

Tuma Announces 2023 Bid For The Parma Law Director Post

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Cuyahoga County Councilman, Scott M. Tuma has announced he is running for Parma Law Director in 2023. Tuma, an attorney in private practice for over 23 years, is looking forward to continuing to serve the residents of Parma, but in a new capacity. “I have worked tirelessly to make Cuyahoga County a better place to live, work and raise a family and as Law Director, I remain dedicated to continuing to serve in the best interests of my constituents and the City of Parma,” said Tuma.

Tuma, a Democrat, represents County Council District 4 (Parma, Parma Hts., Middleburg Hts.) and has served in that role since first being elected in 2016, earning



Scott M. Tuma

ing re-election in 2020. Tuma is proud of his record while serving on Council. During his tenure, Tuma has been a strong advocate of County law enforcement. He was the primary sponsor of the charter amendment passed by voters overwhelmingly in November of 2019 that granted greater autonomy to the sheriff.

Tuma has also worked

with other County officials in the fight against the opioid epidemic. In 2018, he worked to procure a \$40,000 grant award to the Parma City School District for a Drug awareness and Prevention Program. Tuma and his colleagues recently approved legislation appropriating \$5 million towards an ‘Opioid Innovation Fund,’ which will be used to promote and test new treatment and prevention strategies.

Tuma, who is married with three children, previously served on Parma City Council from 2005-2016. In addition to serving on City Council, Tuma was a Volunteer Magistrate for the Juvenile Diversion Program in Parma (2003-2005) and President of the Parma Bar Association (2005-2006).

Parma's Living Infrastructure

by Sharon Stahurski

The ball sailed out of sight that glorious, warm, summer night. We gathered at old Mr. Baker's lawn on the north side of Parma. We played outdoors. Mr. Baker was a favorite. He liked the neighborhood kids, and we liked him. To our amazement Mr. Baker shared his beer with his dog Pixie occasionally.

The ball descended. As it reached his fingertips, the neighbor boy hollered a number and relaunched the ball into the sky.

It was our night, during our summer, on our street in 1976.

Home/Parma looked very different then. Trees lined nearly every street. We had shade to retire under on those scorching summer days after running through the sprinkler.

Losing a game of SPUD required proposing to every tree on the street. A kiss to their cool bark was followed by, "Please Mr. please sir, won't you marry me?" The roar of laughter quieted the crickets momentarily.

Someone would shout, "Kick the can," and our summer night continued.

We've had a devastating tree loss since those long ago summer nights. I worry that Parma's Urban Forest is not being managed as the infrastructure it should be.

Parma has the opportunity to step into a brighter tomorrow. We need to. Our public managers have a lot on their plates with limited resources, so creating a Tree Commission to support Urban Forest management is a great place to start. By working hand-in-hand with Parma's leadership, the Tree Commission could help identify needs and offer cost-effective, long-term solutions and quality management strategies for this critical infrastructure. Thoughtfully developing a program that best fits Parma – our history, our structure, our community – is key to creating a sustainable Urban Forest for the benefit of all.

Research by world-renowned institutions has shown that healthy urban forests are critical in managing local water quality, limiting reliance on fossil fuels, reducing crime and domestic violence, improving human health, and boosting economic vitality. We must recognize the science and learn how to responsibly invest

in the only street infrastructure that appreciates in value.

Educating city staff, residents, and officials about proper tree care and Urban Forest benefits is another important Tree Commission role.


Positioning Parma to be competitive for Urban Forestry grant funding starts with developing a comprehensive tree care program. As a living infrastructure, our city must be able to show that we have the capacity to manage it well.

Parma has resources. The Ohio Division of Forestry offers free, professional assistance - one of the only States that provides this vital service.

Being part of Ohio's urban forestry community will offer a strong support system for our leadership. Hopefully Parma will hire its own Urban Forester like our neighboring cities!

Parma hungers for the benefits that tree canopy provides. I encourage you to encourage our city leadership to seek assistance and begin a formal urban forestry program. We need to feel an optimism for the future and strive to offer future generations of children the gift of tree-lined streets.

READY



CUYAHOGA COUNTY

NOTIFY

Keeping Parma Residents Informed About Emergencies

by Carolyn Kovach

During the winter when Northeast Ohio is slammed with severe snowstorms, the Parma's Safety Department notifies residents who are registered with Cuyahoga County's Ready Notify CodeRed service about parking bans. Those notices are also posted on the City of Parma's Facebook page. The city uses these communications tools to reach a large audience quickly and easily about emergencies and other important information.

Although the city has communicated to residents in the past about how to register for CodeRed alerts, there are still many people not taking advantage of this free service. This is the fastest way to get emergency alerts, and residents are encouraged to sign up for this valuable service.

How to Enroll

Visit ready.cuyahoga-county.us/en-us/readynotify. A valid email and phone number are needed to enroll. During registration, you will be asked for your address, language preference and if you need any special assistance during an emergency. When registering, you have options to choose how to receive messages such as a call to your home, work or cell phone, text message, TDD transmission and/or through the mobile app CodeRed Mobile Alert. You can also have alerts sent to multiple devices and from more than one city, such as the city where you live and city where you work. Also, following City of Parma Facebook page will also keep you informed about emergency notifications, as well as news and events.

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Wendy Kullgren. It includes the tuba players with the Normandy High School Invaders marching band. Wendy will receive a gift card courtesy of Rookies Sports Bar and Grill, as well as a free car wash courtesy of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@msn.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

This month I am officially signing off on The President's Corner. It has been a true pleasure over the past almost twelve years writing about the people, events, and places of Parma as your President of City Council. As you probably know, on November 8, I was elected by the residents of the 14th District to represent them in the Ohio House of Representatives at the Statehouse in Columbus.

Let me begin by saying thank you to the residents of Parma's second ward. You elected me in 2003, then re-elected me in 2005, 2007, and 2009, to represent you and our neighborhood on City Council. Since then, you have continued to support me in my runs for President of City Council and my recent run for State Representative. Please know how much I truly care about you all and treasure our friendship. As I begin my new level of service, know that Deena and I plan to continue to reside on Hampstead Avenue, where we happily raised our two beautiful children.

To the residents of the City of



Parma. You selected me as your President of City Council in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021. What an honor it has been representing Ohio's seventh largest city over these past eleven years. Please know that I always worked my hardest to do all I could in my power to improve the quality of life in our fine city. I am very proud to call Parma my home and, again, have no

plans to move.

To the residents of the 14th District, which encompasses all of Parma and Parma Heights, as well as portions of wards 11, 16, and 17 in Cleveland's historic West Park neighborhood. I am truly honored that you have selected me to work on your behalf in Columbus. I will soon be leaving my position as President of Parma City Council as well as my beloved teaching career to be your full time legislator. There is a lot of work to do at the Statehouse and I am ready to take my nearly 20 years of experience on city council and 30 years in public education to Columbus to represent our communities to the best of my ability.

There are hundreds of folks that I owe a debt of gratitude to, but I would be remiss if I did not mention one person in particular. To my bride and love of my life, Deena. I have been smitten ever since our first talk on "our" park bench on the campus of the University of Dayton. You brought me to Parma over 30 years ago and I knew this was

where I wanted to raise our family. Like Alexander Hamilton's beloved Eliza, God blessed me with the "best of wives and best of women." Thank you for your support of my public service over the years and the sacrifices that you have made and continue to make so that I can fulfill this calling.

In January, I will return under a new column, which I have not decided what to name as of this writing. The focus will change to reflect Statehouse news affecting the 14th District. If you have any suggestions for the name of the new column, please let me know at staterepbrennan@gmail.com or 440-382-2289. Until then, best wishes to you and yours for a very blessed Christmas Season and New Year.

The Flamingo Writers' Guild Seeks Local Authors

by Jeremy Jusek

Parma, Ohio's literary group seeks writers who have published at least one book who live in, are heavily involved with, or have lived in Parma or Parma Heights. The group is creating a collection of the city's local talent including the likes of author and therapist Lynne Shayko, city poet laureate Jeremy Jusek, and Beat Poet Laureate of the United States John Burroughs, the last of which operated Crisis Chronicles Press locally for decades. Also on display are the dozens of writers and authors who have published through the West Side Poetry Workshop's annual anthology—a writing group that was established in 2015.

This is a nonprofit endeavor that



aims to provide the city with a writer repository, a greater sense of local pride, and raise awareness of the type of high-quality creatives operating right here in Parma. The display is currently available for the public to visit at the Parma Artspace & Gallery on Pearl Road, and this project is made possible

through a generous grant by the Skyline Writers' Guild.

If you would like to contribute a book, or know of an author who might like to participate, please contact the Flamingo Writers' Guild at flamingowritersguild@gmail.com. Contributing authors can either donate their book copy to the display or can receive a \$20 payment for offering up their work. Authors' names will be added to a directory of talent which is available both online and in the Parma Artspace & Gallery.

Also, if you have ideas for writing workshops or events you'd like to see in 2023, the Flamingos' all-volunteer staff would love to hear your suggestions! Do you want to learn more about publishing? Writing memoir? Fantasy fiction? Poetry? The Flamingo Writers' Guild is a resource for the people of Parma. If you've ever wanted to get involved, we would absolutely love to hear from you!

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Five Things To Know About The COO Of UH Parma Medical Center

by CJ Sheppard

James Hill, MD, MBA, is a highly visible leader at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, a high-volume community hospital that takes cares of many high-acuity patients. He can often be seen walking the nursing floors, getting a coffee at Healing Grounds in the hospital lobby or taking care of patients in the Intensive Care Unit. A practicing anesthesiologist, he worked in the ICU one full week each month on the pandemic front lines while also serving as Chief Medical Officer at UH Parma.

UH Parma is a high-volume hub for cardiac and vascular surgery through UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute, as well as for gastroenterology and bariatric surgery through the UH Digestive Health Institute. The first Comprehensive Pain Center in the UH system was established at UH Parma, and the hospital has built up a busy Sleep Center and an outpatient Wound Center, as well as becoming a Level III Trauma Center under Dr. Hill's tenure.

"We're a community hospital that does a lot of things really well," says Dr. Hill, who personally witnessed the second highest COVID-19 volumes in the UH system after main campus.

The son of a nurse and an electrical engineer, he learned early and often

the example of serving others and solving problems with compassion, humility and respect. An Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine, Dr. Hill has mentored numerous medical residents and fellows. He also has conducted grand rounds for anesthesia residents at main campus and internal medicine residents at UH Parma.

Dr. Hill has two patents and has been invited to lecture nationally and internationally. He received NIH and state grants for the invention and development of Hemalogix, a program that looks at each transfusion and helps determine clinical appropriateness to reduce patient harm. His start-up company Hemaptics has received support from UH Ventures as it seeks to commercialize this patent for artificial intelligence, allowing Hemalogix to develop a more robust and accurate algorithm based on review of outcomes.

With several years each as the former UH System Medical Director of Transfusion Services and Blood Management and Division Chief of Trauma Anesthesiology, Dr. Hill has also presented at numerous national meetings of the Society of Critical Care Anesthesiologists and published several

peer-reviewed articles. Last year, he was invited to lecture to an international audience on blood management during the pandemic.

When Dr. Hill isn't managing operations at UH Parma, he is busy at home with his wife and three young children. He lives in the nearby community of Independence, the hometown of his wife, Katie Day Hill,

a former speech therapist. He is widely visible in the hospital's larger community, such as participating in the City of Parma's Independence Day parade.

"At UH Parma, we care for family members, friends, the loved ones of people we know," Dr. Hill says. We have a vested interest in the larger community we serve."

Veterans Day At Broadview Multi-Care



by Daniel P. McCarthy

As always, Broadview Multi-Care Center at 5200 Broadview Rd. in Parma spent Veterans Day on November honoring US Military Veterans at their facility and making them feel appreciated for their service to our country. People from all branches of our military have been included among those treated here for many decades, and every year they are recognized by everyone for filling their roles in serving our military needs around the globe.

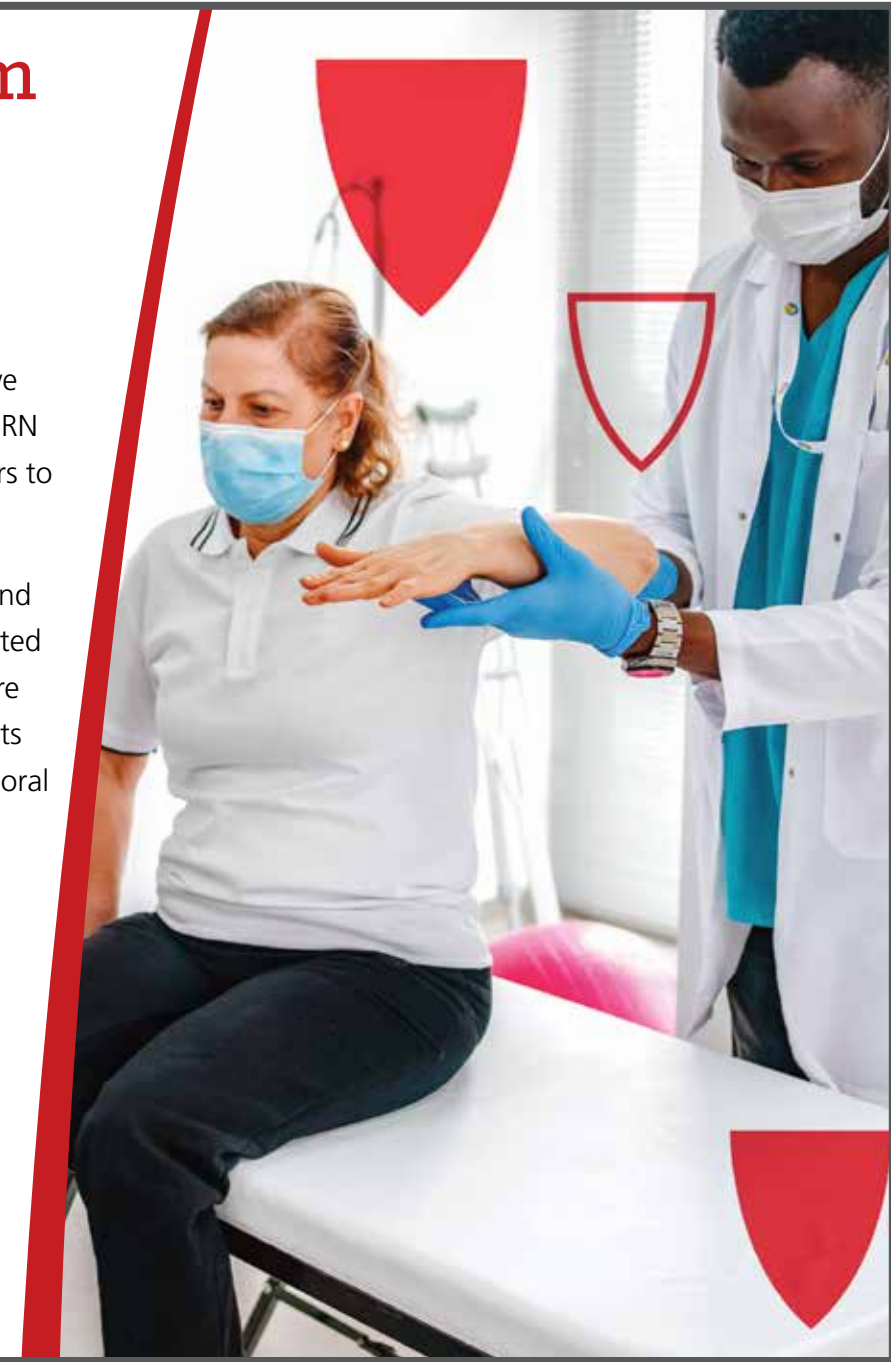
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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

Fourth-Grader Visits Return To City Hall And Justice Center

by Carolyn Kovach

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the Anthony Zielinski Leader-

ship for Tomorrow program has returned to Parma City Hall and the Justice Center. The program, which runs from early

November 2022 to late March 2023, gives fourth graders from nine Parma schools a glimpse into how municipal government and courts operate. “We are excited to have students come back. It is great to see youth work on their own legislation during a mock council meeting. They roleplay elected officials, passing ‘laws’ with lots of discussion. Of course, the students love the tour of City Hall and the Justice Center, as well as visiting the mayor. Plus, they get pizza for lunch,” said Treasurer Tom Mastroianni, who gives a presentation and also acts as emcee and City Hall tour guide.

Funded by Cox Communications, the live civics lesson is named after the late Treasurer Anthony Zielinski, who developed the program with Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Mastroianni in 2005. In coordination with school

leaders, arrangements are made to transport students to City Hall, where they learn about the different branches of government from Parma’s elected officials and directors while seated in Parma Council Chambers. After the City Hall visit, they travel to the Justice Center where they listen to a judge’s presentation in a courtroom. They learn about the justice system and roles of the bailiff, lawyer and judge. “Tom keeps it light to hold the students’ attention, but he addresses the serious role that city government plays in students’ lives now and later when they are adults. The program helps them connect the real world to what they are learning in the classroom,” DeGeeter said. “Who knows? Maybe one of the students who passes through City Hall is a future mayor.”



Parma Treasurer Tom Mastroianni speaks to fourth graders in Parma Council Chambers.

Saving Mr. Wobbles

by Linda Kohar

Sometime, really good things happen in the most unexpected ways. As everyone knows, Upper Ridge-wood Lake is under construction and is enclosed by a high fence for safety. All the geese have left for wetter pastures except one. This one goose had apparently been hit by a car, leaving him unable to fly and unable to get out of the enclosed area; he was stranded with no food and very little water.

As a backstop to this story, a young girl named Baylee had been going through some difficult times. Her Mom coaxed her to take a walk to the lake, hoping the walk and fresh air would cheer her up. Baylee agreed to go and a miracle happened! The disabled goose and troubled girl bonded in friendship. Baylee would visit the injured goose every day.

Baylee named the crippled goose Mr. Wobbles. When she discovered Mr. Wobbles was stranded, she was extremely distraught. Baylee and her Mom contacted Donna Friedman and

Nicole Perez at the Northeast Ohio Sewer District for help. Then Donna and Nicole reached out to the Lake Erie Nature Center and they formed a plan to rescue Mr. Wobbles.

On a windy, cold Saturday morning, Donna, Nicole, Baylee, her Mom, myself and a few others, gathered at the lake to try to entice the goose into a net. The attempt that day was not successful, probably due to the presence of too many people, which probably spooked Mr. Wobbles. So I left, not wanting to impede the rescue.

Shortly thereafter, I received a text from Nicole saying the rescue was successful! They would take Mr. Wobbles to the Lake Erie Science Center for quarantine prior to moving him to the Quarry Farm. Mr. Wobbles would live in a safe, goose friendly environment and Baylee would be able to continue visiting Mr. Waddles.

So as I said, sometime unexpected blessings come out of the most improbable circumstances! A little bit of happy news, in these troubled times!



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CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS 2022

NOTABLES

IN LAW

PARMA HEIGHTS

Shop Small For Christmas Parma Heights

by Emery Pinter

The Christmas lights are strung up (they're still in a tangle, actually), the stockings are hung (nope), and the presents are all wrapped and under the tree. YES, I've completed my holiday shopping list, and I deserve a few Christmas cookies and a beer. Lucky for everyone, local Parma Heights shops are eager to help you find the perfect gift. If you're trying to do the same and shop locally this holiday season, I've rounded up 8 of my favorite Parma Heights gift shops and locally owned businesses with gifts for everyone on your list!

Seconds City Home Furnishings, 6530 Pearl Road. Expect the unexpected treasures. Goods for you and your homestead. You'll find a selection of unique home finds and more.

Natural Creations Soaps & More. This local shop features some of the best candles, and soaps. Seasonal candles such as Christmas Tree and Aspen Winter. Unique scents such as Merlot Wine, Strawberry Daiquiri, and Vanilla Champagne. Perfect for finding stocking stuffers, and a few enchanting items to treat yourself with. Visit their Facebook page or find them at 6597 Pearl Road.

Gamers Haven is one of the largest board game stores in N.E. Ohio, and it's right here in Parma Heights at



6639 Pearl road. In addition to the latest releases, it has the bestsellers such as Moonstone, Conquest (a miniature game), and the Quacks of Quidliberg. And the store boasts a playful interior where one can spend hours playing their favorite board game!

Samosky's Home Bakery, 6379 Pearl Road, is the go-to holiday cookies bakery. Along with cakes, pies, and pastries, the bakery boasts a variety of Christmas cookies filled with colorful confetti, and happy surprises. You can feel the love in each beautifully decorated cookie!

Village Cards & Gifts, 6643 Pearl Road, offers greeting cards, beautiful boxed Christmas cards, stationery, seasonal gifts, Ty Plush, religious & Inspirational cards, gloves, Kedzie products and so much more! It's packed with fantastic Christmas gifts, and seasonal home decor accessories.

Load up your friends and family into the van or car, and experience the holiday season through **Martini's Drive-Thru beverage**. Whether your Christmas party calls for ugly sweaters (face it, it probably does) or just a night out, you should have some beer to suit

the season. And for those who can try all the Christmas beers, Martini's Drive-Thru beverage is the place for you!

168 Optical, 6315 Pearl Road, has Christmas novelty eyeglass cases suited for reading glasses and computer glasses. A Christmas Story, Merry Clarkmas from "Christmas Vacation" and Elf. All in decorative fabric and solid cases that prevents glasses from breaking, while the soft interior prevents lenses from getting scratched. The perfect stocking stuffer that is thoughtful and useful!

Or make someone's day or night with a gift card to a local restaurant. **The ClubHouse**, 6365 Pearl, would be the perfect spot for whoever on your list is in need of a night out. They have the best Hungarian goulash, a traditional dish that is as authentic as if you had across the Atlantic.


We have so many incredible small businesses, and entrepreneurs here in Parma Heights. It is so important for us as consumers to support them, especially during the holidays. There's no shortage of reasons to shop local as we head into the holidays. The dollars we spend with Parma Heights based businesses stay in our community via local sales taxes, employee paychecks and more. This Christmas support a local small business and make it an extra merry experience.

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INSPIRATION

The Ultimate Gift

by Kevin Kelly

One of the most disappointing and hurtful things someone can experience today is being misunderstood. Sometimes good intentions are misunderstood as bad and our love can come across as hate. Take nature for instance. Many of us enjoy watching nature’s marvelous creatures, and at times, we even try getting close to them by offering them food. Unfortunately, as soon as they see us coming, they scatter out of fear, thinking we may do them harm. Once we leave the food and move away, they’ll return. They totally misunderstand that our intention is not to hurt them but to help them. Even as parents, many times our concern and decisions that we make for our children will come across as cruelty rather than love.

No one has ever experienced being misunderstood as much as God Himself. Unfortunately, the majority of man believes that God does not do much for them other than to keep track of man’s wrong-doings, so He can use them to condemn us in the end. However, God is full of good intentions towards man. He not only cares about you, but He has good attention towards you. This is because He loves you; “For God so loved the world”, (John 3:16) “Can a woman forget her nursing child,...Even these may forget, but I will not forget you”, (Isaiah 49:15).

For four thousand years, according to the Old Testament, certain ones were chosen by God to try to convince man of God’s good intentions: God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (Hebrews 1:1). However, because man still did not believe that God loved him, God decided to humble Himself by going through a process of being born of a woman, taking on the form of a human being, so He could communicate with man directly. This human being was Jesus Christ, a God/Man. He was willing to reach out and touch lepers, free ones possessed by evil spirits, and eat and reside with the undesirables of the world. On-top of everything else, God came to free man of religious rituals and obligations, so man can come directly to Him. To prove His love towards man, God allowed Himself to be offered up as a human sacrifice for man’s wrong-doings. This one unselfish act, by the Lord Jesus, opened the door for lowly man to come directly to God Himself. Man no longer has to go through man nor the angels to get close to God. Today, all we have to do is call out to the Lord Jesus to begin experiencing Him in our lives. Now let me ask you, what other so called god claimed to have done this for man?



Dr. Laura examines Ruffles at the Northeast Ohio SPCA Wellness Clinic.

Northeast Ohio SPCA’s Wellness Clinic Is Once Again Open For Business

by Stefanie Merkosky

We are delighted to share that the Northeast Ohio SPCA Wellness Clinic located at 9691 Brookpark Rd. is once again open to the public. The clinic was initially closed back in March of 2020 when the pandemic struck, and we were left without a veterinarian.

As a matter of fact, a lot of veterinarians left the field when Covid-19 became a world-wide threat. Many vets that were able to retire did so, while others chose to stay home with their children because childcare and schooling became a major concern.

Those that stayed in the field quickly experienced burn-out and exhaustion from being short-staffed

and extremely overworked. The vets that remained tried to take on as many patients as possible because there were few, if any, other options for pet care.

Fortunately, the field seems to be recovering and we now have a wonderful new vet overseeing our Wellness Clinic and we expect to hire additional veterinarians in the coming months. Currently, our clinic is open for walk-ins Monday – Friday 11am – 4pm. If you would like to schedule a spay/neuter surgery or a dental surgery, please call us at (216) 635-2718. For more information on the services we provide, please visit us at <https://northeastohio-sPCA.org/wellness-clinic>.

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
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NEIGHBORHOODS

New Programs And Services At Donna Smallwood Activities Center Get Seniors Out

by Carolyn Kovach

The Donna Smallwood Activities Center is making sure seniors get around town. “Our seniors are happy to reacquaint with old friends, make new friends, eat together and find new programs to uplift their spirits,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. This year, Activities Center Director Erin Lally

and her team organized outings to Best of Parma locations, scheduled tours to senior living facilities and increased transportation services. “When I saw the Best of Parma contest winners, I thought everyone would enjoy getting around town together and experiencing the best of what our city offers,” Lally said.

Activities Coordinator Sandy Perkins made prior arrangements with Best of Parma destinations. Members registered in advance for the ride and paid for their own food. It was a win-win. Local small businesses gained new customers, and seniors found new places to explore. The center plans to continue the program in 2023.

Lally said Parma Living Week was her take on the county’s Livable Cuyahoga campaign. “Our spin on this was to highlight some of the living opportunities in our city if a senior needs to move from his or her home but wants to stay close to home.” Every day for a week, the Activities Center transported a group to a different living community. Next year, visits will run every other month. “I had no idea what some of these places

are like and how much they cost. This will help me make a good choice if I ever need to move,” said member Walter Olczak.

Two full-time and two-part-time drivers transport seniors by bus or car anywhere they want to go, including, of course, to the Activities Center. To request a ride, members simply call Transportation Coordinator Brenda Sneed at 440-885-8156, preferably two weeks in advance.

Senior members give the “Uber” service five stars. Linda Pike wrote, “If you want to join us at the Activities Center but need transportation, just call. The drivers are wonderful! Come on out and meet people and make new friends.”



Seniors enjoy lunch at Das Schnitzel Haus. (Photo by Erin Lally)



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PERSPECTIVE

My Cleveland Christmas Memory

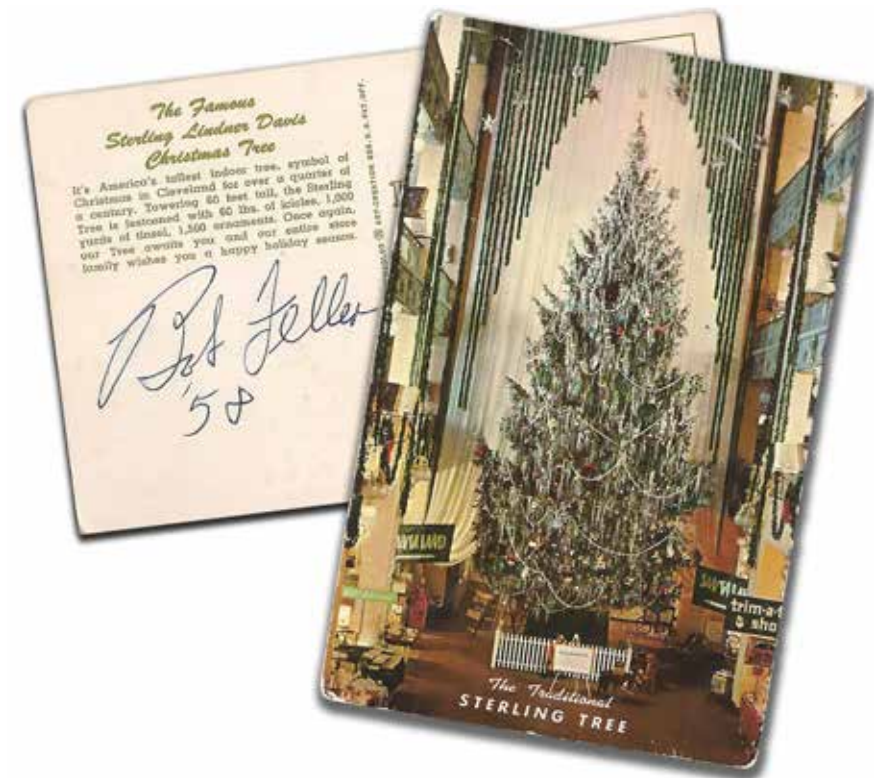
by Lee Kamps

There is a new sequel to the classic holiday movie "A Christmas Story" about Ralphie showing his children the wonders of Christmas in his youth. This is a column that i wrote a few years ago and I felt that it was entirely relevant again. We all have our unique Christmas stories and here is mine from growing up in Parma during the 1950s.

I grew up near the intersection of Pearl and Ridge Roads in Parma and attended Ridge Brook Elementary School. I walked to and from school because my family lived only two blocks from the school and my mother was usually home then. It was usually on a Friday during December that we had our big Christmas adventure. That was a shopping trip downtown to the big department stores and to see Santa Claus.

During the Christmas season downtown Cleveland was a wonderland for a boy. When we went downtown, we dressed up. That meant that after coming home from school, we had to change out of our school clothes into our "church clothes" that were nicer. My mother never wore slacks shopping. She always wore a dress, especially when she went downtown.

After my brother, sister and I got home from school and changed clothes, my mother walked us another two blocks to the Pearl and Ridge inter-



section where we caught the #79 bus downtown. Our family only had one car and father drove it to work during the week. Upon arrival downtown, we would head toward Higbee's where we could browse the toy department and see Santa Claus before meeting our father at the Frosty bar where us kids got a hot dog as well as a frosty. Father would drive downtown and park near his favorite restaurant, the New York Spaghetti House on East 9th Street.

At Higbee's we would visit the

Twigbee Shop where we could buy Christmas gifts for our parents and family. Store employees dressed as elves helped us kids choose gifts and manage the money that our parents had given us to spend. No adults were allowed inside the Twigbee Shop except the elves.

Then it was off to the other stores. We visited the May Company on Public Square and got to smell the scent of the roasting nuts at the Nut House near the May Company. A bag of freshly roasted peanuts was a must buy there. We walked from the May Company all the way to Playhouse Square to the big events; the 7th floor of Hal-

le's with Mister Jingaling, the Keeper of the Keys and to the Sterling Linder store across the street with their giant Christmas tree.

Halle's 7th floor was THE toy department for everyone. Of course, it was special to see Mister Jingaling as well as Santa. But across the street at the Sterling Linder store was the big thing, their huge Christmas tree that was ginormous. Under that tree was a magic Winter Wonderland with a little train that took good boys and girls through a magical forest to Santa Claus. They also had Francis the Talking Mule there who would talk to the boys and girls about Christmas and whether they had been good. Then if we had been good, we got a toy from Francis the Talking Mule.

Occasionally, there would be famous local personalities at Sterling Linder and one year I got to meet Bob Feller and get his autograph on a card featuring the big Sterling Linder Christmas tree. I still have that card, dated 1958.

Then after all that excitement, us kids were dead tired and our family made their way to the New York Spaghetti House where we could have a real dinner before heading home.

But alas all those stores are gone. One by one those downtown department stores closed and moved to the suburbs. Higbee's was the last one remaining and it had changed its name to Dillard's before closing its doors in 1996. But somehow the shopping malls and big box stores lack the magic of Christmas shopping downtown.

A woman in a purple Home Instead uniform is assisting an elderly man. She is standing and leaning over him, who is seated. They are in a room with bookshelves in the background.

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A person in a costume, possibly a robot or a character, is holding a camera. They are standing in front of a background that looks like a window or a screen. A sign that says "Get It Done" is visible in the foreground.

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PERSPECTIVE

Stop The Cull - Save Our Deer

by Mary Pearce

Mayor Gallo is planning on disturbing the peace in Parma Heights by killing off the city's greatest asset. She has planned a deer cull for January, 2023 after the mating season. This fact is very disturbing as her "hired killers" the Parma Heights Police, will be killing female adults but also the babies they are carrying as mating season occurs in the 2 months prior to her kill.

We moved from the city to Parma Heights for the deer. We believe their presence is the community's greatest asset. We found peace here among deer and a few kind people we call neighbors. The Humane Society has helped communities along the east coast. Their program "shoots" females with a hormone that will delay ovulation for 3 years! Deer react to culling!. They sense a vacuum in their numbers and nature takes over to fill the vacuum. They produce twins and triplets to fill the void left by the cull. The phrase "nature abhors a vacuum" is appropriate here.

Mayor Gallo is blaming car accidents and injuries on the deer as well. The deer have become the scapegoats for the mayor who blames them for the traffic accidents. Night accidents in Parma Heights are caused by nonexistent street lights. Some neighbors have erected pole lights of their own. A street light project for the neighborhoods must be in the mayor's plan to control traffic accidents because it is the lack of light at



night that is the cause of accidents and fatalities.

Culling is not the answer. The deer increase their numbers to fill the void. So, killing will go on and on. Use the Humane Society program – control deer reproduction with ovulation hormones. It is the civilized way to handle the deer population problem in the year 2023.

We want to coexist with deer in our peaceful community without culling or chaos.

Mary Nantell Pearce
Parma Heights, Ohio 44130

12th Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive Begins December 1st!



by Felicia Martinez

The 12th Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive will kick off on December 1st and run through the entire month of December. The Parma Peanut Butter Drive has been going strong since its start in 2010, when founder Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President, had the idea to collect peanut butter to help the community. It is estimated that in 11 years, the drive has generated over 10 tons of peanut butter through monetary donations and jars of peanut butter, thanks to the generosity of the community.

Why a peanut butter drive? Peanut butter is a well-liked, high protein, calorie dense food. It is a staple in many households, including Brennan's household growing up with a single mom who worked hard to make ends meet. "Peanut butter is the primary source of protein for those of little financial means," Brennan said. "In recent years, the price of peanut butter has skyrocketed, making it out of reach for those who need it most."

All Faiths, a local award-winning non-profit, is honored to be a part of the Parma Peanut Butter drive. Executive Director Felicia Martinez says "we are so grateful for this annual drive, which helps us provide nutritious

groceries to older adults in our community." For 16 years All Faiths Pantry have delivered groceries directly to the homes of qualifying seniors in Parma and surrounding communities. "As an agency of the food bank we can purchase peanut butter far less than retail cost, a dozen jars costs about \$20." Says Martinez, "therefore, a monetary donation will go much further to support those in need and a donation in any amount is very much appreciated."

This year's drive is supported by community partners Lamar Advertising, Rumpke Waste & Recycling, UH Parma Medical Center, Parma Libraries and the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce. Jars of peanut butter can also be dropped off at Parma City Hall, Parma libraries, and UH Parma Medical Center.

To learn more or to donate online visit www.allfaithspantry.org. Donations made by checks can be mailed to All Faiths Pantry, P.O. Box 34239, Parma, Ohio, 44129 (place Parma Peanut Butter Drive in the message). For questions about the drive email Brennan at councilmanbrennan@msn.com or call 440-885-8091.

The drive will once again run from December 1 through December 31.



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PARMA HTS. ARTS

A True Love Story
Cassidy Theatre

by Marie Gallo

One of the many hidden treasures of Parma Heights is the Cassidy Theatre. The Cassidy Theatre mission is to enrich the multicultural life of the Greater Cleveland area by providing a diverse theatre arts program that entertains, informs and educates. Founded in 1974 and celebrating their 48th season, the theatre is proud to continually provide excellent productions to Northeast Ohio.

Mayor Paul Cassidy originally opened the Greenbriar Theatre in 1974 as a love letter to his wife. Elise felt that a community was not whole without culture at its heart, so the mayor had the theatre built. In 2007, the theatre was renamed Cassidy Theatre to honor the Mayor Cassidy.

This year the Cassidy Theatre hosted seven shows: Harvey, Sister Act, Rent, Aladdin Kids, The Downside, Drowsy Chaperone and this December Elf the Musical. With over 250 performers, 60 show dates and more than 16,000 tickets sold, the theatre experienced pre-pandemic numbers and are looking forward to 2023.

Mike Caraffi the Board President of the Cassidy Theatre is excited to share the 2023 show schedule, featuring: Beauty and the Beast, The Little Mermaid, Kinky Boots, Willy Wonka Kids, Legally Blonde, Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella and Shrek. Along with the great show line up, Caraffi said



“we’re expanding our concessions and adding beer and wine offerings in 2023.” Caraffi went on to say, “as excited as we are for 2023, we’re looking forward to 2024 with our 50th anniversary and making it a year long celebration.”

The Cassidy Theatre is a wonderful community theatre with 85% of every dollar going back into programs. In 2023, the theatre is expanding on partnerships with the Cuyahoga County Library for shows to be tied in with story time, crafts and even character visits. Caraffi feels connecting kids at a younger age showcase the youth programs and gets kids excited to be a part of the theatre community. There are no small parts, just small actors.

With the holidays fast approaching, tickets and season passes make great stocking stuffers. For more information visit <https://www.cassidytheatre.com/>.

<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofParmaHeights/>
Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.

AARP Tax Aide Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation’s largest free volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers to assist taxpayers in southwestern Cuyahoga County. Volunteers do not have to be retired or members of AARP. We plan 2 tax preparation sites in Parma and 6 additional sites in the neighboring cities.

All of our sites are electronic filing sites. Volunteers are expected to work for at least 5 hours per week on weekdays during the tax season, which runs from the first week in February through the 15th of April. Each volunteer must have an email address and computer experience is preferred for tax return preparers. Volunteers do not need previous income tax experience. We provide a free two-week virtual course for tax return preparers during January. We are also looking for greeters and provide them with a free one-day course.

Tax-Aide is a very rewarding IRS-supported program offered by the AARP Foundation providing free assistance to taxpayers with special attention given to senior citizens with low to moderate incomes.

For more information please call Tax-Aide District Coordinator Steve Donovan at 440-237-7348, call AARP’s toll-free number at 888-687-2277, or visit Tax-Aide’s web site at www.aarp.org/taxvolunteer

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Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd, Menlo Park Academy Children’s Art Show sponsored by Cleveland Photo Fest opened November 25th and runs through December 18th. Menlo Park Academy is a school for gifted children in grades K to 8, located at 2149 W 53rd in Cleveland. It’s a tuition-free, student focused public school dedicated to nurture gifted children. Stop and view the amazing photos taken by these awesome fourth and fifth graders. Cleveland Photo Fest is an organization created in 2019 to bring worldwide Unity Through Photography, and offers several exhibits and lectures throughout the greater Cleveland area. Prama is open Wed, Sat, Sunday 2-6 PM and Tues and Friday 2-5 PM. Prama’s gift boutique

will also be open and offers you many handmade gifts by local artisans.

While visiting Prama, stop at the many unique food and beverage establishments located on Ridge and Pearl Roads. Shop small, shop local and often.

Shop Small during this holiday season and support those small unique, local businesses consisting of your friends and neighbors!

Greenbrier Art League is a group of artists that meet every Tuesday at the Parma Heights Cassidy Theater, in the social room in the downstairs of the theater. It is free and open to all artists that would like to come and work on their projects from 10 am to 1pm. They do a little assignment each month and have a critic on the last Tuesday. Coffee and friendship is provided. If you are interested stop in and join them.



PSO Christmas Concerts



One Million Photos

by Kathryn Mabin

Cleveland Photo Fest was created in 2019, their parent organization is Cleveland Photographic Workshop (est. 1978), they seek to promote worldwide Unity Through Photography. Since 2019 they have sponsored several exhibits throughout the greater Cleveland area, and photo swap exhibits with India and Australia. Their latest is One Million Photos, the most inclusive ever photographic exhibit in Cleveland. The call went out early this year for amateur and professionals to send their submissions, free of charge, for this exhibit. No theme, just your favorite photos. Included were several thousand submissions from local high school and college students. For many photographers this was the opportunity to show at their first exhibition. It was a dynamic idea and partially funded from a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and Gemini Developers.

The exhibit opened Friday, November 18th at Bostwick Design Art Initiative at 2731 Prospect Ave. Unfortunately they didn’t reach their million goal but on display were approximately 200,000 photos that were received. Although, I do believe they exceeded the world record. How do you display



all those photos? They came up with a unique idea.

Upon arriving at the gallery, spectators received a small magnifying glass. On the walls were several panels, floor to ceiling. The photos were about postage stamp sized, and arranged as a collage. And so the search began, magnifying glass in hand searching through the photos. It was a fun unique exhibit. Refreshments were served also

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will present THREE LIVE Classical Music Performances on Sunday, December 4 at 3:00 PM and December 11th at 3:00pm AND 7:30pm at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights.

Sunday December 4 will feature: A collection of Holiday Favorites:

It’s Christmas Time, March of the Toys from “Babes in Toyland” by Victor Herbert, Stille Nacht by Chip Davis

Mannheim Steam Roller, Polar Express, Leroy Anderson’s Sleigh Ride and Suite of Carols (featuring the

wind, brass, and string sections)

Sunday, December 11 Two Performances@ 3:00 pm & 7:30 pm: features a one act Opera by Gian Carlo Menotti Amahl and the Night Visitors

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 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.

to the approximately 200 visitors opening night, who also listened to music provided by The Prom Queens.

Several Parma photographers were in this exhibit. The exhibit will be on display until the end of December. For more information on Cleveland Photo Fest visit their Facebook page or the web page clevelandphotofest.org.



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