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

Local Broadcaster Dick Russ Will Interview Mayor Tim DeGeeter For Parma's State Of The City

by Carolyn Kovach

Mayor Parma DeGeeter's State of the City address will occur before a live audience this year. "For the past two years, we have recorded my State of the City address and then posted it on our website and social media platforms. We couldn't crowd a room with people during COVID restrictions or when cases spiked," DeGeeter said. "I will enjoy being in a room filled with people again." The address, however, will not be a traditional speech this year. Instead, it will be in an interview format, with local award-winning broadcaster Dick Russ asking the mayor questions about important city matters such as the local economy, infrastructure projects, safety services and other areas of city business.

All Parma residents are invited to attend the pre-



Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter

sentation. No registration is required. The State of the City will be at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 27 at WorkHub99, 11699 Brookpark Road, Parma. Although the format has changed, the mayor is sticking with the tradition of choosing a venue that highlights a community partner. WorkHub99 rents contemporary office space, conference rooms and office amenities to small business owners, start-up

companies and individuals who work remotely but prefer a professional workspace outside of their homes. The former GM training facility now houses various businesses and is an example of how Parma collaborates with business leaders to repurpose structures for new commercial use. Past State of the City addresses were given at General Motors Metal Center, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus and Metroparks Watershed Stewardship Center.

"WorkHub Owner John Puskar has brought rapidly growing businesses and jobs to Parma," DeGeeter noted. "His business, which supports small business owners, is one example of why our economy is strong. The State of the City gives me an opportunity to discuss our economy, reflect on the past year's accomplishments and share news about ongoing and future projects.

"I am extremely grateful to John for providing

continued on page 2



Councilman Vito Dipierro Takes On New Role As Parma Council President

by Carolyn Kovach

Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro started a new position on Parma City Council and now presides over meetings as council president. The seat was vacated in early January after Sean Brennan resigned. Brennan was elected in November 2022 as the new 14th Ohio House District state representative, serving Parma, Parma Heights and half of West Park in Cleveland. He was Parma council president for 11 years. Dipierro will serve the remainder of Brennan's term through the end of 2023 and then will be on the ballot for the next term.

Parma Democratic City Leader Tom Mastroianni, who is also the city's treasurer, explained the selection pro-

cess. He said because Brennan is a Democrat, the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections notified the county's Democratic Party of the vacancy. The county Democratic Party then notified Democratic Central Committee members of the meeting to vote on the council president's appointment. "I'm excited to continue serving the city as council president. Being a Ward 1 councilman for nine years was an honor, and I'm grateful to have had the confidence of the voters to be their voices on Parma City Council," Dipierro said. "It has also prepared me for the citywide position. I'm looking forward to being able to serve all the residents of Parma." "I have

continued on page 10

US Congressman Max Miller Opens Office In Parma



US Congressman for the 7th District with Parma Police Chief Joe Bobak, Parma Police Captain Kevin Reilly, and Parma Police Detective Mark Karkan at the Open House Event on 1-12-23

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Newly elected US Congressman for the 7th District Max Miller has opened a District Office in Parma at 7335 Ridge Rd. This same location housed a district office for former Congressman Jim Renacci. Congressman Miller held an open house event in January where people from the new district came to meet him. The newly created 7th District is quite large, running from south of Wooster all of

the way north to Westlake and Bay Village, heading southeast to include Parma and areas as far east as Bedford. I am glad that Parma was chosen as the location for a District Office, the other being Medina. The previous congressman opted to not locate an office in Parma, so this gives people in our city direct access to their congressional representative, which only makes sense for the 7th largest city in the State of Ohio.

Script Parma Picture of the Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Cindy Tanko. It includes Cindy, husband Blade, and all of their beloved grandchildren. Cindy will receive a free car wash courtesy of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash, as well as a gift card to Chuppa's Marketplace. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Sean Brennan at brennanforohio@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

by Sean Brennan, State Representative, Ohio's 14th District

It was an honor to be sworn in earlier this month with my wife of 28 years, Deena, holding the family Bible and our children and friends by my side in the historic Statehouse in Columbus. To be one of 99 Ohioans to represent our fine state in Ohio House of Representatives is an indescribable honor. Rest assured that I will remember my oath "to support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio . . .as I shall answer unto God" in my daily work on your behalf.

I began serving as your District 14 state representative on January 1. District 14 encompasses all of Parma, Parma Heights, and portions of Cleveland's historic West Park neighborhood, including streets in Wards 11, 16, and 17. Please know that I am in constant contact with Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Parma Heights Mayor Marie Gallo, and Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, as well as your members of city council. As a former member of Parma City Council for

nearly two decades, I know how important a partnership between state and local government is to crafting policies that promote the quality of life of those we are elected to serve.

I also want you to know that I have

been busy at work building relationships with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle here at the historic Statehouse to promote policies that will improve the lives of, not only those who live in our district, but the entire state of Ohio.



State Representative Sean Brennan gets sworn in with family and friends looking on.

Parma Swears In New Firefighters And Police Officers



We welcome the latest crop of First Responders to Parma, Ohio!



Local Broadcaster Dick Russ Will Interview Mayor Tim DeGeeter For Parma's State Of The City

continued on page 2

the venue and to Dick for agreeing to serve as the interviewer. Dick and his wife, Chris, are members of St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in Parma, where their oldest son was ordained a Ukrainian Jesuit priest. His family has long been active in Parma's Ukrainian Village, a strong community that has worked together to help Ukrainian refugees this past year – one subject we will talk about. I am looking forward to this event and hope to see many residents attend," DeGeeter said.



With 99 members of the Ohio House of Representatives and 33 members of the Ohio Senate, building friendships and communication are the keys to getting things done in Columbus.

If you are ever in Columbus, please feel free to stop by the office. It is especially helpful if you let me know in advance of your visit.

I look forward to seeing you at events throughout the district. Please feel free to say hello if you see me.

If my office may ever be of assistance, please feel free to reach out at (614) 466-3485 or Rep14@ohiohouse. gov. I also encourage you to email me to sign up for my periodic electronic newsletter. One of my priorities is to always be an accessible representative.

It is truly an honor to serve as your state representative. Best wishes.



The *Parma Observer* is a community owned and operated citizen based news source. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The *Parma Observer* staff or our advertisers.

P.O. Box 29030 Parma, Ohio 44129 440.884.7625 •

http://parmaobserver.com

Advisory Board
Craig Czepczynski
Lisa Zaremba
George Salo
Bill DeMarco
Penny Schultz

PublisherDaniel P. McCarthy

Editor-In-Chief Stefan P. Stefaniuk

Design and Production AGS Design

Advertising Sales

440-884-7625

Writers

Sean Brennan
Stephen Donovan
Marie Gallo
Lee Kamps
Carolyn Kovach
Bridget Lavelle
Gene Lovasy
Jodi Moriarty
Emery Pinter
CJ Sheppard
Sharon Stahurski

Photography

Sean Brennan Marie Gallo Carolyn Kovach Jodi Moriarty Ruth Sensale CJ Sheppard

The Parma Observer is powered by:



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Bystander CPR Saves Actor Who Collapses Backstage

by CJ Sheppard

The curtain had just closed on the community theater's opening night performance of Macbeth when Elisabeth Roter collapsed. But the 57-year old University Hospitals' physician and thespian who survived a cardiac arrest that night will always remember her good fortune to be in a theater – surrounded by bystanders who knew CPR, including a local primary care physician – when her heart stopped.

In theater circles, the famous Shakespeare play is marred by a curse that even uttering the name "Macbeth" in a theater outside of an actual performance conjures bad luck. Legend has it that the actor playing Lady Macbeth died on the opening night of the Bard's play in London in 1606.

To Elisabeth, who does not believe the superstition, the play could not be luckier.

"It certainly was good luck for me that this happened in the theater," said the actress and singer, who began performing on stage at the age of 9 and acted in community theater until medical school. "For this to happen right after the curtain call – the timing was perfect. At least it didn't happen while I was driving or when I was at home asleep."

A fellow cast member saw Elisabeth stumble and caught her, breaking her fall as she lost consciousness. They quickly called for back-up from medical professionals in the audience.

Michael Saridakis, DO, a UH family medicine physician who practices in Parma and Broadview Heights, was watching the play with his sisterin-law, an Akron-based emergency medicine physician. Her husband was in the play and summoned her backstage. Dr. Saridakis quickly joined her to see how he could assist also.

"I saw her on the ground, and they were attending to her," he said. "While we were assessing her, she stopped breathing and we started CPR and called for the AED."

While Dr. Saridakis checked Elisabeth's pulse, another doctor performed chest compressions while a third physician began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. When Elisabeth stopped breathing, he took over chest compressions while his sister-in-law, the emergency medicine physician, set up the automated external defibrillator (AED), which Ohio schools are required to have on site. The defibrillator jolted her heart back into a normal rhythm and she opened her eyes.

Bystanders performing CPR before emergency personnel arrive can double or triple a person's chances of survival. Each year, more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital setting where trained caregivers know exactly what to do. In fact, cardiac arrest claims more lives each year than colorectal cancer, breast cancer, prostate cancer, influenza, pneumonia, automobile accidents, HIV, firearms

and house fires combined, according to the American Heart Association.

This is the fourth time that Dr. Saridakis has been involved in saving a life with CPR in a public setting. The other incidents occurred in his church, a restaurant and on a residential street.

"Oftentimes it happens with loved ones, and family members are right there," Dr. Saridakis says of the 70 percent of cardiac arrests that occur at home. "We hear so many stories from patients, so we strongly encourage people to learn CPR. You actually can save a life."

An ambulance took Elisabeth from the theater in Willoughby to UH Lake West Medical Center. A cardiac catheterization was performed and a small defibrillator was implanted in her chest. She was discharged a few days later.

"The faster you start CPR, the better off the person is, because you want to keep blood flow circulating so they will survive and not suffer brain damage," Elisabeth said.

About 90 percent of people who suffer a cardiac arrest outside a hospital do not survive. She is fortunate to be among the lucky 10 percent.

"Most people who have a cardiac arrest outside the hospital setting do not survive, because it's not witnessed, or people don't get there quickly enough, or they don't know what to do," Elisabeth says. "By knowing CPR, there's a greater chance that lives can be saved."

Contact the UH EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute for American Heart Association CPR and AED training classes.





Don't suffer in silence from common urologic problems you "Don't want to talk about."

Urological disorders are very common among both men and women. These problems can cause stress and embarrassment, disrupt your daily routines and reduce your quality of life.

The urology experts at University Hospitals are focused on addressing a full spectrum of urologic, reproductive and sexual health needs and concerns, including:

Men

- Enlarged prostate (BPH)
- Erectile dysfunction (ED)
- Infertility
- Frequent nighttime urination

Women

- Urinary incontinence
- Frequent urinary tract infections

Don't wait – Get back to the lifestyle you love. Schedule an Appointment Online or by Phone Today.

Safe in-person and virtual consults are available.
Call 440-827-2963 or schedule online at UHhospitals.org/MakeApptUrology



UH Parma Medical Center 7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma

PARMA HEIGHTS

Parma Heights Recreation Spring Sports

by Marie Gallo

Spring is around the corner and the Parma Heights Recreation department is in full swing with the 2023 program and events calendar. Adults can lace up their dancing shoes and enjoy big band, ballroom and line dancing in February and March. Registration opens in February for T-Ball, Baseball and Softball.

Parma Heights Recreation Department is offering the current programs and events:

Ballroom & Big Band Dance Party on Friday, February 10 from 5:30 to 7:30pm in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre. Adults can put on their dancing shoes and relish in a variety of music and dance steps. Registration is required.

Beginner Line Dancing on Saturday, February 18 from 1 to 3pm in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre. Mary Wood will teach the basic steps for those wanting to try line dancing. Registration is requested and the fee is \$6 cash at the door.



Intermediate Line Dancing on Saturday, March 11 from 1 to 3pm in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre. Instructors Mary and Jamie will help instruct everyone on a bootscooting good time. Registration is requested and the fee is \$6 cash at the door.

Registration is required for spring and summer sports and activities:

Parma Heights Recreation plays

in the Suburban Recreational Ball League. Practices will begin in May and the season is June through July. Registration is now open for the following Sports:

T-Ball for ages 5 & 6 years old Baseball for ages 7 to 18 years old Softball for ages 7 to 18 years old Spring Soccer registration will be open by the middle of February, but space is limited.

Penguin Swim Team for ages 6 to 18 from June 2 to July 28 at the pool. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards Front Crawl (Freestyle) or

Breaststroke, they can begin in swim lessons and transfer to Penguins when ready (swim lesson fees apply). Developmental Level: First-time swimmers & those 10 and under. Registration opens on March 1.

Lifeguard Training for ages 15 years or older in May. Various courses are offered, visit the website to register.

Mark your calendars, the 2nd Annual Earth Day in the Commons sponsored by NOPEC on Saturday, April 29 from 1 to 4pm featuring North East Ohio's many environmental organizations with music, activities, live animal experiences & more!

And, Parma Heights Recreation is hiring seasonal staff for: Lifeguards, Pool Customer Service, Deck Crew, Park Maintenance and Umpires. For more info, call 440-884-9606.

For more information and to register, visit http://parmaheightsoh.gov/en-us/recreation.aspx

http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/ https://www.facebookcom/ CityofParmaHeights/

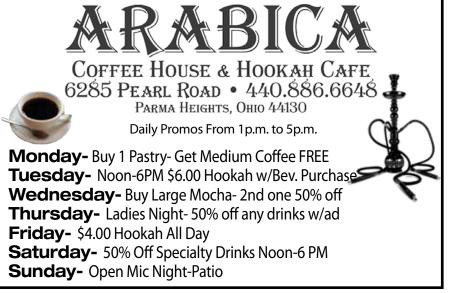
Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.

So, You're Ready To Buy A Home

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host So, You're Ready to Buy a Home on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Presented by Akron Cleveland Realtors Association, learn about the home buying process from what steps to take and what to expect when entering the home buying market. In-person program. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.orgor call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.







PARMA HEIGHTS

Favorite Valentine's Day Gifts From Parma Heights Small Businesses

by Emery Pinter

Valentine's Day is tricky to shop for, but you want to mark the occasion with something special. While telling your significant other, best friend, or family member how much you love them is what matters the most, giving a small gift is always appreciated. Rather than shopping from big-box retailers, try buying your gift from a small business. Not only will it make your gift feel a bit more special and unique, by supporting smaller, local stores, you'll spread the love in more ways than one!

Looking for a Valentine's Day gift for your book loving beloved? Check out Good Friends Thrift, 6369 Pearl Road. There are books to put you in the mood for romance (or seeking a story of heartbreak that will trigger a good cry)

Then walk next door to Samosky's Home Bakery where they plan to spread the love this Valentine's Day with themed products. Valentine's Day Cookies, Valentine's Day Cupcakes or order your own Be Mine Pink/Red Val-

entine's Cake. If sparkly diamonds aren't happening, then sparkly cookies and cupcakes will have to do.

Whether you're making a romantic escape or considering a fancy dinner date, you still need an appropriate gift. Thee Tree House, 6269 Pearl Road, has the holistic and aesthetic items to make your Valentine experiences, blissful and memorable. Let them help you pick out the perfect gift for you and your sweetie: essential oils, candles, incense, organic tea, body care products, spiritual gifts, soaps, dreamcatchers, crystals, or a gift certificate!

To help you find something special that won't break the bank, visit Village Cards & Gifts, 6643 Pearl Road. Linda has gifts under \$25, \$15, and \$10 for all types of Valentines, from traditional tokens of affection like stuffed animals and a great selection of Valentine cards to puzzles, spa/beauty products, and clothing. For a gift that's romantic and memorable, jewelry is the way to go. Jewelry is the best Valentine's Day

gift a girl could receive. Flowers will wilt, chocolate is devoured in a matter of minutes, but jewelry will last her a lifetime. Earrings, bracelets, charms. For something chic, and simple, jewelry shows how much you care about her and her jewelry collection.

Be creative and find ways to spread non-intimate sentiments of love to those who simply need someone to care. 168 Optical at 6315 #206 Pearl Rd has unique face planters that also function as an eyeglasses holder. Bring the whimsical face planter to life. Use any variety of plant to personalize it as a hairstyle, keep or remove the glasses, and watch its personality grow! An excellent Valentine's gift for friends and family, teachers, or for yourself.

Lastly, may I suggest you also celebrate the love you have for yourself. There's little reason not to think of the day as an excuse to buy something nice for yourself. However you choose to celebrate, I wish you and yours a Happy Valentine's Day!



Meet Fox 8 Co-Anchor And Author Wayne Dawson

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Meet Fox 8 Co-anchor and Author Wayne Dawson on Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Wayne Dawson will visit and discuss his new memoir The Seeds of Greatness are within You. Eleven-time Emmy winner and Kent State University alum and co-

anchor of Fox 8 News in the Morning and ordained minister, Wayne Dawson will share his inspiring journey towards achievement, excellence and purposeful living. Books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of the publisher. In-person program. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.orgor call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.





INSPIRATION

New In February

by Erin Lally

Looking back at 2022 as my first full year as director of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, I can't help but reflect upon the good we have done. We started the year with a COVID sign-in protocol and kept track of how many people came through our doors last year - 18,000 older adults came to exercise, socialize, have lunch, play pool, work on a puzzle, dance, or attend a special program.

The YMCA has a satellite office here - the largest in NE Ohio - offering Silver Sneakers exercise classes every day. Last year, 16,000 people swiped in with the YMCA. They are an incredibly valuable community partner and we are very lucky to have them here.

After asking our members to complete a survey in November, my staff

reviewed the results and feedback, we decided to schedule special programs on Mondays and Friday at 12:30 p.m. throughout the year. We will be hosting a community partner breakfast in early February and hope to fill our calendar with all kinds of new and interesting programs.

On Mondays in February, we have our popular and frequently requested program "Show-n-Tell" so bring a treasure and share it with us. Cuyahoga Recycles will be here with a "Recycling Right" program to share what you can and cannot recycle. We'll be closed on Monday, February 25th for President's Day but the last Monday of the month we are partnering with our next door neighbor the CCPL Parma-Powers branch to watch a comedy movie "Old Goats".

Friday programs at 12:30 p.m. kick



off with "What is Self Care" from our partner the Hospice of the Western Reserve. The last Friday of the month and throughout the year (with the exception of October) is reserved for our new Veterans Group led by former American Legion Commander Tony Kessler. We asked our veteran members to provide us with a 5x7 photo of themselves and our partner Frank Gentile from The Frame Shop is donating the mat and frames. Friday, February 24th will be the first official meeting of this group and rededication of Our Veterans wall.

Our transportation program is as busy as ever, especially since we are providing out-of-town rides to doctor appointments now. Last year we provided over 5,000 rides for grocery shopping, doctor appointments and more...averaging 25 rides a day. This

month we are taking a few local bus trips. We will be conducting local public safety tours of Parma Fire Station #2 and the Parma Justice Center. On Valentine's Day, we are providing bus rides to the Fuji Grill Buffet in Midtown Plaza for a "Love Your Lunch" expedition.

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) is having a free "Faux Watercolor" workshop on Tuesday, February from 12:30-3:00 p.m. This class is offered free courtesy of a grant received by Cuyahoga County Arts &

Culture. Space is limited. Our Center is open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and everyone ages 55+ are welcome to come and enjoy all we have to offer to keep you engaged and thriving and as

our logo says to "Keep on Growing."

Heart For The Community

by Kathryn Mabin

Over the past few years, the volunteers involved with the 501(c)3 non-profit, We Are Parma Proud, have worked tirelessly to advance and support the city's image. They created and published the first ever, Parma's Visitor Guide, hosted family friendly events like Picnic in the Park, and Frosty's Fest, sponsored and organized Trash Crawls, engaged the community through online photo contests and brought you the fireworks after Rib 'n Rock n 2022.

February 17, 2023, 7 to 10 PM

they are holding their first ever fundraiser, Heart for the Community, at the Union House Bar and Restaurant, 2713 Brookpark Rd. Tickets are \$25 per person and will include food, beer and wine. Attendees will have the chance to win numerous raffle baskets, sideboards and more.

Tickets are available in advance Facebook.com/WeAreParthrough maProud, or at the door. For more information email ParmaProud-Fundraising@Gmail.com or 440-263-0507.

Faith Community Directory

All Faiths Pantry

P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329

allfaithspantry.org

All Saints Episcopal Church

8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055 parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230 www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Divinity Lutheran Church

11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060

www.divinitylutheran.com The Islamic Center of Cleveland

6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786

www.iccleveland.org **Ridgewood United Methodist Church**

6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360

www.ridgewoodumc.org St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434

www.Stbridgetparma.com **Holy Family Catholic Church**

7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533 www,holyfamparma.org

Parma Christian Church 7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614 www.parmachristianchurch.org

Your choice for quality short-term rehabilitation

Providing quality health care services for seniors since 1953, we are pleased to offer short-term rehabilitation services and programs.



6765 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134 www.mountalvernavillage.com/np (440) 843-7800

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago



NEIGHBORHOODS

New Year New Hope

by Tony Biasiotta

Being my first 2023 submission to the Parma Observer, I want to start by wishing everyone a belated healthy and Happy New Year. Next, I would like to share with you a quote from Benjamin Franklin—"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better [person]."

This February we will be the very sad 1-year anniversary of Mr. Putin's unprovoked and evil invasion of Ukraine. Last month I was privileged to honor a holocaust survivor on her 101st birthday. She was kind enough to share a little of her story with me. She was born in Belgrade to a father with successful business and lived a comfortable life. Once Hitler started World War II her dreams were shattered. Being Jewish, her family was stripped of everything and sent to a concentration camp. I share this story with you as reminder that freedom is never to be taken for granted and to paraphrase President Reagan "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.....It must be fought for, protected and handed on...." We as a community need to heed both warnings and remain ever vigilant against tyranny wherever and whatever form it takes.

On the local front, the City of Seven Hills finds itself saying good-

bye to a very productive 2022 and look forward to an even better 2023. Financially speaking, we once again finished the year in good shape. We wrapped up the year with an approximate \$1,000,000 general fund surplus that was ultimately transferred to our capital fund. We most likely will put these funds towards our 2023 road program. Moody's continues to assign Seven Hills a rating of Aa3. The rating indicates the City's debt obligations are of high quality and subject to very low credit risk. The higher the rating, the lower interest rates on new debt issues, which helps save taxpayer dollars.



Think of it as an individual's credit score.

Our Park master plan continues to move forward. Our volleyball courts have been renovated and improved. Playground equipment was added to Cricket Park. Bocce Courts were completed in Summitview Commons (City Hall by the pavilion). These courts can also serve our upcoming cornhole leagues. Leagues will be forming this

spring / summer bocce leagues and all we be welcome to join. Outdoor fitness equipment is being added to North Park and lighting was restored to our horseshoe pits at Calvin. Phase 1 of the Parks Master Plan is nearly complete. ADA accessible bathrooms have been added to Meijer, Summitview Commons, Calvin, and John Glenn Parks.

Taste Of Polish Village

by Kathryn Mabin

On Saturday February 25, 2023 from 5 to 7 PM Polish Village Parma, Inc., a non-profit, is holding the Taste of Polish Village. This very popular event is held at St. Charles Parish Hall Basement, located at 5891 Ridge Rd. For \$20 per person you receive a sampling of the various foods the Polish Village business district has to offer and a beverage. With numerous food stations you won't go home hungry. These are from local businesses you may have driven by and not yet had the opportunity to

try out. Your old favorites from along Ridge Road will be there and you may find a new favorite from the among the multiple food stations. In addition there will be raffle baskets and side boards for your entertainment. Enjoy an assortment of good food with your neighbors for a worthwhile cause to help your community thrive.

Proceeds from this event are used to fund events and projects held in the Polish Village community, such as the Polish Constitution Day Parade and After Party held in May, and the annual Treat & Greet in October, or the flowers and decorations in the pots in Polish Village, Christmas wreaths at various locations, Trash Crawls, Ward 2 Garage Sale, the maintenance of the Pocket Park on Ridge Road, and much more.

To preorder your tickets call 440-885-8093. Or email PolishVillageParma@gmail.com. Follow Polish Village on Facebook. Seating is limited so don't hesitate.



PERSPECTIVE

A Unique President At A Pivotal Time In History

by Lee Kamps

Sunday January 22,2023 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Lyndon Johnson, our country's 36th President. Many people my age remember the time when he was our President. To say that he was a unique character as well as a controversial President is an understatement. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit the LBJ Ranch and National Historic Site near Stonewall Texas in the hill country about an hour's drive west of Austin as well as the LBJ Library and Museum on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin. Since President's Day is this month, here is some information about our 36th President.

Lyndon Johnson grew up rather poor in the Texas hill country. He attended the Texas State Teacher's College and became a teacher. The first school where he taught during the Great Depression was in a poor part of Texas. He witnessed the effects of poverty and the lack of education for many people living in poverty,

It was clear that he was very ambitious. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1937 at the age of 28. He served in the House until he was elected to the Senate in 1948. His Senate victory was by only 87 votes, earning the derisive nickname of "landslide Lyndon". He soon became the leader in the Senate Democratic caucus and became the chair of that caucus in 1953



during his first term in the Senate.

In 1960, the Democratic party's nominee, John F Kennedy asked Lyndon Johnson to be his Vice President mostly to "balance the ticket" so he would win the votes from southern Democrats. Also, JFK knew that LBJ was a force in the Senate who could help enact legislation. Lyndon Johnson was in the motorcade in Dallas when JFK was assassinated in 1963. We all remember the photo of him taking the oath of office on the airplane back to Washington DC with Jackie Kennedy at his side,

As President, Lyndon Johnson was able to get the Civil Rights Act, that had been stalled in the Senate passed and enacted. That was one of the most important pieces of legislation passed in the 20th century as it prohibited discrimination because of race, ethnicity, religion and gender in hiring, housing, public transit and accommodation across the nation. Also in 1964, LBJ was able to get the food stamp program enacted. That was started by JFK who was influenced by the fact that many poor were going hungry in the United States while farmers were complaining about low crop prices. To this day, the food stamp program, now called SNAP, has been part of the Agriculture Department.

In 1964, running for a full term, LBJ won in a landslide over Barry Goldwater, the Republican candidate. On the heels of that landslide victory, in 1965 saw a flurry of important legislation enacted into law. Among the legislation enacted were federal aid to education, the Head Start Program, the Voting Rights Act the establishment of Medicare and Medicaid, public television and the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1968 the Fair Credit and Housing Act was enacted that prohibited certain discriminatory practices in the granting of mortgages and credit.

But what Lyndon Johnson's presidency is most remembered now is that he got the United States deeply involved in the War in Vietnam. When LBJ became President in November 1963, there were only about 20,000 American troops stationed in Vietnam. Three weeks before JFF's assassination, the government of South Vietnam was overthrown in a military coup and the family of the President were assassinated. At the time, JFK was questioning why we were propping up such an unstable and corrupt government.

Following an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964, LBJ asked and the congress passed with only two dissenting votes in the Senate a resolution granting the President authority to take whatever action he deemed necessary to deal with the North Vietnamese. That Gulf of Tonkin resolution was a de facto declaration of war against North Vietnam, according to

continued on page 10





OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse:

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

Go here to learn more & register for "Thriving Youth Summit – Survivors and Systems Coming Together to End Youth Trafficking". February 17th-18th, 2022; a hands-on working conference led by the Community Innovation Network at Case Western Reserve University. General admission is free.

If you are a provider of resources/ services to survivors of human trafficking go here to download the Resource Guide of Supportive Services.

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center: has made available: 10 Things To Know About Sex Trafficking. Go here to view & print off a copy.

• is offering free Ambassador Training for anyone interested in getting involved. Go here to learn more.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPOR-TUNITIES: Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www. parmaobserver.com/read/news

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

RISE (An initiative of the Schmidt Futures & the Rhoades Trust) - NSF Racial Equity in STEM Education - Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation - Big Lots Corporation - Walmart 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 City Schools:

save the Date – Mark your calendars for the district's 3RD ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT - 10 am, Saturday, April 1st, at Byers Field. Participant sign-up will go out in March. Click hereto sign up as a volunteer and/or to donate Eggs.

The Parma Area Chamber will be hosting Dr. Smialek's State of the Schools luncheon presentation w/networking starting at 11:30 am, on Tuesday, Feb. 16th at Parma Sr. H.S.'s Red Rees Rm.; cost is \$20 for PACC members and \$25 for non-members.

Call 440-886-1700 or email executive-director@parmaareachamber.org with your reservation/s by Feb. 9th.

Go here to read the Jan, 10th consolidation questions and comments..

The Sword & Shield, PCSD's culinary program located at Normandy H.S. is now open on Thursdays and Fridays for lunch. Learn more and order here.

Community walking & swimming is now available at our three high schools from December – May. Go here for details and schedules.

Click here to learn more about the Student Banking Program for kids in grades K-4 and go here to learn about the Invader Style Salon at Normandy H.S. opened to the public on Wednesday – Friday.

From Parma Council of PTA:

For 6th, 7th & 8th-grade students...the well-regarded PCPTA Babysitting Course is being offered Mar, 4th & Mar. 11, from 8:30 amnoon at the Parma Sr. H.S. Cafeteria. The cost is \$30; go here for details & to register.

Kalahari Night Fundraiser will be Thursday, March 16th. Register by February 16th to avoid being shut out. Go here for details.

From Ohio Dept. of Education... Is working to help ensure all Ohioans have access to high-speed internet. Go here for details and make sure to check the reported availability of internet at your home address by going to broad-

From IOBY (In Our Back Yard)...

bandmap.fcc.gov.

From their website: "...gives local leaders the ability to CROWDFUND the resources they need to build real lasting change from (and for) their communities...". If your organization is having difficulty funding a new program/service/project, etc., IOBY might be the answer. Click on the link above to visit their main website or here to see what IOBY is doing in Greater Cleveland.

From the Summit County ESC... If you are a District Administrator or School-Based Mental Health Provider tasked with overseeing various wellness initiatives and are looking for guidance and support, consider joining "The "WE" in Wellness Network". Learn more

From Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation... SAVE THE DATE; Thursday, May 4 – Saturday, May 6, 2023, for the VIRTUAL Medical & Health Symposium. Registration will open later this month.Go here for

details

From Search Institute:

To learn more about the importance of Developmental Relationships,go here to sign up and downloadtheir free, easy-to-read summary document that covers, What Are Developmental Relationships, Key Elements, Strategies for Building, Success Stories, and more.

If you're at all interested in pursuing how you might change the culture of relationships in your organization go here to complete a request for a Strategic Consultation

Go here to check out their most recent Blogs. And, click here to learn more about building connections which includes "12 Conversation Starters to Help You Engage Young People". This one is worth a visit.

What's a "SPARK"? Sparks are what get young people to look up from their hand-held devices, jump out of bed in the morning, and feel connected to and inspired by the world around them. When students know and act upon their sparks, and have adults that support them, they often do better in school, develop important life skills, and feel more positive about the future. Go here to download a free activity.

Read the rest of this article online with hotlinks @parmaobserver.com

AARP Tax Aide - Free Tax Preparation

b7 Stephen Donovan

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program will be getting underway again this year starting the first week in February and ending the 14th of April 2023. This IRS-supported FREE tax service is offered on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. We give special attention to those with low or moderate incomes and/or aged 60 and older. Taxpayers do NOT have to be retired or a member of AARP.

Tax-Aide sites in southwest Cuyahoga County are located at:

Parma Powers Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6996 Powers Blvd., Parma, OH 44129. Appointments on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Parma Powers Library and complete sign-up book or

call 440-885-5362.

Strongsville Methodist Church (new site), 13500 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136. Appointments on Mondays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment go to the Church and complete sign-up book or call (440) 238-6135.

Brook Park United Methodist Church, 6220 Smith Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. Appointments on Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Call 216-676-4738 Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM for an appointment.

Middleburg Heights Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 16699 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Middleburg Heights Library and complete sign-up book or call 440234-3600

North Royalton Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 5071 Wallings Road, North Royalton, OH 44133. Appointments on Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM.To make an appointment, go to the North Royalton Library and complete sign-up book or call 440-237-3800.

Brecksville Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 9089 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH 44141. Appointments on Fridays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Brecksville Library and complete signup book or call 440-526-1102.

We are opening fewer sites than in past years due to a reduced number of volunteers. Appointments will be taken starting the first week of January 2023 except for Parma Powers, which will start January 9, 2023.

PROBATE OF ESTATES

Contact us for a free consultation Parmatown Mayfield Heights (440) 843-8400 or (440) 461-8500

Have you?

- Been injured in an auto accident?
- Been injured due to medical malpractice?
- Been attacked by a dog?
 Been burt as a result of a
- Been hurt as a result of a fall at a business or another residence?
 Been injured at work?
 YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE A MONETARY

SETTLEMENT FOR YOUR INJURIES AND EXPENSES.

Call us for a

Free Consultation

At Russo, Rosalina, & Co., we fully explore the questions you have – or should have concerning any injury you have suffered.

PROBATE OF ESTATES If you have suffered the loss of a loved one, our office will promptly handle the estate for you. There is no charge to discuss a probate matter with us.

WRONGFUL DEATH

If you have suffered an injury or the loss of a loved one due to someone else's negligence, you and/or your family may be entitled to compensation. Call us for a free consultation.

AUTO ACCIDENTS

If you have been injured in an auto accident, you may be entitled to receive a money settlement for your injuries and expenses. We also handle injury claims involving slip

and fall, dog bites and medical malpractice. Call us for a free consultation. WILLS — ONLY \$4000

If you die without a Will, the state decides who inherits your property. This can only create hardship and financial problems for the ones you love. The cost of a will is only \$40. This price will remain in effect for 30 days. Our firm also prepares Living Wills, Durable Powers of Attorney, Deeds & Trusts.

ttomey, Deeds & Trusts. CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC OFFENSES

We provide experienced representation for Driving Under the Influence offenses, Driving Under Suspension offenses, Domestic Violence charges and all Misdemeanor and Felony charges.

DIVORCE

When divorce seems to be the only answer, we can provide the professional advice you need to make sound decisions about your future. Know your rights concerning alimony, child support, and pension benefits



OBSERVER



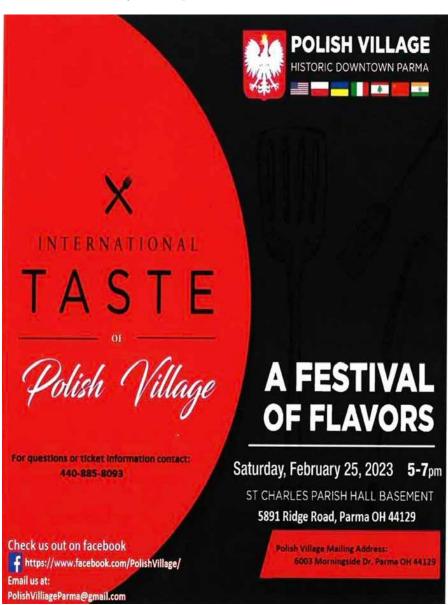
Lots of folks came out to enjoy the end of the year at Winterfest at the Keystone Pavillion in the Metroparks Westcreek Reservation on 1-30-22.

Winterfest- A New Tradition

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On December 30, Ward 6 Councilman Kevin Kussmaul and Ward 9 Councilman Robert Euerle began a new tradition when they hosted the first Winterfest at the Keystone Pavillion in the Metroparks Westcreek Reservation. Luckily for them and all of those in attendance, the weather was exceptionally mild for that time of year. There were many people who took advantage of the climate conditions to come out and really enjoy themselves in this beautiful outdoor setting. There was a wonderful fire in the grand fireplace,

hot chocolate, s'mores and other delicacies, crafts for the children to keep busy, and plenty of good times and holiday cheer. Celebrating the end of another year among friends is a whole lot of fun, and since Clevelanders are such a hearty bunch, it didn't really matter much at all what the weather was doing, as long as citizens were enjoying themselves and the company of their friends and neighbors. Three cheers for our two young councilmen and their willingness to engage their constituents and try new things.





Crime Tip Line (440) 887-7340 crimetips@parmajustice.net www.cityofparmapolice.com

Emergency - 911

Non Emergency - (440) 885-1234

Valley Forge High School Spring Craft Fair This March

by Jodi Moriarty

The 24th Annual Valley Forge High School Spring Craft Show will be on Saturday March 18th from 10am-3pm.

Admission is FREE!!

Each spring the boys and girls Cross Country and Swim teams host this annual event; the primary fundraiser for both teams. All proceeds are then funneled to support the athletes in their conditioning and training endeavors.

There will be vendors featuring holiday decorations, ceramics, jewelry, hand knits, candles, purses, kitchen items, local artists, handmade soap and beauty products, gourmet candies and pastries, local honey, Easter items, your favorite direct sales vendors, and so much more...

There is something for everyone, so come out and support local crafters and our High School Athletes!

The Valley Forge High School Cross Country and Swim Teams will be hosting a concession stand with breakfast, premium lunch food items, and refreshing Iced Coffee! All proceeds directly benefit the Boys and Girls Cross Country and Swim Teams.

In addition to manning concessions, student athletes will be available to help vendors set up and assist in take down and moving equipment, as well as take food orders and make deliveries to tables. These tasks help the students gain interpersonal communication and social skills that will benefit them now and in their future endeavors.

There are limited vendor slots still available.

If you are interested in reserving a table, or for more information please email vfspringcraftshow@gmail.com or visit https://www.facebook.com/ ValleyForgeSpringCraftShow/

A Unique President At A Pivotal Time In History

continued from page 8

many historians.

From that time, draft calls and combat casualties, including deaths, began increasing until in 1968, there were over 500,000 combat troops stationed in Vietnam and over 14,000 Americans were killed in 1968 alone. Ultimately over 58,000 Americans were killed in Vietnam, including 15 from Valley Forge High School and four from my gradating class of 1966.

Things started to unravel for LBJ as American casualties mounted in Vietnam. At first, they were simple protests for peace. But in November 1967, almost a quarter million people marched for peace in Vietnam. It was becoming very clear that in the election of 1968, Vietnam would be the big issue. On March

31,1968, Lyndon Johnson announced on national television that he would not be a candidate in 1968. Four days later Martin Luther King Jr would be assassinated in Memphis.

He left office on January 20,1969 and retired to his LBJ ranch in Texas until his death at the age of 64. He is buried on that ranch in a grove of trees along side of his wife "Lady Bird" Johnson, who died in 2007 at the age of 95. The LBJ Ranch is now a National Historic site and on that site are the first school where LBJ taught in 1934 as well as the church where the first Head Start program was established. I strongly recommend visiting the LBJ Ranch and National Historic Site if one is in the vicinity of Austin Texas. It is also a working ranch just as it was when LBJ lived on the property.

Councilman Vito Dipierro Takes On New Role As Parma Council President

continued from page 1

worked with Vito over the last several years. He will do a great job in the leadership role of president of council. He prides himself on open communication and dialogue with all members of council in order to do what is best for all residents," said Parma Clerk of Council Kristin Saban, who previously was Ward 4 councilwoman before taking on her new position following Ken Ramser's retirement last fall.

Mastroianni explained because Dipierro was an independent when elected, the role of naming his replacement falls to City Coun-

cil. Council members will be voting to appoint the Ward 1 vacancy on Monday, Feb. 6. The position was posted Jan. 18 through Jan. 27. Applicants submitted resumes to the clerk of council's attention, and the resumes were sent to all council members for review. "I look forward to working with Council President Dipierro in his new role. He has years of experience as a councilperson and will bring that knowledge and perspective to this position," said Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery & Boutique, located at 5411 Pearl Rd is featuring author Thomas Tobie, Friday, Feburary 3rd, 4:30 to 7:30 PM. Tobie's new book titled "Bobby's Shivery Shadow Book" is a fun and spooky book for tweens. Artwork by Laura D'Alessandro inspired by the stories is hanging in the gallery through Saturday, February 4th. Coming Soon, February 24 through March 19, is a group show, no theme, with numerous artists, titled "Now That's What I Call Art #1" at Prama. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram for future events. While visiting Prama, stop at the many unique food and beverage establishments located on Ridge and Pearl Roads. Shop small, shop local and often. You won't be sorry you did.

Sean Mabin's photo portrait of Karlis Dinbergs on a paw paw leaf, is on exhibit at the Yards Project at Worthington Yard, located at 725 Johnson Court in Cleveland. The exhibition is titled Foot Squared Exhibition and runs through March 18th. This exhibit features over 100 artists working within a 12x12 square. This exhibit is offered in partnership with the newly created 501(c)3 non-profit, Assembly for the Arts.

Katie Harroff & Donata Rahne, local artists, donated artwork to Cornerstone of Hope, in Independence, a center for grieving children, teens, and adults. Founded 2003, they have created a comprehensive bereavement support center with themed rooms to hold support groups, individual counseling, and educational and training courses. The artwork will be included in their 20th Anniversary Gala Fundraiser on February 25th at the Downtown Hilton Hotel.

Parma Area Fine Arts Council, is continuing to offer FREE monthly creative workshops using various mediums. On February 21, 2023, 12:30 to 2:30 PM at the Donna Smallwood Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. Amanda Nyx of Fiercely Serene Studio,

will be offering her Faux Watercolor Workshop. This is a fun, inexpensive, beginner, creative abstract watercolor class. Participants will take home 2 to 3 completed projects. If you are interested in participating in these free workshops email kathrynmabin@att. net to register, or for more information. These workshops are brought to you in part through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the cigarette tax.

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



Portrait of Karlis Ginbergs on a paw paw leaf

have a critic on the last Tuesday. Coffee and friendship is provided. If you are interested stop in and join them.

New Year New Hope

continued from page 7

An outdoor pavilion was also added to John Glenn Park as well. The major component of Phase 1B, the Lodge at North Park (all season pavilion), will break ground this winter. Phase 2, which includes the Splash Pad at Calvin, should break ground in the spring with the final phase, Phase 3 to commence in late summer/ early fall. These improvements represent only an approximate 40% of the overall plan.

We continue to be highly successful in our partnership's efforts. Since

we last spoke, Cuyahoga County Council awarded Seven Hills a \$250,000 grant. This grant was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds were specifically granted to be applied to our new all-seasons pavilion Our water task force continues to work on multiple upgrades. Next up is further drainage improvements along the eastern edge of Calvin Park, and then the dredging of Driftwood Basin. Our 2023 Road Resurfacing Program is already in motion. Streets to be resurfaced this year include Bryant Lane, St. Francis Drive, Applewood

Drive, Cricket Lane (north of Jasmine Drive), Somerset Lane, E. Parkhaven Drive, Greenlawn Drive, Lotus Lane, Justo Lane, S. Cricket Lane, and Jasmine Drive. This represents another \$2.2 million investment in our roads. Some streets, based on need, will receive new curbs and gutters, bring the total road investment in 2023 to a little over \$3 million.

I'm going to wrap up with a popular new year's toast "Here's to a bright New Year and a fond farewell to the old; here's to the things that are yet to come, and to the memories that we hold."





Pleasant Lake Villa

Skilled Nursing · Rehabilitation · Long Term Care · Assisted Living



Five Star Quality Measures

by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Come experience premier health care with all the touches of home – and more. At Pleasant Lake Villa, we make it our priority to provide you with high quality care, spacious accommodations and the comforts of home.

Clinical Specialty Programs

Physician driven programs with on-site rounding by each specialist in:

Cardiology • Orthopedics • Nephrology • Pulmonology • Psychiatry On-site Hemodialysis partnered with CDC

Amenities and services:

- 60 private short term rehab suites with private bathroom and shower
- Medications administered by 24-hour nursing staff
- Visiting physicians, including dentist, optometrist and podiatrist
- 24-hour personal response system
- Secure Dementia unit
- Beautiful, secure and private courtyard for residents to enjoy fresh air
- Medical model assisted living
- Non-Denominational chapel

- Housekeeping, personal laundry and linen services
- Barber shop and beauty salon services
- Complimentary in-house cable television and in-suite internet and phone service
- Aromatherapy/gentle massage. The use of essential oils and lotions helps reduce stress for the resident
- Music stimulation, which includes using instruments, provides an invigorating experience provoking improved memory and coordination
- Gardening, cooking and arts and crafts

For more information or a tour, call 440-842-2273



Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

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

www.lhshealth.com