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4th Annual Parma Heights Citizens Police Academy

by Marie Gallo

Have you ever wanted to learn more about how the local police forces impact the community? The Parma Heights Police Department welcomes residents to participate in the 4th Annual Parma Heights Citizens Police Academy. The program is held in conjunction with Cuyahoga Community College from March 22nd through May 24th.

The Citizens Police Academy provides a stronger level of understanding among committed community members who wish to partake in their local police department. The purpose of the program is to develop a greater sense of safety by fostering relationships between officers and the community.

Space is limited to 25 participants and registration ends March 10th. Participants need to fill out an application and it

is first-come, first-served. The Parma Heights Citizens Police Academy is a ten-week program, that meets once a week for three hours; interested participants are asked to commit to attend the full session. Attendees will also have an option to participate in a ride-along with officers on shift.

Detective Eric Taylor said, “the Citizens Police Academy gives residents a glimpse of what we do and why we do things. We believe this helps provide a better understanding of the police department.” Some of the topics covered throughout the sessions include: calls made to dispatch, radio traffic to the police officers, crime scene investigation, search and seizure, financial crimes, Narcan, CPR training, and much more.

“The training covers a wide

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Hometown Heroes... Newly Formed Senior Veteran Group Finds A Home In Parma

by Henry "Tony" Kessler

An overflow crowd of Senior Veterans, spouses, and veteran supporters, were present to see the unveiling of the Veterans wall ("Our Wall") and the introduction of a newly formed senior veterans' meetup group. The Donna Smallwood Activities Center in Parma hosted the event and will be the meeting home for the newly formed "Parma Area Senior Veterans" a meetup group for senior veterans in Parma and surrounding cities and communities.

Smallwood director Erin Lally led off the meeting with the pledge of allegiance followed by Michele Wisniewski of "Voice of Honor" with the singing of the National Anthem. Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter was the keynote speaker and talked about the support the city gives to it's Veterans and how exciting it is to have a group meetup home for our Senior Veterans. Director Lally indicated that there was still openings on the wall for more pictures and any veterans wanting to be represented on the wall need only submit a 5X7 photo (preferably in uniform) with name, branch of



I am addressing the assembly in the early stages of the meeting, as Parma Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis looks on.

service and years of service. The only stipulation is you must be a member of the Smallwood Activity center, membership is only \$10.00 per year.

Senior Veterans Group founder and administrator, Tony Kessler (yours truly) gave an overview of the objective of the Senior Veteran Group, stating that many veterans, especially seniors, are seeking the camaraderie of other veterans who have the same experiences and challenges and can relate to each other. The Donna Smallwood Activities Center is the perfect venue for this group. Having fun, socializing, meeting new people is one of the main objectives of the

group. Information and education is also a prime benefit of belonging. The group will meet the last Friday of every month and will feature guest speakers each month from various Veterans and senior organizations with benefits and topics relating to the needs of senior benefits. A Facebook page has also been setup as an information source where members can get answers to questions and chat with other members on a daily basis.

Kessler also noted that plans are already in the works to schedule bus excursions to various veteran and military museums attractions and

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Council Appoints Replacement In Ward 1

In the November 2021 election, Parma Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro, who had been an independent candidate for all of his nearly 10 years in the seat, won a resounding victory over his Democratic challenger by nearly 68%. In the summer of 2022, some 8 months later, he unexpectedly switched to the Democratic Party. In the Fall it was revealed that he hoped to fill the seat vacated when the Parma City Council President won election to the Ohio House of Representatives. On 1/14/23 the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, in a partisan Central Committee procedure voted to appoint Dipierro to fill the vacant Democratic seat.

The vacant Ward 1 Council seat was still an independent

seat, so the 8 remaining members of Parma City Council were faced with appointing a Ward 1 resident to fill the seat until the November 2023 election. Council had not filled a vacant seat in a non-partisan selection since the 1990's. The position was advertised, applications and resumes were submitted and considered. A special council meeting was held on 2/1/23 where there were 4 applicants interviewed by council members. The Ward 2 council representative was not present for the meeting, nor was the new Council President, and the special meeting was not rescheduled to include

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month was submitted by Mary Bonness. It includes her grandchildren Brielle and Brenden who posed for a Father's Day gift picture for their dad Shawn Ward. She will receive a gift card for Chuppa's Marketplace, as well as a free car wash courtesy of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash. Pictures can be emailed for the monthly contest to Sean Patrick Brennan at brennanforohio@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

In recent days I attended Governor DeWine's State of the State Address, in which he outlined his spending priorities, and have spent countless hours reading his 631-page, \$200 billion biennial (two-year) state operating budget proposal. The 2024 – 2025 state budget, which calls for a 12.7% increase in spending over the previous budget, begins with the Governor's proposal to the Ohio General Assembly. The General Assembly will spend the next several months reviewing and amending the budget proposal. It must be approved by the Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate and signed by the Governor by June 30. Below I have outlined some of the highlights of the Governor's proposal. Remember, this is just the proposal and can change drastically as it moves through the process. I will be deeply involved in the budgeting process to help ensure that it is balanced and that it addresses our communities' needs. To read my entire summary, visit my website at <https://ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan> or call me at 614-466-3485 for a hard copy.

Senior Citizen Programs

- *\$40 million in Healthy Aging Grants to over 55 local partners to implement nutrition and social connectedness projects.
- *Increased resources and caregiver



State Representative Sean Brennan

supports by investing in the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Respite Line, increasing access to dementia education by 100% and personal care services by 50%. Funding will also support the establishment of a statewide dementia coordinator to ensure greater continuity of resources for all impacted by dementia.

- *Forming a task force to investigate issues surrounding the quality of care at Ohio's 960 nursing homes and requiring quality incentives related to

future state funding.

Primary and Secondary Education

*Continue to fund and implement the Cupp-Patterson Plan – Also known as the Fair School Funding Plan, it addresses the unconstitutional funding of Ohio's schools over the years which forces public schools to overly rely on property taxes for funding. However, the General Assembly has not funded the Plan fully.

- *Providing school resource officers in every public and private school in Ohio that wants one.

Tax Policy

* Local Government and Libraries Funds (Increase from 1.66% to 1.7% of General Revenue Fund tax revenues) – This is something that I will be keeping a close eye on, as these are tax dollars the state sends back to our local communities to pay for police, fire, street, sewer, recreation, and other vital local services. Cuts to the Local Government Fund (LGF) have cost the cities in our district tens of millions of dollars over the years. I am happy that it is increasing, however, the increase does not get us close to where it was a decade ago. As Ranking Member of the State and Local Government Committee, I will be advocating to increase it to its previous levels. We deserve a better return of our tax dollars to benefit our cities.

- *Ending sales taxes on "critical infant supplies," including diapers,

wipes, cribs, car seats, strollers, and other safety equipment.

- *\$2,500 per child tax deduction

Transportation

*\$100 million for multi-modal transportation, including public transportation. I will be watching this portion of the budget closely, as public transportation is important for helping workers connect to jobs, allow seniors and disabled residents to access needed services, and reduce wear and tear on roads.

Law Enforcement

*\$40 million per year to train officers in de-escalation, use-of-force, and crisis intervention for persons with mental illness.

- *Increased funding for police body cameras.

*Fully funds the Next Generation 911 system in every Ohio community and would pay the monthly fees for any agency that uses Multi-Agency Radio Communication System (MARCS) for improved communication.

Council Appoints Replacement In Ward 1

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them. On 2/6/23 in a regular council meeting, during the appointment section, a non-partisan hiring action, in a 5-3 vote, council members selected the Democratic challenger, who was the loser in the previous election with only 32% of the vote. Council Representatives from Wards 5, 6, and 9 voted no, while the others voted yes.

Council is not required to explain their vote to replace the outgoing

councilman with the candidate who was roundly rejected in November 2021 by voters in Ward 1, effectively circumventing their vote, and Ward 1 residents must live with that decision for now. The General Election in November of 2023 will decide who the next Council Representative for Ward 1 will be, and the voters in Ward 1 will have their say at that time, since they had no part in this decision presently.

Valley Forge High School 24th Annual
Spring Craft Fair
Benefiting the Valley Forge Cross Country & Swim Teams
Mar. 18th 10am - 3pm
9999 Independence Blvd., Parma Hts.
Free admission

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Plant Based Lunches To-Go

by John Visnauskas

More and more frequently, people are remembering the importance of increasing their daily consumption of fresh vegetables and fruits. The Standard American Diet (S.A.D.) includes highly processed foods and is high in saturated fat, trans fats, processed sugars, artificial ingredients, and chemical additives. S.A.D. is also low in fiber, vitamins, minerals, and micro-nutrients, which are all important to include in a healthy diet. Nutritionists agree that S.A.D. is the primary cause of many epidemic diseases, including obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, various cancers, etc. Sadly, S.A.D. reduces the body’s natural immunity to diseases and its ability to eliminate toxins from our systems.

Baba’s Yard, a Parma based non-profit organization, is now partnering with Greater Cleveland Food Bank to

offer Whole Foods Plant Based (WFPB) lunches in Parma, at no charge to recipients. Since July of 2021, Baba’s Yard has distributed free Tuesday lunches to-go from Baba’s Yard Garden Sanctuary, located at the corner of West 30th Street and Sackett Avenue, near the Metro-Health Main Campus.

Increasingly, many restaurants now offer plant based options on their menus. Baba’s Yard makes restaurant quality plant based cuisine accessible to those who do not have the disposable income to enjoy the plant-based options at restaurants. After trying the expertly prepared entrees from Baba’s Yard, people receiving the free lunches have expressed an increased appreciation of the possibilities of freshly prepared produce and plant based protein sources. Baba’s Yard prepares food that is entirely free from meat, eggs, and milk products.

Baba’s Yard clients are texted

invitations in advance of the Tuesday lunches, and receive a personal reservation to pick up their food. For more information email babasfreekitchen@gmail.com and include your cell phone

number and the number of people in your household.

Baba’s Yard promotes food as medicine and believes everyone has a right to eat well.

There’s an English proverb: Don’t dig your grave with your fork and spoon.



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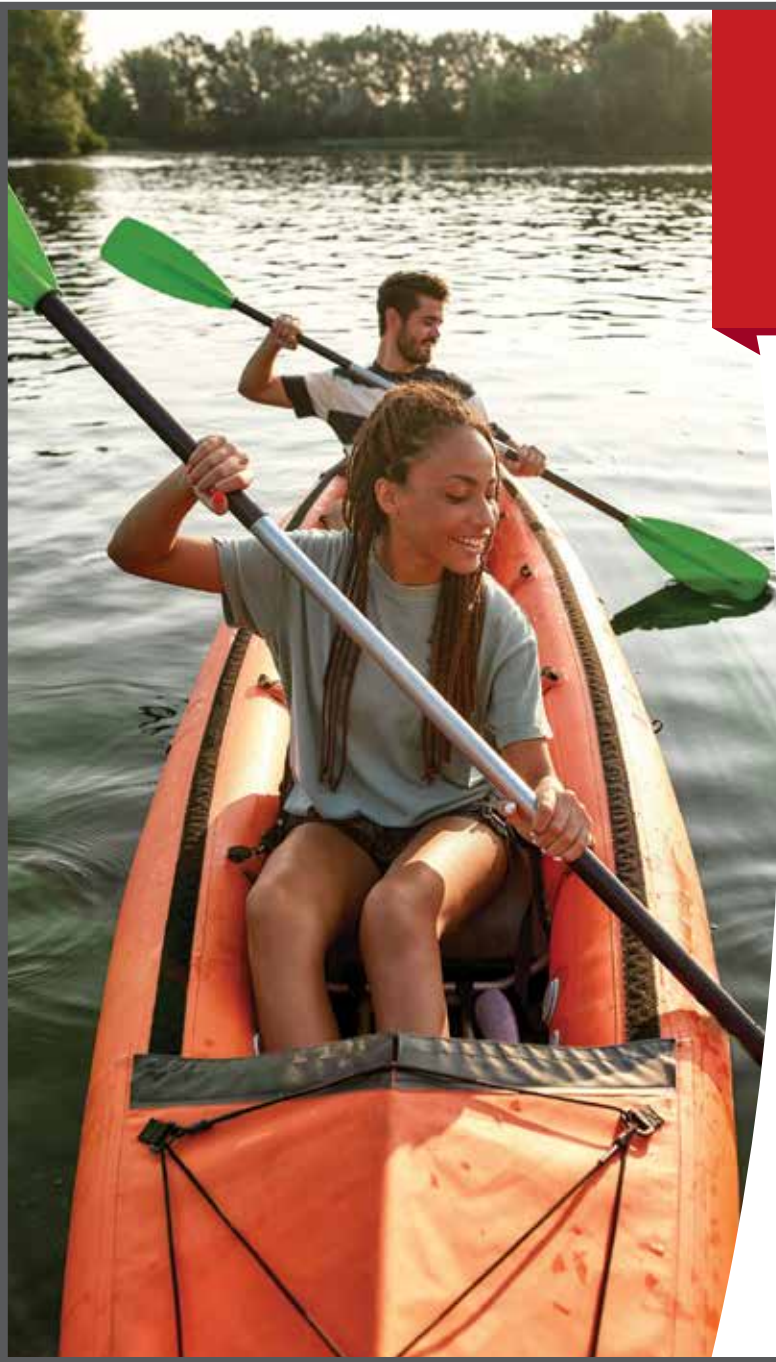
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PARMA HEIGHTS

Parma's Pizza Bake Off Is Back

from Young Professionals of Parma YPOP

The Young Professionals of Parma (YPOP), in conjunction with the cities of Parma and Parma Heights, is excited to bring back the Parma area's annual Pizza Bake Off on Thursday, April 20, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Parma's UAW Hall (5615 Chevrolet Boulevard). This indoor, family-friendly event will feature live music, beer and wine, dessert, raffles, games, entertainment, and, of course, pizza. Proceeds will

benefit the Parma Police K9 Unit. "The pandemic may have kept us from celebrating all things Parma pizza over the past two years," said YPOP president Jackie Baraona, "but we're thrilled to bring back this great indoor family event and recognize the delicious work of our many local pizza shops."]Guests of all ages from all over are invited again to enjoy sampling pizza from the area's array of ovens



— then vote for the best slice! In addition to voting for People's Choice, the event welcomes a panel of high-profile judges including Parma Chief of Police Joseph Bobak, Schnitz Ale Brewery Owner Igor Djurin, and Parma Councilwoman Kelly Zacharias who will evaluate slices on crust, sauce, and more. Entertainment will be provided throughout the night including music from The Frank and

Dean Show from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. as they transform the UAW Hall into an authentic pizza parlor with a Rat Pack style show. They'll continue to provide DJ Services to keep the party going from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will also feature a face painter, a photo booth, a magician and balloon artist from Zap Entertainment, and other activities and games for kids. The first 50/50 raffle will be pulled at 7:30 p.m., with a second pull and chance to win a beer tower at 9 p.m.

Tickets are available in advance online for \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids 6 to 12. Children 0 to 5 are free. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$18 for adults and \$12 for kids. Tickets include pop/water, a pizza-shaped cookie from Breads and Beyond Bakery, and a punch card for pizza samples. Also, enjoy beer from Parma's own Schnitz Ale Brewery, along with wine available for purchase. Save money on drink tickets when you purchase ahead of time online as well. The first 150 registrants will get early access to the event at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available now at ParmaPizza.org. Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are also available.

Valley Forge High School Spring Craft Show Only Days Away

by Jodi Moriarty

Saturday March 18th from 10am- 3pm, the Valley Forge Cross Country and Swim teams will be hosting their 24th Annual Spring Craft Show. There will be vendors featuring holiday decorations, ceramics, jewelry, hand knits, can-

dles, 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...

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.

There is something for everyone, so come out and support local crafters and our High School Athletes. Admission is FREE!!! 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/>

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CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS 2022

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PARMA HEIGHTS

Hair & Stuff 216 Beauty Supply Celebrates 5 Years This March!

by Emery Pinter

You don't have to be born with great hair to look the part. If you're in the market for wigs, hair care and skin care products you should look no further than Hair & Stuff 216 based in Parma Heights. With its roots in Parma Heights, Hair & Stuff 216 is one of the best places to go when you're shopping for hair and beauty care items.

The great thing about Hair & Stuff 216 is that one can order online and you can shop in store. Hair & Stuff 216 have products to help manage hair loss or thinning hair such as Alopecia or treatment for a chronic condition. Hair & Stuff 216 carries human hair and synthetic wigs as well as hair stimulating oils and cover up

sprays to help manage and maintain your tresses! They have staff that are available to assist you with finding items that are right for you and your hair and skin care needs. You can visit them at 6277 Pearl Road Suite D Parma Heights Ohio 44130 in the Greenbriar Center Plaza or visit them online at www.hairandstuff216.com. The store hours of operation are Monday - Friday 12-7 pm, Saturday 11-7 pm and Sunday 12-5 pm; and online 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

Hair & Stuff 216 is gearing up to celebrate their fifth year in business on Saturday March 11th from Noon-5 pm. To mark this milestone there will be a 360 Photo Booth, complimentary food and drinks, and special sale items.

Jazz Standards Of The 1940s And 1950s

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Jazz Standards of the 1940s and 1950s on Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. The Debbie Darling trio will perform jazz standards from the 1940s and 1950s and give you some of the background to the songs they perform. Registration required. In-person program. Sponsored by The Friends of Parma Heights Library.

A Tribute To Queen Elizabeth II

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host A Tribute to Queen Elizabeth II on Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Julie Koenig of Royally Amused will share a lovely tribute to Queen Elizabeth II, the longest reigning monarch in U.K. history through stories and photos. Registration required. In-person program. Sponsored by The Friends of Parma Heights Library.

Eat, Drink, Shop And Be Irish On 2ND Friday Parma Heights

by Emery Pinter

Top o' the mornin' to ya!! Let's shamrock and roll! If the luck of the Irish is on your side, your family will get the chance to experience some of the great small businesses all day on Friday March 10 as 2ND Friday Parma Heights kicks off Eat, Drink, Shop & Be Irish! This family-friendly event gives adults and kids a fun way to celebrate the patron saint of Ireland, along with shamrocks and all things green. Get your green on and get ready to shake your shamrocks at local Parma Heights businesses.

So, bring your walking shoes, dust off your green stockings, wear green, and get ready for a day packed with shenanigans. You are small businesses lucky charm, and for every dollar you spend at an independent local business, more of that money stays in your community than if you spent that buck with a national business.



Turn on your Irish pride and head out to the small businesses for a sham-rockin' good time. Enjoy Irish beer, food, live music at local bars, and even leprechaun appearances with gift certificates and more! Where's your pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? It's all along Pearl Road in Parma Heights. Wherever you go and whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you!

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INSPIRATION



The Four Chaplains 2/3/1945

by Robert Stilwell

80 Years Ago the USS Dorchester in the early morning hours, while in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic was struck by a German torpedo off the coast of Newfoundland. There was 904 people aboard, most in a scrambling panic to save their lives. Four Chaplains of different faiths, Methodist, Jewish, Catholic, and Baptist were helping to save lives by helping them board lifeboats and when supplies ran out, each gave up their own life jacket. The Chaplains joined arms and sang hymns as they went down with the ship along with 670 passengers. 230 managed to survive.

On Sunday 2/5/2023 American Legion Post 703 gave a moving Remembrance Tribute for the Four Chaplains Day which was attended by approximately 100 people, including Parma Mayor, Tim DeGeeter and Ward 7 City Councilwoman, Kammy Shuman. Together they issued a Proclamation to Commemorate February 3, 2023 as FOUR CHAPLINS DAY.

Scholarships Available To Parma Scholars

by Sean Patrick Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2023 award season. In its fifteenth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov or you may call the Parma City Council Office at (440) 885-8091 for a copy. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2023 – 2024 academic year.



Financial need, work ethic, community service and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is Monday, April 2, 2023 at 4:00 pm. For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact board of trustees member Sean Patrick Brennan at ParmaScholarship@gmail.com or 440-885-8091.

Mobile Food Pantry

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Boxes of shelf stable food items will be available for curbside pickup—first come, first serve—at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, March 15th from 10:00 a.m. -12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

Please note: Outside event. Enter the Greenbrier Commons parking lot towards the Parma Heights Branch Library. Follow the Mobile Food Pantry signs and traffic pattern.

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

Calvary Lutheran Church
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NEW LOCATION

NEIGHBORHOODS

The Trees Have Disappeared In Parma

by Sharon Stahurski

Back in November of 2022 I was interviewed by John Benson of the Sun Post. The article spoke about an ongoing debate regarding Parma's Tree Canopy. Well, that's not entirely accurate. I am grateful for this publication to allow me to set the record straight. The Sun Post article made it appear that I was a lone voice appealing to Mayor Tim DeGeeter on behalf of our city's trees. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Mayor was quoted, "One of the things we we're finding out is not everybody wants a tree in their tree lawn." "City Council has been trying to target specific streets. We need to figure out next year when we go back and plant additional trees how to create a better mousetrap." Wait a minute, hold on readers, weren't we talking about the trees in Parma? What's all this about mice? Don't drink the Koolaid Parma residents. There is not a tad of accuracy within the Mayor's statement. The Mayor appears not to appraise too highly the intelligence of Parma residents that we must be "mousetrapped?"

How many readers out there have received ANY survey from the city? None right? Parma municipality has been approached by numerous residents with concern for the city's trees going back to the Mayors first term. Our group "Trees for a Greener Parma" follow a long line of residents that

have been ignored. City officials have become adept at stalling and redirecting citizens down a dark rabbit hole.

Looking back to August of 2015 the blog by Stefan Stefaniuk was one attempt at addressing this issue. As Budget dilemma looms, Parma must invest in Trees. The Article "Suburban Colossus" was shared with the Mayor and constituents. Residents I have spoken with are angry and frustrated. Yet the Mayor continues with his skewed views which are not anywhere near accurate. Yet they appeal to an agenda, his way and no other. Outsiders/ residents are not welcomed in any way to desire to shape our city and contribute. So those of you a bit cynical are thinking.. so what? Many Mayors behave the same. Well, what really puts Parma back to the stone age is that our city leaders reject opinion even from hired sought after sources.

An example would be the Bartlett Tree Experts. Back in 2020 the City of Parma requested a "Tree Risk Assessment and Mitigation Report." This is an extensive study quite laborious and is an inventory of city trees that the city found to be of concern. Five arborists Tree risk Assessment Qualified, three of whom are Master Board Certified Arborists completed the nearly 200 page report and inventory. The report found that of the 700 trees the city found at risk, 58 trees were suggested to be cut down. The other 642 needed

proper pruning. Yet since 2020 according to city records, Parma has cut down a minimum of 700 healthy, viable tree lawn trees, roadside and city park trees. A staggering number to digest. .

Back to the City leaders. Is Mayor DeGeeter moonlighting as an arborist now? He knows more than the arborists hired? We know he was a state rep. and is an attorney. Yet did he or anyone in our government system up there at city hall read or consider the Bartlett

Newly Formed Senior Veteran Group Finds A Home In Parma

continued from page 1

events. The re-enactment of the Normandy Invasion in Conneaut Ohio is one event every veteran should visit, the National Veterans Museum in Columbus, the MAPS air museum in Canton were just a few of the excursions he hopes to schedule in the near future as well as planning a group trip to the National Air Show and getting a group for the Honor flight to Washington DC.

Mission BBQ who is a huge supporter of our first responders and veterans, were present passing out box lunches, Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis provided a large sheet cake, Jodi Marie from Bread and Beyond furnished pastries, including cookies, a pie and a cake. Also present in support

Tree report? Many of those trees were tree lawn trees which are deemed public. City leaders decided for Parma residents that the trees were to come down against professional advise. If more than 700 trees came down in the last 3 years, how many since Mayor DeGeeter took office? That's what has occurred without public oversight. Parma residents must demand better management and find its' voice, as our city is like the Titanic in a stormy sea.

of our veterans was Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime and Clerk of Council Kristin Saban. The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 572 helped in the setting up and cleaning up and the cutting and serving of the cake. The Staff of the Center did an excellent job in insuring everything went as planned. Overall it was a huge success with many of the attendees already looking forward to the first official meeting which will be on March 31st at 12:30pm at the Smallwood Center.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/parmaareaseniorveterans

Email: www.parmaareaseniorvets@yahoo.com

Group Administrator Tony Kes-
sler: Phone or Text 440-263-0507

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PERSPECTIVE

Facing Adversity Strengthens Character

by Lee Kamps

On February 14 1884, a young Theodore Roosevelt then a state legislator in the New York State Assembly welcomed the birth of a daughter. But later that day, his wife, the love of his life, passed away after giving birth due to Bright's Disease. That same day, he learned that his mother had also passed away from typhoid fever. His

father had passed away a few years earlier. Now, a young Theodore Roosevelt was devastated with grief. He dealt with that grief by heading out to the Dakota territory to live as a cowboy on the frontier. His sister agreed to look after his infant daughter. At first the men on the frontier thought that this man from back east was just another rich man playing cowboy. But

Theodore Roosevelt got into the life of a cowboy and made a good impression. After a few years on the frontier, he returned to New York a changed man. He now had a purpose in his life. Fast forward almost forty years and a young Franklin Roosevelt, after a day relaxing and swimming at the family's summer retreat on Campobello Island near the Canadian border with Maine, felt feverish and went to bed. When he awakened, he couldn't move his legs. He had been stricken with polio, a disease caused by a virus that was a major cause of crippling people. His ambitions of following the example of his distant cousin were ended with his becoming crippled. But through the encouragement of his wife Eleanor, he was able to return to politics and was elected governor of New York in 1928, seven years after being crippled with polio. Becoming crippled changed his entire outlook and life. Both these experiences of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt later had a profound impact on the United States and the world when they both became President of the United States. They came away from those tragedies and setbacks to become a President that not only changed the course of the United States, but of the world at large. When I was a college student in the late 1960s, I spent a summer working in a steel mill as a summer "go-fer" filling in when someone took a vacation. One place where I spent a lot of time working was in the finishing department where the steel was

finished before being shipped to the customer. This steel mill produced flat sheet rolled steel and most of that steel went to the local auto plants. The final processing of that steel are the annealing process and the temper mill. The annealing process heats the steel and the temper mill stretches it a little to give it the right thickness and finish. Before entering the annealing and temper mill, the steel is brittle and not suited for use as car bodies. But after being heated and then stretched, the steel becomes more malleable so it could be stamped into panels, doors and other body parts of an automobile. People are very much like that untreated steel before the finishing department. Unfinished, it is easily broken and unsuitable for its end use. However after being stressed, that steel can be stamped into whatever the user wants it to become.

All Faiths Pantry Launches Third Annual Spring Fundraiser: Drawing Feeds People

by Felicia Martinez

All Faiths Pantry (AFP) has kicked off its Spring fundraiser, Drawing Feeds People. This event will benefit AFP and participants will receive a one of a kind pet-portrait completed by student volunteers from Parma schools including Padua Franciscan, Holy Name and Incarnate Word Academy. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, All Faiths Pantry and its volunteers deliver groceries every month to low income seniors age 60 and older and to other individuals of any age who have challenges to mobility. Deliveries are made at no cost to the clients, who must qualify due to limited incomes and must live in the Old Brooklyn, Parma and sur-

rounding communities. AFP will be accepting submissions until March 10th. The form to submit requests is located at: <https://allfaithspantry.org/drawing-feeds-people-2023/>. Portraits start at \$15 for a single pet and increase by \$10 for additional pets. There will be a reception to display the artwork on Tuesday, April 18th at the Parma Snow Library. All proceeds will fund AFP's efforts to feed those in need of supplementary nonperishable staple groceries as well as fresh fruit and vegetables. Submit your photos on the website at www.allfaithspantry.org or for more information call 216-496-4329 or info@allfaithspantry.org.

If people are not tested by adversity or tragedy, then are they capable of dealing with the stresses and strains of daily living and their job? In my career in the business world, I have worked with many different kinds of managers. But by far the absolute worst were those spoiled people who had never had to deal with any adversity in their life. They never had to experience being called into the office and being told that they were no longer needed or that they were being "downsized" or that the company was being "restructured" and your job was being eliminated.

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Cleveland Tornado 70th Anniversary

by Kevin Kelly

This year will be the 70th anniversary of the 1953 Cleveland, Ohio Tornado. The twister struck just north of the Parma area on the night of June 8th, 1953. For those of you who have never heard of this incident, the twister developed just west of the Cleveland Hopkins Airport. This occurred at approximately 9:30 PM on a Monday. The sun had already settled, but the sky took on an eerie greenish glow over the area. The National Weather Bureau previously warned local airport officials that a tornado was confirmed to be on the ground 37 miles west of the airport and was headed their way.

When the twister finally showed up over the airport's northern runways, it was only visible to air traffic



Producer Kevin Kelly, on the film set, recreating the Cleveland Tornado documentary.

controllers when it was illuminated by the lightning flashes. As the rotating vortex passed by the edge of the airport's dome tower, the air traffic controllers were surprised to hear only a soft-purring sound coming from it. They continued to watch the twister as it moved northerly off into the distance towards the city of Lindale, before veering off towards the west side of Cleveland.

Even though several warnings were sent out over the television and radio stations, Clevelanders were confused as to what action to take. On top of everything else, the TV networks were unwilling to interrupt their number one show "I Love Lucy", so many Clevelanders never saw any weather alerts. To many people, the only sign that something was happening was when all the electricity went out. The twister devastated a new development



Actual map in the 1953 newspaper showing tornado at the Cleveland's airport.

near the Bellaire Avenue and West 117 Street area. It injured hundreds and killed an infant by sucking it from it's crib and out the bedroom window. Unfortunately, other than a council meeting being canceled earlier that evening, because of the posted weather threats, most Parma residents never knew a tornado was on the ground just a few miles away. It wasn't until the following day, when watching the local news, that they were shocked to see the damage from the tornado.

That same day, the latest 3-D motion picture "It Came from Outer Space" was showing at the Hippodrome Theater, in downtown Cleveland, when the twister hit. As it passed over downtown Cleveland the movie theater began shaking. The movie goers believed that it was part of the sound system specially installed for the new movie's release. However, it wasn't until after the movie ended and they stepped out of the theater, into the streets among the carnage, they began to question whether something did come "from Outer space".

Interestingly, just a few days before the tornado struck Cleveland, The City of Parma received their own storm when lightning strikes caught some houses on fire. Some of the concussions from the storm even blasted people out of their chairs as the lightning shot into their homes. One newspaper article told



of a bolt of lightning entering a window of a house, striking the carpet between a four year old girl's feet, before exiting through the bathroom window.

A video documentary was actually produced about this tornado by a video company called, Shocker Enterprises, located right here in Parma, Ohio. In 2008, this video first aired on public access channels in the area. This documentary will once again be shown through the month of March, for its 70th anniversary. The video can be viewed on Cox Cable, Channel 45, on Fridays at 8:30 PM and Sundays at 9:00 PM. Also, for those who are interested, a behind the scenes video focused on how the visuals effects were created for the documentary will be aired in March on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM and Saturdays at 6:00 PM. For more information call: 440 888-8327 Or Go to: ShockerEnterprises.com.

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News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

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

From Ohio Attorney General... For organizations that may be interested, the Human Trafficking Commission, Victim Services Subcommittee offers personal consultation to organizations that would like support and assistance in meeting the Ohio Service Standards for Trafficked Persons. If you would like to schedule a personal consultation, reach out to Rebekkah O’Bryan: reobryan@dps.ohio.gov or Michelle Hannan at Michelle.Hannan@use.salvationarmy.org.

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

Coming up on March 14th: Human Trafficking and Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. It’s virtual & free. Click [here](#) for details & to register

4th Annual Parma Heights Citizens Police Academy

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variety of topics and scenarios and I think it creates open conversations with residents and the police. The Parma Heights Citizens Police Academy training is a big picture approach, but in the end makes us better stewards of the city,” said Parma Heights Chief Steve Scharschmidt.

The courses will be held at Cuyahoga Community College. Each week a minimum of one off-duty police officer and one academy coordinator will assist teaching the class. A few of the classes require additional instructors.

“The Citizens Police Academy is

a great opportunity for residents looking to learn more of what we do and how we do it. The sessions allow participants to see a multitude of scenarios that simulate the varying situations that our officers encounter every day on the job,” said Chief Scharschmidt.

For more info, call 440-481-3099. To register, visit <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=499800025670883&set=a.172553225062233>

<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CityofParmaHeights/>

Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.

To provide survivors with the information they need to access shelter, medical care, and therapeutic services, we have created an interactive resource guide of all providers in Northeast Ohio. Access the Resource Guide [here](#).

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center:

>> Sign up for their free, 2-part, virtual Ambassador Training program. Part I – April 3 & 5; Part 2 –April 10 & 12. For details and to register go [here](#).

>> Check out 10 Things To Know About Sex Trafficking. Go [here](#) to view & print off a copy.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Grant Sources for Nonprofits...Here are some more grantors identified & vetted by the MyCom network:

Read the rest online with hotlinks to other news you can use.

Facing Adversity Strengthens Character

continued from page 8

Perhaps the worst person to work for was the man or woman who has had everything fall into their lap or never had to deal with a job loss themselves. We have all had to deal with the person who had no empathy for anyone else but themselves.

Fifty years ago, I began working at a county welfare office in another part of Ohio. I had made a career change after being laid off twice from two different teaching positions in two years with what was a salary dump or being squeezed out as last hired, first fired. On one of my first days on that job, my supervisor gave me perhaps the

best advice I ever received from anyone about any job. She told me never to make any moral or value judgments on anyone I would encounter on my job at the welfare office. She went on to tell me that I hadn’t “walked in their shoes” and didn’t know what adversities that the people I would be encountering had to endure.

That was good solid advice then and it is now for anyone who has a job dealing with people or the public, especially those who aspire to elected office. I have never forgotten that advice I received fifty years ago as a young man. Because overcoming adversity is what makes us stronger and usually a better person

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

* **Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd** currently has a diverse group show, with 20+ artists, titled *Now That's What I Call Art – Vol 1*. This exhibit, which opened February 24th, and continues through March 19th, features several of your favourite artists from the last four years. On Saturday, February 25th, Prama co-hosted an event, *Ekphrastic Writing-Workshop*, with the Parma Flamingo Writers Guild. Poets were invited to attend and write poems about the artwork hanging on the walls. In addition to the art in the gallery, and boutique items, they also have a display of local Parma authors. On March 3, 2023 Prama is hosting the *CAN Journal's 2023 Spring Edition* launch party. Follow Prama on Facebook and Instagram for upcoming events.

* **Images in Bloom** (soap, silk & more), owners Barbara & Steve Bloom are moving after the Artcraft Bldg was

sold to become the new Cleveland Police Headquarters. The new studio will be in the Twist Drill Bldg at 4700 Lakeside Avenue. The new studio will have north facing windows that offer a view of Burke Lakefront Airport and Lake Erie.

* **Spring Craft Fair, Parma Community High**, 5983 W 54th St, March 25th from 9 to 2. Loads of crafts and delicious treats, plus Photos with the Easter Bunny. Concessions available benefiting PCH Senior Class.

* **Greenbriar 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 1 pm. 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.



* **Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing art to the community. This organization has both artists and crafters, and those that just enjoy the arts. In addition to classes they also partner with other community members on events and hold an annual art show with prizes. They are looking for new members. Are you interested? Email kathrynmabin@att.net.

net for more information.

* **Sean Mabin's** photo portrait 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. Sean also had pieces in the Love and Hate Art Show at Tattoo Therapy Ink's Eerie Art Gallery in Parma Heights at 6251 Pearl Rd.

* **Creative Cabana's Vendor Spotlight Event**, located at 6170 Broadview Rd, Sunday March 12, 2023 from 11 to 5. Visit and SHOP with local artists, crafters and home bakers during Creative Cabana's Vendor Spotlight Event. 20+ local vendors, raffles, door prizes & complimentary refreshments.

FREE Beginning Pencil Techniques

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC), is offering a FREE beginning draw class. This is a four week session at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Drive. The series of four classes will be held on Monday's, March 27, April 3, April 10 & 17th, 12:30 to 2:30. Class size is limited to 20. The class is taught by instructor Jan McAndrew. To register or for more information email kathrynmabin@att.net.

Beginning Pencil Techniques is an introduction level class that will allow you to explore and develop your own visual art skills with pencil. You will come away with finished pencil and mixed media drawings. This class will focus on various techniques and an abundance of helpful information that the instructor has used in 20 years of teaching engineering and visual arts. The instructor will provide



some materials and will email a list of suggested materials for personalizing your own art.

Parma Area Fine Arts Council has been serving the community for over 60 years. These classes are brought to you in part through a grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the county cigarette tax. Follow Parma Area Fine Arts Council on Facebook.

Launch Party In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

You are invited! Collective Arts Network Journal, CAN Journal, is holding the launch of their Spring 2023 Edition at Prama Artspace & Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd, Friday, March 3, 2023 at 5:30. CAN is a quarterly full color magazine combining member reviews of upcoming exhibits, programming, and independent commentary on the arts locally. CAN is a tool that gives voice to the extensive arts activity in Northeast Ohio. The first issue of CAN was published in 2012. CAN has grown it's membership to more than 80 organizations. CAN was recognized as a non-profit in 2015. Stop in for your Spring 2023 Edition at the launch party.



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