the

nearby woods from where they crept out of. Last month these creepers have been sighted in the area of Metro Hospital on Snow Road and on Woolman Court that runs next to the hospital. Not only were they ransacking cars in parking lots on Woolman Court, but there have also been reports that they were peering into windows of sleeping residents late at night. One Parma resident said, when looking out their window after being woken up by a light being shined in his bedroom window, they saw these creeps disappear into the woods located behind Metro Hospital. These woods stretch all the way to West 130th Street and are a perfect cover for these creeps to travel without being spotted by the police.

It really is true that strange ones come out late at night when the majority of us are asleep. Six years ago I observed out my bedroom window, at 3o'clock in the morning, a very strange looking character going through unlocked cars in the parking lot. This guy was bald on top with dark bushy hair sticking out on the sides. He looked around 40 years of age and was wearing a long black trench coat that went down to his white sneak-

ers. I automatically assumed that the long coat was full of pockets for carrying stolen items and the high top tennis shoes were for making quick escapes. He looked like a cartoon character out of a Sunday newspaper. I wondered to myself, dressed as peculiarly as he was, how was this guy to walk the streets at night and avoid being seen by authorities? I have been living in the Parma area for over twenty one years and have never come across anybody that looked that bizarre. Sure enough, when I called out to him, “Can I help YOU”, he spun around in a squatting position before sprinting off into the nearby woods.

According to police, a “Neighborhood Watch” is one of the best ways to deter crime away from your neighborhood. It's a non confrontational way to let strangers/creepers know that they are being watched. When you see a stranger in your neighborhood, just turn on the light, make some noise, and say “Hello”!. Let them know that you see them. Most likely they will move on to a neighborhood where no one is watching. If the person seems questionable, call the police to have them checked out.



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NEIGHBORHOODS

Ward 9 News

by Robert Euerle

Ward 9 News Scores of seniors attending a recent Ward 9 Safety Meeting expressed their concerns about traffic safety. THEY MADE THIS HAPPEN! Several Radar Speed-Alert Systems have been deployed at strategic locations identified by Ward 9 residents as having high incidents of speeding. These new devices will identify speeding events, display vehicle speeds, and flash warning lights when speeding occurs. There are no cameras in these systems. The data collected is aggregated and will be used only to evaluate the need for additional safety measures. We trust that motorists in these areas will react to these electronic reminders by slowing down. Additional 25MPH Speed Limit Signs have been installed at locations identified by Safety Meet-



Radar sign used around the ward to show drivers their speed

ing attendees. Placements include along Gettysburg Drive, a busy road often called a speedway by senior residents. The partially tree-blocked traffic light at the intersection of Broadview Road and Keystone Road is now in full view, thanks to everyone who called this to our attention. Without your safety-conscious alert, there is no telling when we would have realized the need to prune that tree for maximum safety.

Several volunteers stepped up to help Ward 9 launch a program to hand repaint over 100 of the more than 700 fire hydrants in the Ward. This is a great example of what we can do together: A local National Honor Society high school student, Parma Police Chief Bobak, and Councilman Rob Euerle turned the fire hydrant into a bright yellow beauty that will extend its useful life and make it easier for all to see when parking or during fire emergencies. The remaining 600+ hydrants will be speed painted with spraying systems. If you see a newly painted, bright yellow fire hydrant, please snap a photo and send it to me, along with its location and your name, and we will publish it in the next full-color edition of Ward-9News. To receive a periodic copy of Ward9News by email, even if you don't submit a fire hydrant photo, request it by emailing reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov. Rob Euerle Ward 9 Councilman Council Office: 1-440-885-8091 Direct Phone 1-216-418-8342 Email: reuerle@cityofparma-oh.gov



Many volunteers stepping up to paint hydrants around ward 9

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Halloween In Parma

by Kevin Kelly

Once again ‘All Hallows’ Eve’ is approaching. It will be celebrated by costume parties, bonfires, and haunted attractions everywhere. Years ago,

candy apples were the main treat handed out on Halloween. However, candy corn and candy bars seem to be the common items these days. Carving pumpkins into “Jack O’ Lanterns” is also a popular



Parma Resident already for halloween.

tradition during this season.

Believe it or not, the first haunted house that was opened to the public was here in Ohio in the village of Clifton, back in 1970. It was supported by the local Jaycees and co-sponsored by the radio station WSAI-AM near Cincinnati. Now, there are hundreds of haunted attractions, which includes many theme parks, around the State of Ohio every Halloween season. Some of Ohio’s Halloween events that are going on this year are Cleveland’s “Boo at the Zoo”, Sandusky’s, HALLOWEENDS” at Cedar Point, Cuyahoga County’s “Carnival of Horrors”, Chillicothe “Sleepy Halloween”, and Hocking Hills the “Wicked Forest”. Of course let’s not forget Cleveland’s “Spooky Ranch” in Cleveland which is a premier haunted attraction event with 5 terrifying haunted attractions.

In addition to these popular events, Parma itself will be packed with Halloween happenings, from haunted houses to spooky ghost tours. There is the “Spooky House” attraction at Ridge and Pearl Road. For adult activities, Parma’s “Little Birdie Wine Nest” bar is holding a Halloween Cookie Decorating work-

shop. The Vienna Cafe, on York Road, is having a bonfire with dancing and more. OPStudio on Pearl Road is hosting “Glow After-Dark Sip”. In addition, the Post & Beam bar & grill, located on Snow Rd., just west of Chevrolet Blvd. will cover their establishment with horrifying creatures, and their barmaids will be dressed in sexy Halloween-ish outfits. That’s not counting all the private teenage and adult Hal-

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PERSPECTIVE

Rocktober At The Senior Center

by Erin Lally

The Donna Smallwood Activities Center has something to offer everyone ages 55 and older. We are calling this month "rocktober" because we are a rocking senior activities center with over 100 people coming here daily. Please stop on in and join the fun!

Last month, we celebrated our 57th anniversary and were delighted to have members of Donna Smallwood's family as honored guests. As you know, our center is named after our founder Donna Smallwood. We had the lobby wall repainted and Donna's photo centered on the wall. We announced the new sign coming to honor Donna Smallwood's legacy. It will read:

Donna Smallwood Activities Center

In 1965, our founder Donna Smallwood began her career with the Parma Senior Center as a Jaycee wives volunteer for senior activities.

She became the first center Director in 1968 and obtained grants to begin transportation services, homebound



and hospital meal delivery, as well as daily meals provided here at our center.

In 1984, Donna had the foresight to create a nonprofit Parma Commission on Aging (PCOA), our service, programming, and fundraising partner.

Donna Smallwood retired in 2003 and this senior center was named in her honor on June 2, 2008.

"Our roots are deep and the seeds we plant

will continue to bloom and grow." Many of our services continue to this day because of Donna Smallwood and her protégé JoAnn Mason. We continue to build upon the foundation they began and are excited to provide new and exciting programs to our members.

Our October programs include local Poet, former broadcaster and Communications Director for our great city Jack Marschall, who will be reading from his new book of poetry "From the Heart." Nature Pam will be back to talk about Zion National Park. New entertainers will be here, including Escape for Seniors who will be performing "Autumn Leaves" with cider and donuts for all. Our Halloween dance (costumes optional but oh so much fun) will include a DJ.

Our Human Service Specialist, Kathryn Karney-Davidson, will also be getting ready to help our members with Medicare enrollment. We have a pinecone wreath craft, Coffee with Cox, the return of Show-and-Tell, a movie next door at CCPL Parma-Powers, and Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) classes.

One of our most active community partners is Dedicated Senior Medical Center. They are a one-stop doctor's office designed especially for seniors and they are committed to providing personalized care. They currently accept Aetna Medicare, Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield. Cigna Preferred Medicare, Devoted Health, and Humana. We will be visiting their facility so anyone interested in joining us or interested in more information should give us a call or stop in to register.

Keep reading our newsletter and checking into our website. We also have a Facebook Group: Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging so join to follow us! We are open Monday-Friday from 7:30am-3pm. You are ALWAYS welcome here so stop in anytime or if we can help you, give us a call at 440-885-8800.

Charlotte Braun Dance Studio Teaches Dance For All Ages

by Emery Pinter

Dance teaches the importance of movement and fitness in a variety of ways through a variety of disciplines. As well, dancers learn to connect emotionally with an audience and other people. Whether you're just getting started or are a skilled performer, Charlotte Braun Dance Studio has a class for you! Charlotte Braun Dance Studio offers classes for ages 2.5 and up in ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical and modern. Looking for a ballet class? Students are taught ballet with a combination of both traditional and new methods. Their unique curriculum focuses on

individuality and creativity in a non-judgmental environment. In business for over 60 years, Patty Nowak Briggs, is dedicated to helping develop the technical skills of dancers of all levels and experience. Dancers from Charlotte Braun Dance Studio have gone on to obtain numerous college scholarships, professional contracts, to become dance instructors, and even to NYC as a Radio City Rockette at the Radio City Music Hall.

For children interested in learning to dance, they can freely express themselves and find their artistic voices at Charlotte Braun Dance Studio. There's

a variety of levels and styles offered to help any child succeed such as interpretive movement and creative dance, as well as pre-professional programs for teens. The studio is currently accepting new students for their dance program. If you're looking to sign your kids up for classes, make sure to contact the studio at 440-885-1313 and view their offerings at www.charlottebraundancestudio.com With your first dance class, you are already on the way because you have begun. Dancing is an incredible way to get your heart rate up, learn a new skill, and just have fun.

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery, located at 5411 Pearl Rd , opened an exhibition on September 23, 2022. of work by Gina Washington. titled "Monday's Child". It's an archaeological dig into family identity, identity expectations, and the dualistic nature of Black Identity in America. This project will consist of photographic portraits manipulated through collage techniques, hand weaving, and embedded augmented reality. The images will illustrate the poem "Monday's Child." Each person represents their born day. The hand building/ weaving of each picture connects to the physical process of raising children, and the objects will represent the people no longer present. Opening night the cool jazz duo of Alex Henry & Lovest Watson played. "Monday's Child" is supported by the Satellite Fund, which is administered by SPACES and funded by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regranting Program. The show runs from September 23rd to October 16th. Regular hours are Sun, Wed, Thur, Sat, 2-6 and by and by appointment.

COMING SOON at Prama, Annual Halloween Bash! Watch Prama's Facebook page for details!

On Saturday, October 8, 2022, from 2 to 4 PM, at the Powers Blvd Library, will be a figure painting lecture with artist Linda Hutchinson. This event is sponsored by Evergreen



Artists Corp., a 501(c)3. To find out more information on the artist, visit <https://hutchinsonart.blogspot.com>.

Craig Lindsley – Artist and Board Member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council appeared at the Comic-Con in Erie PA September 16th through the 18th. He also appeared at NEO in North Olmsted, and GEM City Comic Con in Dayton, with his Caesar Comics. You can follow Caesar Comics on Facebook.

Common Thread Quilting Guild of Parma is presenting their 12th Triennial Quilt Show, titled Creative Journeys on October 21 & 22, 2022 at Elmwood Recreation Center, 62 Wisnieski Parkway in Independence. This judged show features Raffle Quilts, Challenge display, Quilters Emporium, raffle bas-

kets, vendors and more, Friday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Saturday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00. This organization meets on the third Monday of the month at All Saints Episcopal Church, 8911 Ridgewood Drive.

Sean Mabin, owner operator of Prama Gallery, is one of several artists/ photographers in the 4 Your Love show, October 14 to November 11 at 818 Studio in Tremont. He also has two pieces in the Robert Thurmer People's Art Show at Galleries at CSU, 1307 Euclid Ave. This show runs September 30 to November 26. Additionally, two of his photos were chosen to be a part of the International Photography Exchange Exhibition between Cleveland Photo

Fest and Len's School of Photography in New South Wales (Sydney) Australia.

CALL FOR PHOTOS - You still have time to enter the One Million Photos Exhibition and be a part of this historic event. The best part is anyone from anywhere in the world, amateur or professional, is encouraged to submit their photos. It's free, so contact your friends and relatives and pass the word. 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.

FREE Corn Husk Doll Workshop

by Kathryn Mabin

You're invited to attend the Corn Husk Dolls workshop, with Joyce Morrow Jones, on Thursday, October 13, 2022, 12:30 to 3:00 PM at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W. Ridgewood Drive. This workshop is free, supplies included, and brought to you by Parma Area Fine Arts Council and in part through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Space is limited, and is filling up fast, so email kathrynmabin@att.net to register now.

Joyce is a celebrated local fiber and

mixed media artist. This year alone she's exhibited in several juried and invitational exhibits. Such as, Griots of Indigo Cotton & Clay City Gallery in Charleston SC, Members Show Artist Archives of Western Reserve, BayArts, Erie Art Museum, African American Fiber Art Exhibition, North Charleston, SC, Stella's Art Gallery, and Waterloo Arts Gallery. She also had the honor of being the artist in residence in 2021 at moCA.

For more information on Joyce and to view a sample of her creations visit her website joycemorrowjones.com.

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INFORMATION

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse: Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www.parmaobserver.com/read/news

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

Become a Collaborative Community Ambassador ... This is a network of Individuals that are active in their community and would like to volunteer their time to help increase awareness and knowledge about the reality of Human Trafficking. They are looking for individuals that are passionate about the Mission of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking.

“Fundamentals of Human Trafficking” presentations are scheduled

for 10:30 am, Tues, Oct 4th, and again at 7:00 pm on Tues, Nov 15th, These hour-long presentations are both free and virtual.

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 ICAC Task Force... There are many different approaches parents and children can take to stay safe online. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and ICAC presented a virtual session regarding internet safety. To watch the first session,

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC):

It being Back-To-School time, go here to learn of four ways you can help support students and survivors in our community this fall.

CRCC offers resources on preventing, responding to, and supporting survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

Learn how YOU can help to prevent sexual abuse in our communities. Whether you're an educator, health-care provider, or parent/caregiver, we ALL can play our part. The training is free, virtual & open to all.

From Futures Without Violence...Addressing the sharp increases in mental health issues being experienced by youth across the country, Fw/oV has made available some excellent material that educators, youth-serving professionals, juvenile & family court personnel, and of course parents may find helpful. Visit their Changing Minds NOW website for details. Also available, CDC has published a terrific set of resources to help children and youth transition back to school.

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: > American Mathematical Society (AMS) - Epsilon Fund > American Chemical Society (ACS) > The American Radio Relay League (AARL) Foundation > The Amgen Foundation > The ASM Materials Education 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 Parma Council of PTA's:

Help support scholarships for Valley Forge students by helping sponsor one of two (or both) PTA-sponsored student events being planned for 2023. The cost is more than reasonable at \$50 each for which your business (or organization) will be listed as a school supporter on the event sponsor board and be publicly acknowledged on their various social media platforms and at PTSA meetings. For more information call/email Melissa Wolfe at 440.552.4960 / mwolfe0921@gmail.com.

From Parma City Schools:

The bond issue on the November ballot funding replacement of Parma H.S. will be 3.95 mills or \$11.53/month per \$100,000 in property value. Email bond-related questions to bondissue-questions@parmacityschools.org . Responses are posted weekly.

Learn the facts - Click here to view the administration's presentation of information about the District's ODE Report Card at last month's board meeting.

If you're a local business owner, go here to learn more about the district's Workforce Learning Program. Find out why and how your business can participate to help build a local work-

force pipeline.

Save the Date: 6 – 7 pm, Friday, Oct. 14 – Bonfire & Tailgate party at Byers Field. It's free and all are welcome. Go here for details.

From Parma Early Childhood PTA (PECPTA)...Will be hosting their Annual Preschool Showcase – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 18th at Shiloh M.S., 2303 Grantwood Dr. The event provides an opportunity to speak with upwards of 15 local preschool programs & youth-serving organizations. For more details, go here.

From Ohio Dept of Education (ODE):

>> Has introduced a new behavioral health resource that includes screening tools, detection and prevention options, and guidance on when and how to seek help for a child. This online behavioral health resource can help families, teachers and health care professionals manage increasing childhood mental health needs. Learn more here.

OHIO LEARNS 360...Click on the link to learn more about this partnership between our local PBS stations and the Ohio Department of Education, which focuses on afterschool programs to address disruptions to learning caused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Or, go here for additional details.

From The Literacy Cooperative / Imagination Library... In addition to sending high-quality books each month to kids ages 0 – 5 (enroll your child here), they've recently begun providing a series of virtual presentations on health topics of interest to families w/young children. Another session in this Healthy Families series, “A Guide to Your First Year as a Parent” is now available. Go here to learn more & to register. Or, go hereto view archived programs.

From City of Parma Hts.:

The police department now has a SAFE ZONE for custody exchanges, private property & e-commerce transactions that are on camera. These are marked spots on the police department parking lot across from their front door facing the library.

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

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

You can read the rest of this article with active hotlinks at: ParmaObserver.com

Seven Hills Park Plans Move Forward

continued from page 1

efficient and safe without becoming dated. Further, we need to remain competitive in the marketplace, as there are many other fitness options in the area. The excellent staff at the center continues to help the facility surpass the competition. Membership is at an all-time high and programs are constantly growing and changing with the needs of the greater community. Throughout the parks this summer, you may have noticed several updates. Most noticeable to date, each of our larger parks are right in the middle of the construction of safe, inclusive restrooms. Meijer Park now has a new ADA compliant restroom and storage building already in use.

While we invested wisely at the right time to get the lowest possible rates on our bonds, we are still doing our best to apply for grant and funding opportunities to maximize the city's investments (noted below).

John Glenn, Calvin Park (assisted by \$75,000 from the State Capital Fund), and Summitview Commons (behind City Hall) will be done by the end of this year. Other improvements coming soon include the completion of the playground at Cricket Park

(assisted by a \$25,000 grant from University Hospitals) , followed by a pavilion shelter also at Cricket Park, a new playground at North Park, as well as an outdoor fitness course (assisted by \$50,000 Cuyahoga County supplemental grant). Additionally, our volleyball courts have been renovated and improved with the help of our Service Department and the Bocce Courts in Summitview Commons are back (bocce and corn hole leagues forming soon for the spring)!

We also secured funding to cover the demolition of the old press box at Meijer Park (Valleywood) and the old recreation center at Calvin. The grant will cover expenses related to both demos up to approximately \$312,000. This administration has now secured nearly \$5.5 million in Grants, Awards & Partnerships. Great job, team! At this time, we are approximately 15% into our park master plan. The remainder of the project is scheduled to be complete over the next 16 months or so.

I'm going to wrap up on personal note. I want to thank all of you who took the time to reach out and express your sympathy or condolences on the passing of my father. Your kindness made a difference during a very difficult time in my life.

Halloween In Parma

continued from page 9

loween gatherings and mischief going on behind closed doors thru-out the month of October. There will also be hundreds of home owners that will go all out decorating their houses in horror fashion.

For a glimpse at some of the most outrageous Halloween events that have taken place in Parma and throughout the State of Ohio, there is the “Halloween in Ohio” special showing on Cox Cable's channel 45 brought to you by the “Shocker Enterprises” group. It will

be airing thru the month of October and will be shown on Wednesdays at 8PM and Sundays at 9PM. The footage shown will be of some of the most outrageous events that have taken place in the area. This will include some of the best decorated homes in past seasons. The show will also contain information about true horror stories that have taken place in Ohio that may give you nightmares. Who knows, you may even spot your own uniquely decorated house on “Halloween in Ohio”.

PERSPECTIVE

The Price Of Education Is Small Compared To The Cost Of Ignorance

by Lee Kamps

I grew up in Parma on Theota Avenue near the Pearl and Ridge Road intersection. I attended the Parma Pubic Schools through high school. I graduated from Valley Forge High School in the class of 1966. I was able to go to college right after high school and graduated from Kent State University in June 1970. While I was attending school in Parma, I never gave much a thought about the quality of education I was receiving. I just took the courses I needed to get into college. My grades were good, but I was not National Honor Society; but they were good enough for me to get into college.

However, when I was in my freshmen year at college, I was coasting through my classes while other students who were ranked much higher in their high school classes were struggling. What I learned was that those students, although their high school grades might have been higher did not take the courses that I took at Valley Forge High School. Nor were the classes as challenging.

After I graduated from college, I taught high school science in a semi rural school in northwestern Ohio. I saw a great difference in the quality of facilities and the courses in that high school from what I experienced at Valley Forge High School. This was especially true in science and math where advanced level courses were just not offered at that high school. In addition, the course was not nearly as challenging as what I took at Valley Forge High School. I realized why some of those students whose grades were much higher than mine in high

school struggled when they got to college.

In addition, the school was in an aging building and the science classrooms were not equipped to teach a lab oriented science class. There were no facilities for basic demonstrations and experiments. This was more than fifty years ago.

I bring this up because in that semi rural school district, the people there were more concerned with keeping their taxes low and not in education, In fact, many of the parents of those in my class had a disdain for education.

The entire purpose of education and the public schools is to educate the youth and prepare them for success in the adult world. Whether they go on to college or learn a trade or vocation, the quality of education they receive is essential to success. A good education when one is young often determines their success in the world as an adult.

The problem in Parma now is that our schools are aging and underutilized. The newest building in the Parma Public Schools is Normandy High School which opened in 1968. That was when Lyndon Johnson was President and the Beatles were still together and making music. Many of our schools in Parma were built more than sixty years ago. We are trying to teach young people in the 2020s in buildings as old as their grandparents. Just about every neighboring school district has newer buildings and facilities.

There is a 3.95 million dollar bond issue on the ballot this month to build a new high school and consolidate some of our aging buildings. The state will pay for 71,9 million dollars toward

the cost of this new school construction. The consolidation of the three high schools into one centrally located high school in a modern building will not only improve the quality of education in the Parma school district but would save money in the long run since older buildings cost more to maintain.

Sure, passage of this bond issue will cost the homeowner an estimated \$11.53 a month per \$100,000 of home value. But don't just look at this as a cost. Instead think of this as an investment in the community whether or not you have children in the public schools. It is an investment in the future of the Parma community. It will make Parma a more attractive place for families to live. The public schools serve the entire community, not just the families who

have children in the schools.

In the world today, if a community or state is not progressing, it is regressing and falling behind those other communities and states that are investing in the future. The price of a good education as well as a high quality public school system is small compared to the cost of ignorance or doing nothing.

If Parma is going to attract the kind of families and businesses that make a community thrive, there must be a good quality public school system. One thing is certain if this bond issue fails is that it would cost much more to take care of this in the future.

You can learn more about this issue on this link: <https://www.parmacityschools.org/buildingourfuture>

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, October 19th 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.

FREE Marvelous Metallics

by Kathryn Mabin

On Monday, October 17, 2022, a FREE workshop, titled Marvelous Metallics, will be held at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Drive, 12:30 to 2:30 PM. The workshop will be taught by local artist Donata Rahne. This workshop is for those who state they can't draw a straight line. It's a friendly, relaxing,

non-judge mental workshop that that introduces beginners to a fun way of creating something you can be proud to show to your friends. It's FREE and all supplies are included.

To register, email kathrynmabin@att.net. Register now, this class is filling up fast.


Brought to you by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, and in part through a small grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

Parma Observer Is 13 Years Old

continued from page 1

actions. In a most certainly contentious and often divided nation, we still have to live according to our means locally, and that takes cooperation and often some compromise in order to keep moving forward.

For me personally, I will always be satisfied that I have had a role in allowing the citizens of our community to communicate with each other and find out what our neighbors and friends have to say and what ideas are worth sharing. We're all on the same path of life together at the same time, and our common experiences vastly outnumber any differences we might have, despite what we're told by whoever for whatever reason. I firmly believe that the more solutions we arrive at for challenges we are facing, the better the results will be for us and those who live here in the times to come. As we move forward we'll need to embrace positive changes and reject that which is not compatible



You can download all 13 years of Parma Observers by following the QR code above.

with productive growth. We are particularly blessed with good intelligent people in our combined population of over 100,000, so I'm certain that the very best of what we are made of will be brought to the forefront, making our future brighter than ever. Thanks to all for a great 13 years so far, and our finest moments are yet to be.

PSO Concert Sunday 10/16

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a LIVE Classical Music Concert on Sunday, October 16 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights featuring:

Shenandoah Variations - Joseph Kern, Hannah Porter-Occena, Flute Soloist Also: Carmen Suite #2 – Georges Bizet, Moldau – Smetana and Carnival Overture – Dvorak

The orchestra, in its 54th 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. Cash admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and



Hannah Porter-Occena to perform with PSO

senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. Advance Sale tickets are available online at Home | PARMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (square. site) Credit card purchases available include \$2 per ticket handling fee.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools.

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Allan Divis


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Linda Kohar
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for Ward 8

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on your 13th Anniversary

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Jim O'Bryan
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