"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want, and deserve to get it good and hard"- HL Mencken

June, 2023
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Parma Observer

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UH Parma Scores Top Safety Grade From Leapfrog Group

by by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center received an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit upholding the standard of patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. This national distinction celebrates UH Parma Medical Center s achievements in prioritizing patient safety by protecting patients from preventable harm and errors. The new grades reflect performance primarily during the height of the pandemic.

"Most hospitals took a decade-long step back during the pandemic era in terms of patient experience and quality, and patient perception followed," said James Hill, MD, Chief Operating Officer of UH Parma Medical Center. "The COVID-19 pandemic in some ways may have been our finest hour, because UH Parma had put the people and processes in place to be hyper-focused on Zero Harm with proactive measures to benefit patients. This is a story we are excited to tell. It's the power of intentional change."

Leapfrog's publicly available hospital grades are an important tool that empowers patients, Dr. Hill added. UH Parma closely monitors quality measures like hospital-acquired infections and readmission rates. All caregivers, including nurses and physicians, are encouraged to actively advocate for their patients, which leads to a culture of shared responsibility

continued on page 9

Get Outside And Enjoy Parma Heights Recreational Activities

by Marie Gallo

With the school year officially over, kids and families can begin to fill their summer calendars with fun activities and events close to home! Enjoy staycationing with the City of Parma Heights Recreation Department all summer long.

The Greenbrier Commons features tennis courts, pickleball courts, bocce ball courts, a great play area with swings, slides, climbing structure, and a hiking trail behind the Cassidy Theatre. Plus, when the weather is warm, everyone enjoys swimming, going down the slides and taking a dip in the pool.

Mark your calendar for the second annual Christmas in July party on Saturday, July 22 from 1 to 4pm at the Parma Heights Pool. Guests can wear their favorite Christmas outfit or Hawaiian shirt, and maybe they'll be crowned best dressed! Enjoy free crafts, games and more outside in Greenbrier Commons and then cool off at the Parma Heights Pool with surfing Santa & his elves (pool admission fees apply). And as the sun sets, enjoy a Dive-In Movie featuring "The Polar Express" at 8:30pm.

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

Yoga in the Park – enjoy free yoga outside in Greenbrier Commons the first Saturday of each month from June through September (June 3, July 1, August 5 and September 2) from 10:30am to 11:30am.

Parma Heights Pool – the weekly schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12pm to 8:30pm, Wednesday 2pm to 8:30pm and Sunday 12pm to 5pm. The City of Parma Heights has the authority to change posted hours as needed and without notice for programs, events, staffing, and inclement weather.

Dive In Movies – catch an evening movie under the stars and in the water at the first ever Dive In Movie series at Parma Heights Pool on Saturday June 17, July 22 and August 12 at 8:30pm. Pre-registration is advised – space is limited.

Cardboard Boat Races and Penny Boat Floats – staff and residents can design and build their own cardboard boats to race across the pool on Saturday, June 24 from 5 to 7pm sink or swim – everyone will have fun! Supplies and instructions for the Penny Boat Floats will take place in the Children's Activity Pool. Pool admission required (free admission for boat captains). Pre-registration is advised – space is limited.

Summer Concert Series – the sweet sounds of live music will fill the air on Sundays from July 16 to August 6 with music at 6:30pm at The Greenbrier Gazebo. Bring a chair or blanket to enjoy: July 16 – Hip to That, July 23 – Akron Symphonic Winds, July 30 – Girls with Squirrels and August 6 – Don Disantis Band.

Mark your calendar for summer fun and entertainment with the Parma Heights Recreation team. For more information and to register for some of the programs and events, visit http://parmaheightsoh.gov/en-US/Recreation.aspx

http://www.parma-heightsoh.gov/

https://www.facebook-com/CityofParmaHeights/

Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.

Wheels For Meals June 7th To Support All Faiths Pantry

by Felicia Martinez

All are welcome to attend the first ever Wheels for Meals car show to benefit All Faiths Pantry on June 7th at Yorktown Lanes. All makes, models and years welcome! Show off your car or just stop in to experience a blast from the past. Music, food and fun!

Carl Schanz, owner of the '56 Chevy shown in photo, suggested the idea of a car show to raise funds and support All Faiths Pantry. Carl has been volunteering in many capacities at AFP for several years, including MC'ing at their fundraiser. Also known as DJ Carl, he will be spinning out the tunes during the event.

All Faiths Pantry has been delivering groceries to older adults in the Old Brooklyn, Parma and surrounding communities for over 16 years. Volunteer teams deliver groceries to the same routes each month, at no cost to the recipient. As reported, food prices have gone up 11.4% from 2021 to 2022 and are still on the rise. This is especially a challenge for seniors living on a fixed incomes who be restricted by mobility or transportation issues. The need in our community is great. All Faiths also delivers to others of any age who have mobility challenges.



'56 Chevy featured with owner Carl Schanz, ED Felicia Martinez and students from Holy Name H.S.

Join us on Wednesday June 7th (rain date June 14) 5pm to 8 pm at Yorktown Lanes, 6218 Pearl Rd. in Parma Hts. Music by DJ Carl. Food and drinks available for purchase.

No entry fee - attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or paper product to donate to All Faiths Pantry. There will be door prizes and a 50/50 raffle all proceeds will support the grocery delivery program. For more information visit www.allfaithspantry.org or call 216-469-4329.

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's picture of the month shows the script Parma sign lit up in honor of Pride Month. If you would like to submit a picture for the script Parma picture of the month contest, e-mail it to staterep-brennan@gmail.com and include your name, address, and contact information.

Interested In Writing For The Observer? - Join Us At Our Public Meeting At Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd.) Every Tuesday 7 PM

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

Recently, I voted with all of my Democratic colleagues, along with five Republican colleagues in the Ohio House of Representatives against Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR 2). Although we lost the vote and the resolution passed, our bipartisan group agreed with four former Ohio Governors (Republicans John Kasich and Bob Taft and Democrats Ted Strickland and Dick Celeste), five former Ohio Attorney Generals (Republicans Jim Petro and Betty Montgomery and Democrats Richard Cordray, Lee Fisher, and Nancy Rogers), and a multitude of state organizations from throughout the political spectrum to say no to allowing minority rule in Ohio.



You can watch our favorite State Representative at work on.

Currently, the Ohio constitution requires a vote of 50%-plus one (a simple majority) of voters to approve an amendment to that document. This has been the law in Ohio since the people voted back in 1912 to approve various measures to give more of a voice to the people, due to the fact that the state government was not properly addressing their concerns.

Amendments to the state constitution can be placed on the ballot in two ways under current law. First, the Ohio General Assembly can vote to do so. The other method is for residents of Ohio to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures with a certain percentage required from 44 of Ohio's 88 counties.

SJR 2 places on the August 8 ballot an amendment to our state constitution that, if passed, would require a certain percentage of signatures gathered from all 88 counties in order to place future amendments on the ballot. Further, future amendments would require a 60% super majority vote of the people to be approved.

The reason for my no vote has multiple dimensions, some of which I will outline. First, it wastes $20,000,000 (yes, twenty million dollars!) of your taxpayer funds on an unnecessary August special election. As a fiscal conservative, I view this as squandering the hard-earned dollars of single moms (like my mom was), the General Motors worker, the nurse at UH, and all other Ohio taxpayers. Keep in mind that August special elections were virtually outlawed just back in December as a waste of taxpayer dollars and the fact that few people vote in them by many of the same folks who voted to place this issue on the ballot this August.

Next, it gives a minority of Ohioans the power to stop a change to our state constitution that most Ohioans support. What other election do we vote in that requires more than a simple majority? Not only that, but this very important issue will be decided in an August election where voter turnout is historically extremely low. Relatedly, the new signature requirement means that a single county could prevent an issue from ever going to the ballot.

Further, although it is rarely used, allowing the people to vote to change our state constitution has resulted in positive changes in our state. For instance, the people voted to eliminate taxes on food, adopt a minimum wage, create legislative term limits, and approve the job creating Third Frontier Program and environmentally friendly Clean Ohio Fund, among other good measures.

In closing, I urge you to vote "NO" on August 8 to protect the concept of "one person, one vote" in Ohio. It is truly an honor to be your voice at the Ohio Statehouse.

State Rep. Brennan Sets Walk And Talks

by Sean Patrick Brennan

As a public servant I want to be accessible to my constituents. Knowing what is on people's minds helps me represent them better at the Statehouse. I hope folks will join me for my open office hours. There is no RSVP required. Please contact my office at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov, if you would prefer a private meeting or if you require immediate assistance with a state issue. With beautiful weather finally here, I thought we would get out and get active, so I am changing it up this month.

Friday, June 16 (7:30am - 9:00am) - Walk and chat with Rep. Brennan

Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus (11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, Parma)

Meet in the theater entrance off of West Pleasant Valley Road

We will walk outside if the weather permits, otherwise we will walk in the building.

Monday, June 19 (11:30am - 1:00pm) - Walk and chat with Rep. Brennan

Alger Cemetery (16710 Bradgate Avenue, Cleveland)



Meet at the entrance of the cemetery

We will walk through the cemetery. Canceled if weather is inclement.

Monday, June 26 (6:30pm - 8:00pm) - Hike and chat with Rep. Brennan

West Creek Reservation (2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma)

Meet at the Watershed Stewardship Center

We will hike through the park. Canceled if weather is inclement.



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440.884.7625 •
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Design and Production
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440-884-7625

Writers
Sean Patrick Brennan
Marie Gallo
Lee Kamps
Jenna Kijauskas
Bridget Lavelle
Gene Lovasy
Kathryn Mabin
Jack P. Marschall
Felicia Martinez
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Sean Patrick Brennan
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Invests Nearly $2 Million In Interventional Radiology Upgrade

by CJ Sheppard

Nearly $2 million was invested in an upgrade of Interventional Radiology equipment at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, enabling the care team to provide more complex exams for a wider range of patients. UH Parma now has the most sophisticated IR lab in the entire UH system, which includes more than 20 hospitals, including five joint ventures.

The updated Interventional Radiology suite unveiled in a May 16 celebration with local and system Radiology leaders and staff will allow for higher-quality imaging that emits a lower radiation dose to the patient.

"Many of the procedures patients would have had to go downtown for previously can now be done at our community hospital," said Chief Operating Officer James Hill, MD. He credited UH system leaders with acknowledging the growing volumes at UH Parma that necessitated this investment. "This is a big day for UH Parma, and it's been a long time coming."

The modern Interventional Radiology suite features new fluoroscopy and ultrasound equipment and a new patient recovery area. Key referring providers currently include various surgical and medical subspecialties, particularly those caring for cancer patients. These new capabilities will expand the spectrum of procedures provided to include more advanced outpatient therapies such as oncologic and non-oncologic embolotherapy, vascular malformation treatments, and pain treatments such as kyphoplasty.

Vessels can be visualized with 3D mapping, and 2D and 3D images can be fused. The resolution of images is 40 percent greater than standard imaging, which provides enhanced visualization of even the smallest structures, allowing radiologists to see the degree of stenosis, or narrowing, in vessels.

Donna Plecha, MD, FACR, FSBI, Chair of Radiology for the UH system, said the growing volumes at UH Parma under the leadership of Salim-Tamuz Abboud, MD, UH Parma's Chairman of the Department of Radiology, helped make the case for investing in the upgrade at UH Parma and keeping patients closer to home. Added Jon Davidson, MD, FSIR, Division Chief of Interventional Radiology: "UH Parma now has the newest, most updated IR capabilities in the UH system."

"UH Parma Interventional Radiology will now be capable of effectively matching the breadth and complexity of outpatient IR procedures offered at UH Cleveland Medical Center and regional locations," said Dr. Abboud. "This is a generational leap in interventional radiology capability for our community and now represents the most technologically advanced interventional radiology suite in the University Hospitals system."

A strong interventional radiology section is vital to providing high-quality standard of care for many kinds of patients across various service lines, Dr. Abboud added. Capable angiography, ultrasound and CT equipment are basic necessities, he noted, and the recently upgraded IR equipment allows UH Parma to deliver the services to meet the demands of our growing hospital.

"UH Parma IR now has the ability to care for the sickest patients in the hospital," Dr. Abboud said. "Local patients, including certain trauma patients and those with internal or gastrointestinal bleeding, were often transferred to UH Cleveland Medical Center specifically for IR procedures. Now our patients can receive that care at UH Parma Medical Center in an expedited fashion."

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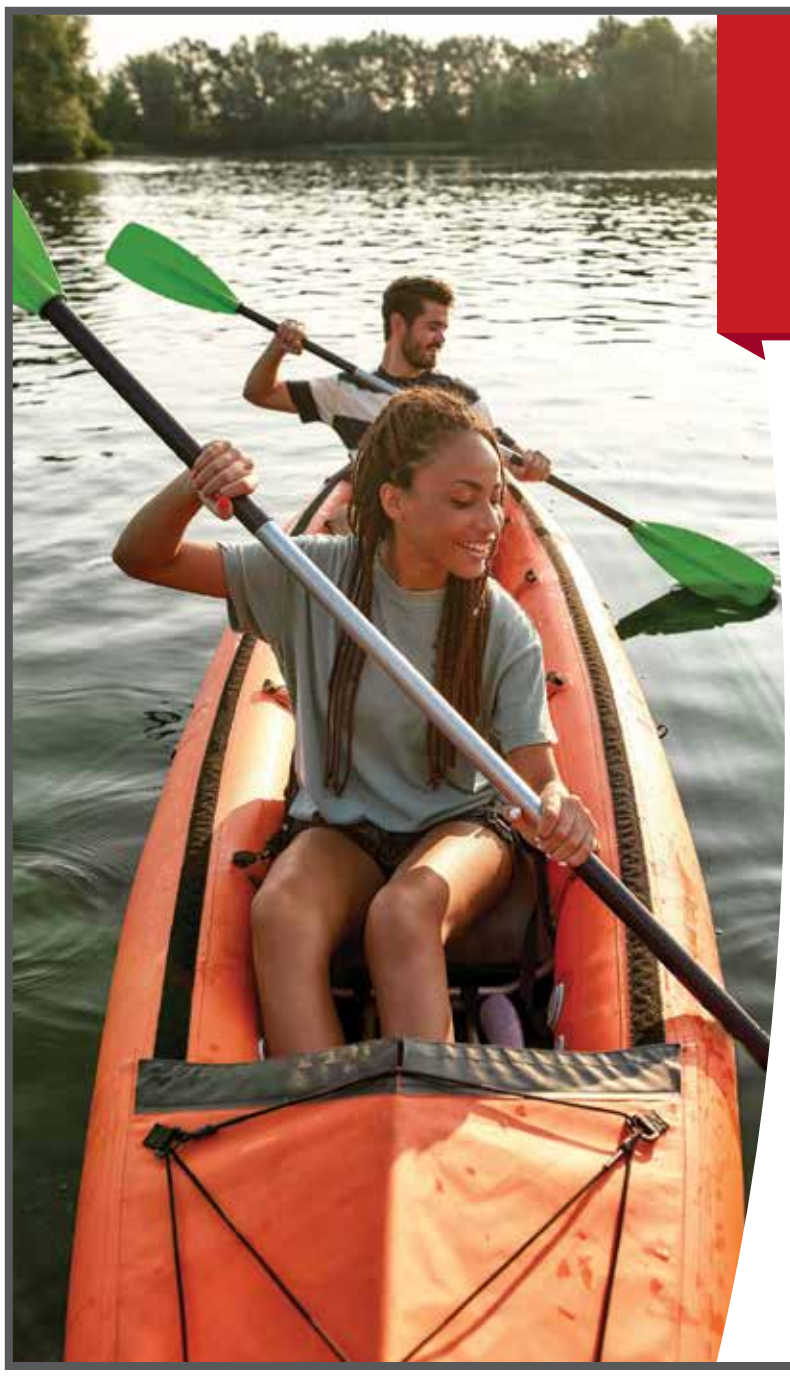

Don't suffer in silence from common urologic problems you "Don't want to talk about."

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:

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Urology Institute

UH Parma Medical Center
7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma

GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

Make It Count

by Deborah White

Too many times we think about what we should have done in different situations. This thought occurs to us in so many different aspects of our lives. One such situation might be the decision to not go to a party where alcohol is being served. Or you might say to yourself, "What would have happened if I hadn't attended college-what would I be doing?" Sometimes an opportunity will come to us only once in our lifetime. Once that opportunity passes, it is gone forever. It's like being struck by lightning-how many times can it happen? Most opportunities usually include making a choice and these choices may have different outcomes. The choice will dictate our future and some of these decisions lead to good results and some lead to bad results.

What is it that makes us decide whether to accept an opportunity or decline it? Quick decisions are usually not the best route. For instance, deciding to attend college affects your future so you must make the best choice possible. What about a decision when it comes to defending your life? This is a decision that affects your life yet must be a quick one, because it could define your future in an instance. But, without the essential skills, training, and information you are blind. A prepared defense is vital to saving your life so you must "make it count" the first time. Meaning, that you must strike in the right place with the right amount of force, the first time. Because a follow-up strike may not be possible. Which reminds me of the saying, "Keep it Simple Stupid". This is something that could sound degrading to some, but the words mean that a good solid strike is simple and direct. And, that you don't have to be a rocket scientist to know basic escape moves that will save your life. It is the way the strike is delivered to your opponent and the place on the opponent's body that count. Keeping it simple comes from repeated practice and training of very basic self-defense techniques, and will relieve you from having to over think about your defense options. Practice will help you to respond quickly and effectively.

So, when you think about your defense against an attacker, you shouldn't have to think too hard, if you practice. Your response should be automatic. Learn and practice self-defense techniques and then re-learn them. This is the only way to respond quickly and make sure to "make it count"!

By Deborah White, RA, MBA, BA (Self-defense Coach/Instructor/Prevention Specialist)

Author of: Predator Prevention Guide, Be Bully Proof, & Women's Real-life Self-Defense

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Parma Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis Checks In With The Parma Fire Department



Ward 5 Parma City Councilman Allan Divis visited our Safety forces recently, here with members of the Parma Fire Department.

Getting Back To Normal



On Thusday 4/20 a Community Paint & Sip Event was held at Pleasant Lake Villa in Parma. Supplies were free, and Art Therapist Lidia guided attendees in creating a spring themed painting. This was the first event held since restrictions were lifted, and everyone had a lot of fun while creating their own masterpiece!



PARMA HEIGHTS

Celebrate Fathers Day In Parma Heights!

by Emery Pinter

Scrambling for the perfect present for Pops? Father's Day is coming up June 18th! Surprise dear ol' Dad with one of these gifts one can find in Parma Heights. Let's show them how much we appreciate all of their wisdom by finding the perfect Father's Day gift at a local business.

To pamper Dad on Father's Day, why not treat your dad to a precision haircut at Suburban Hair Cutting, 6595 Pearl Road. Bill and Rich specialize in precision haircuts and Dad will feel invigorated after a shave and haircut. But it's not just hair they've mastered. This spot offers Frank Sinatra music; he'll hear "That's Life", "Come Fly with Me", "Luck be A Lady" and other Sinatra favorties. And Rich will talk golf with him. His best piece of advice is that you are not playing against anyone, your fight is against the course and yourself.

Whether your dad prefers a pint of cold beer or a glass of wine, you can put together a fun gift basket of local products he'll love from Martini's Drive Thru Beverage, 6505 Pearl Road. To start, grab a case of Happy Dad Hard Seltzer, some Cleveland Browns 75th Anniversary Bubbly, or some Ole Smoky Moonshine, or mix and match from any of the area's other excellent beer makers. Customize a few of his favorites in a personalized gift basket with munchies and lottery tickets. This makes Martini's Drive Thru Beverage the perfect spot to pick up a gift this Father's Day.



There are plenty of traditional gifts for Fathers day, like a tie, or some cologne. It's easy to forget that many dads these days grew up loving Star Wars or Lord of the Rings. Geeky dads love Father's Day too and many of them love playing games with their kids. Plan a family game night at Gamers Haven, 6639 Pearl Road. Whether you're looking for the new hot games like Tainted Grail, Masters of the Universe, WarCry Nightmare Quest, or Warhammer, they've likely got it or can order it for you! You've got to show your Dad this place!

If you're looking for quality tool brands, look no further than Andy's Hardware, 6658 Pearl Road. There's no better time to get outside and spruce up the yard, which means lawnmowers, and other equipment for lawn and gardening are a big draw to the store, too. Andy's Hardware will help your Dad with small engine repair, lawn mower repair, hedge trimming sharpening, and there's pickup & delivery. If still in doubt, there's always a gift certificate!

Support the local bars while surprising dad with a gift card from Tavern 42 or My Corner Bar. A passport or sorts that will allow him to explore new food while receiving his favorite beverages at each stop.

Parma Heights local businesses have all of these gifts and more, so one can find a meaningful, exciting gift to show Dad just how much he is appreciated! Happy Father's Day to the dads who serve as strong role models who take the time to invest in their kids. Kudos to all the fathers who understand the importance of "paying it forward" and spending quality time with children. Happy Father's Day to all of the Dads, Granddads, Fathers-to-be.

Happy 60th Birthday, Parma Heights Library!

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will celebrate its 60th birthday on Saturday, June 17th, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Celebrate will us and join in the fun! No registration.Please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additionalinformation.

Life Of Taras Shevchenko

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Life of Taras Shevchenko on Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. WordStage Founding Artistic Director Tim Tavcar and its core company members actors Agnes Herrmann and Paul Slimak, accompanied by violinists Mary Beth Ions and Carol Ruzicka, will present a dramatic re-enactment of the life of Taras Shevchenko, folk hero of Ukraine, with Ukrainian folk music. Q&A following the presentation. Registration required. Sponsored by Friends of Parma Heights Library. Registration required.To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.orgor call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

12th Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies

5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, July 1, 2023 - 7:30 am

Tri-C Western Campus - 11000 Pleasant Valley Road

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Mail entries must be received by Wednesday, June 28.
Make checks payable to: Hermes Sports & Events
2425 W. 11th Street Suite 2, Cleveland, OH 44113

Register online at: www.hermescleveland.com

***Pre-Registration $25**
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On-Site Registration/Check-In: 6:30 am – 7:15 am

Race Director: Sean Brennan: pierogie5k@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit local charities and projects. Sponsorship opportunities available!

Run/Walk for Pierogies

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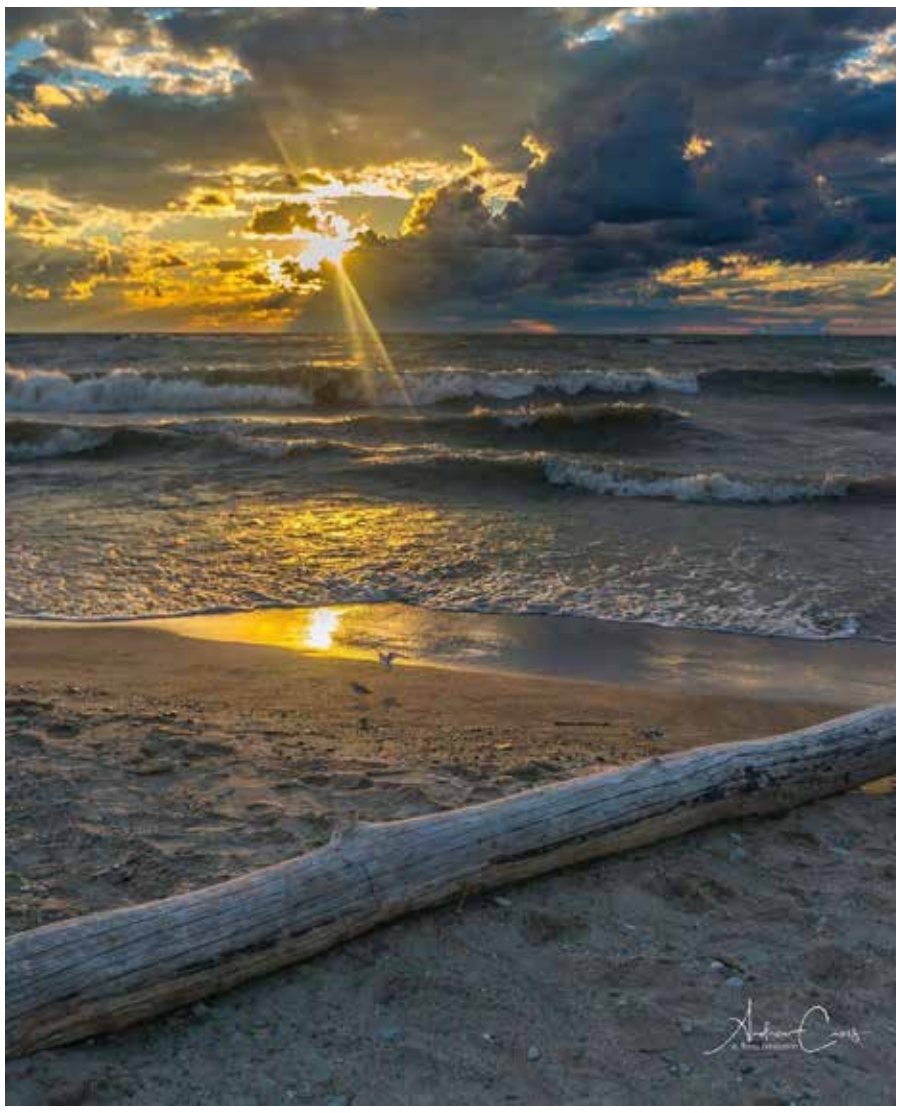
INSPIRATION



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Jack P. Marschall

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The sun
The moon
The Earth
And the stars

I believe in
Hope and
Dreams
No matter
How far

Prayers and
Dares
Here and
There

I believe in
Faith and
Grace and
Kindness and
Care

I believe in
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Family and
Whatever
You do

Because I
Always and
Forever
Believe in
You

Passion and
Love and
Miles of
Smiles

I believe in
Heaven and
Helping and
Life without
Trials

Miracles and
Moments and
The present and
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I believe in
Sharing life and
Sorrow and
Laughs

I believe in
Friends and
Family and
Whatever
You do

Because I
Always and
Forever
Believe in
You

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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.blc7500.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
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www.Stbridgetparma.com

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www,holyfamparma.org

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Patriotism In 1943. (80 Years ago)



by Robert Stilwell

Students throughout America did everything they could to help the War effort. The Yearbook of North School, serving grades 1-8 in Portland, Maine lists the following activites in 1943.

Raised $5,315 to buy War Stamps and Bonds.

Made Bookmarks for injured soldiers.

Collected flower vases to send to Veterans Hospital.

Pooled pennies to buy yarn.

Collected 10,017 tin cans to be used by the Military.

Collected 28 pounds worth of keys to be turned into bullets.

Formed a first aid class in case of attack.

Sold 13,350 half pints of milk to raise money for War Bonds.

Room 103 alone collected 100 pounds of tin foil, 200 keys, and 100 tin tubes

Lessons were often about War. Children in Room 209 learned games from a book titled, (FUN IN A FALLOUT SHELTER). Eighth grader, John Romano wrote his spring essay about the importance of chewing gum. "Gum is good for Aviators when the go into a power dive," he wrote. "So do not argue with your grocer if he has no gum. The men in the service need it more than you do."

The kids today are also Patriotic. I witnessed this first hand on 5/21/2022 while on the Honor Flight to Washington DC along with 28 other Vietnam Era Veterans (above).

Holy Family Home Health Care Earns Five-Star Rating In Patient Satisfaction

by Jenna Kijauskas

We are pleased to announce that Holy Family Home Health Care has been awarded a 5-star rating for patient satisfaction. Holy Family Home Health Care scored ninety-percent in the patient recommendation category while the Ohio average sits at seventy-four and the national average at seventy-eight. The rating is scored through the Home Health Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HHCAHPS).

The CAHPS Home Health Survey focuses on a variety of categories, including professionalism of care, communication with patients, explanation of home safety and medications, rating of the overall home health care experience and willingness to recommend our home health care.

Care Compare on Medicare.gov is the official CMS website for publicly reporting quality measures for care provided by home health care and other health care providers. This site was created to help consumers compare home health care providers' performance and assist consumers.

Holy Family provides Medicare-certified home health care. We provide staff with a knack for knowing when to listen and how to help. Skillful care coordinators extend the work of our Ministries, matching your needs with the right resources. Holy Family Home Health Care and Hospice is a ministry of St. Augustine Health Ministries, a not-for-profit, faith-based organization providing health care and community-based services to the chronically ill and aging of the community.

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The promotional Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for balances $0.01-$24,999=0.35%, $25,000.00 or more = 4.59% and is accurate as of 03/24/2023. Minimum balance to open is $25,000. A minimum average daily balance of $25,000 is required to avoid a $15 monthly service fee. The promotional APY is locked for 365 days. After 365 days, the variable interest rate is subject to change and will be determined by the interest rate being offered on the Select Money Market Account. The Select Money Market account tiers in effect as of 03/24/2023 are as follows: $0.01- $24,999.99 the APY is 0.35%; $25,000-$99,999.99 the APY is 0.60%; $100,000-$249,999.99 the APY is 0.70%; $250,000 or more the APY is 0.80%. If the account is closed before the 365 days, a $50 fee may be assessed. No more than a total of 6 preauthorized, telephone, ACH, check, POS or Internet transactions may be made from this account per month. Fees could reduce earnings on this account. Promotional rates available for new money only. New money is defined as money not currently on deposit with the bank. Other restrictions may apply. Promotional offer subject to change without notice. Contact a branch representative for full details.

PERSPECTIVE

It's The Same Old Song

by Lee Kamps

A few months ago, Florida Senator and Senate Republican chairman, Rick Scott suggested "sunsetting" government programs. This is a term that would require reviewing government programs every five years and perhaps terminateding some. He also suggested that Medicare is one program that should be reviewed and renewed on a periodic basis. I wonder how this went over in his state of Florida that has perhaps the largest population of people over age 65 in the nation.

Medicare and social security have always been the "third rail" of politics; touch it and you are dead politically. Perhaps no government programs have had as much influence on our society as well as the economy as social security and Medicare.

As part of the New Deal from President Franklin D Roosevelt, the Social Security Act was enacted in 1935. Besides the social security program, this act also established the system of unemployment compensation and the welfare programs for the aged, blind, disabled and families with dependent children. But Republicans opposed the Social Security Act, calling it socialism or communism. But it has been very popular among working people.

Ten years ago, on a vacation trip to Cape Cod, I stop[ed at Franklin D Roosevelt's home and museum in Hyde Park New York in the Hudson River valley. FDR liked to keep copies of newspaper editorials and other items opposing his programs. The editorials and some advertisements from 1936 opposing the Social Security Act were using the same arguments that were being used opposing the ACA or Obamacare. They called it socialism and said that it would destroy our "freedoms".

This was a major part of the Republican party's campaign in the 1936 election. Republicans in 1936 believed that there was a "silent majority" of Americans who valued their "freedom" and opposed this "creeping socialism" that was the Social Security Act. Of course, we all know the outcome of the 1936 presidential election. FDR won in a landslide and his Democratic party increased their control in congress.

Fast forward thirty years to 1965 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the act establishing Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare was first proposed by President Harry Truman in 1948. But it got nowhere until LBJ, and the Democratic party had a majority in the Senate to stop a filibuster led by western Republicans and southern Democrats. There is a well-known radio commercial featuring future President Ronald Reagan railing against Medicare, saying that if Medicare is enacted "future generations of Americans will wistfully look back at this date when their freedom was sacrificed for socialism".

In 1965, it was estimated that over 40% of Americans over age 65 had no medical insurance at all. At the same time, many poor in the central cities and rural areas had no access to medical care at all. People were reluctant to see a doctor because they couldn't afford to pay the doctor. In 1965, a 65-year-old could expect to live another six years until age 71. In the south and southern Appalachians, many people died before their 60th birthday because of poor health.

Look around now at all the medical facilities in the area and nation. Health care has been the fastest growing segment of the economy for the past few decades. More Americans work in health care than in manufacturing now. The Cleveland Clinic has expended exponentially since Medicare and is now the largest private employer in northeastern Ohio. Today, a 65-year-old person can expect to live long enough to celebrate their 80th birthday. Would any of this have been possible without Medicare? Probably not.

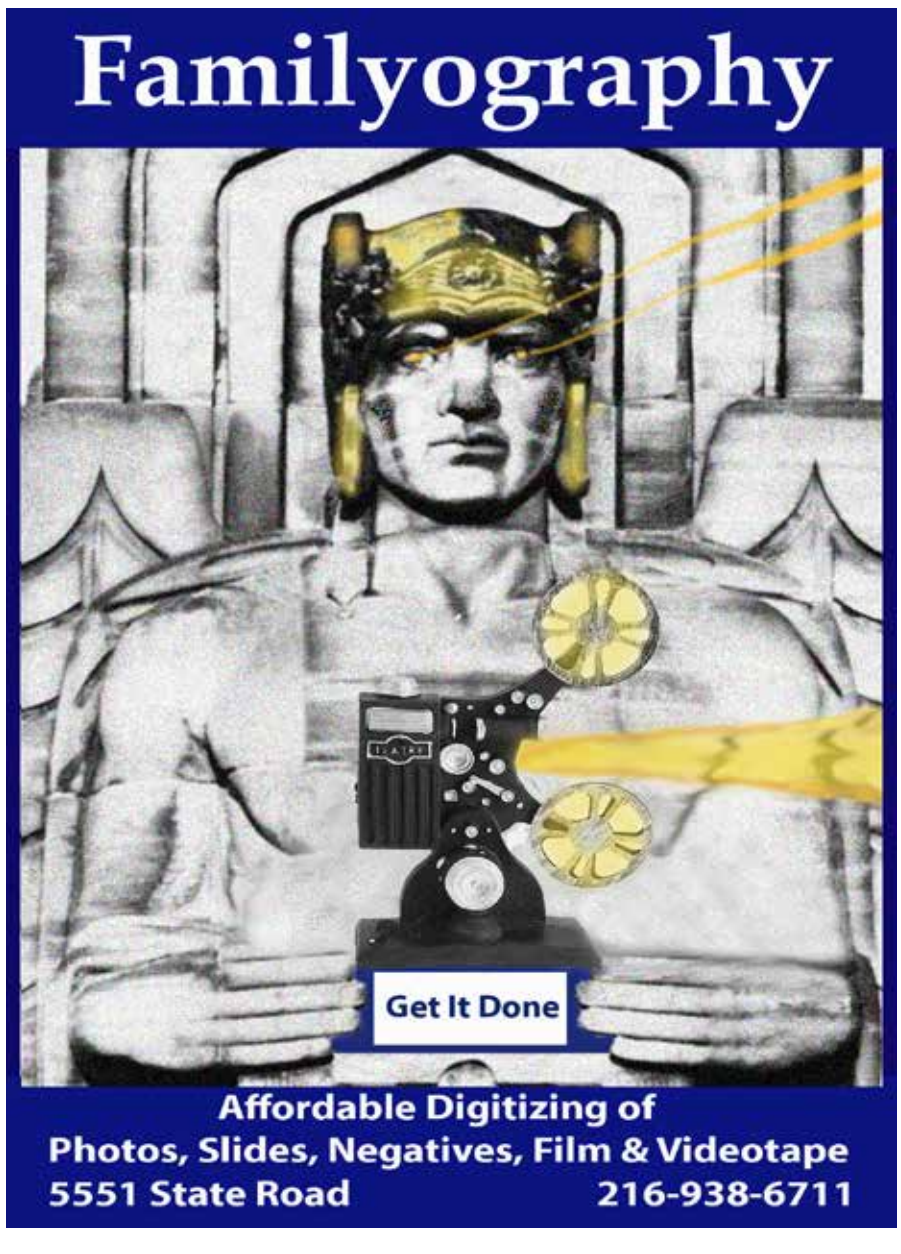
As I am writing this the House Republicans are holding the nation's economy hostage to a set of spending cuts that would have no chance of passing through the normal legislative process. If a group held people are held hostage over a set of demands that would be impossible to meet; we would call them terrorists and would refuse to negotiate with them. But here the House Republicans are holding the nation's and world's economy hostage over a set of demands.

Again, some Republicans are calling some popular government programs "socialism" as if this ancient buzzword has any relevance in the world now days. But it is the same old song that Republicans have been singing for almost a century. Maybe it has a different beat, but it is the same old song, and it is very outdated.

Addendum: Rick Scott was CEO of Columbia Health Systems, a private for profit network of hospitals across the country in the 1990s. In 1996, Columbia Health Systems owned several hospitals in the Cleveland area. There was a proposed merger with Blue Cross of Ohio and Columbia Health Systems. This would have combined the largest network of hospitals in the Cleveland area with the largest health insurance company in the Cleveland area. The public opposed this merger and eventually the Ohio Attorney General voided this merger. Blue Cross of Ohio imploded and became Medical Mutual.

In 1998, Columbia Health Systems was accused by the federal government of defrauding Medicare. Rick Scott left his position as CEO and took his multi million dollar golden parachute and retired to Florida. Columbia Health Systems plead "no contest" and was assessed a multi-million dollar fine from the government. Soon after, Columbia Health Systems was dissolved. The hospitals in the greater Cleveland area that were part of Columbia Health System became affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic and that continues to this day. That is still the single largest case of Medicare fraud in the history of that program.





OBSERVER

The Costliest Route For The Taxpayer

by Sharon Stahurski

The following article is an appeal to you the reader. The intent is not hidden, rather it is for residents of Parma who treasure their city and call it home. Hopefully, it will serve as a call for action where residents can begin an open discussion with our City leaders to improve our city's fiscal decisions.

One way to take the pulse of a city is by participating in local online forums or even the app. NextDoor. A variety of topics are ntalked about and it's a good way to understand your neighbor's concerns. Much has been written about the utility rate increase looming. What is the best plan to go with? Also noteworthy, were the many heated discussions about Parma's latest school bond issue. Residents held strong opinions on which way to vote.

Elsewhere in Parma though less publicized but just as important was the 2020 Tree Inventory report that Parma requested. Tree Experts the Bartlet Tree Company were hired and did an intensive report. The city had concern about 700 city trees, most in our neighborhoods and parks. Of those trees about 92% of the 700 were suggested to be corrected with pruning. The other 8% or 54 trees were deemed diseased or damaged and were suggested for removal. Yet our group "Trees for a Greener Parma" have found through city records, a decision was made to cut down 800+ healthy trees. Despite the expensive price tag for the 400 page report, expert advise was negated. The city chose the costliest option for taxpayers. Not only fiscally but in human and environmental health.

While the United State's is implementing funds directed to conservation efforts within its' cities, Parma decided to cut down healthy trees with shameless efficiency. We can look to Parma's main traffic arteries, no longer tree lined. In 2020 the 4.2 million dollar Ridge Road improvement project began. Tree lawn trees once lining the roadway were independent of the project yet again sadly, city officials removed nearly all trees from the Parma Circle area extending all the way down to Pleasant Valley Road. When asked for explanation in emails and at Council meetings the Mayor remained mute on the topic.

Meanwhile, the Ohio Division of Forestry has held long term relationships with surrounding communities in Cuyahoga County. The Forestry Dept. specializes in Urban Forestry and provides assistance such as:

*Working with municipalities to compose or update tree ordinances

*Information is provided about the wisest tree options to select for parcel size

*Guide the municipality with the "how to" in order to assure the highest success rates of newly planted trees

*Working out all tree infrastructure issues with utilities, city engineers and planning commissions

*Establishing a relationship with local officials and residents to form a tree commission

*Share decades long experience from other cities about the least expensive approach to improving a city's tree canopy.

Parma is located in region 3 within Cuyahoga County. Since May of 2022 we have encouraged city officials to begin a relationship with the Forestry Service. Contact numbers and names were provided to all council and and the Mayor. The beauty of the program? It's FREE. Of the 50 states Ohio is one of a handful that offer this extensive program. Region 3's Urban Forester who retired in 2021 was disappointed to not fill the large hole in his 30 year career by getting Parma aboard.

I have shared countless emails and shared conversations with Urban Forester Steph Miller and find her to be a wealth of information about all city/tree topics. Why is it Parma does not take advantage of this crucial service? How is that fiscally responsible?

UH Parma Scores Top Safety Grade From Leapfrog Group

continued from page 1

and accountability.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

“This new update of Hospital Safety Grades shows that, at the national level, we saw deterioration in patient safety with the pandemic,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “But this hospital received an ‘A’ despite those challenges. I congratulate all the leaders, staff, volunteers and clinicians who together made that possible.”

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To see UH Parma Medical Center’s full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter, Facebook and via its newsletter.



OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www.parmaobserver.com/read/news

RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse:

From The Collaborative to End Human Trafficking:

News over the past few weeks of local stings, arrests and convictions around human trafficking have prompted many phone calls from community members shocked to realize that it does happens here, and what more can be done. Given that trusted members of the public were arrested in the latest sting, it has really hit home for people. In response, the Kirsti Mouncey, President & CEO of the Collab has issued a press release addressing this issue. It is a quick read and does contain some very helpful information.

Interactive Survivors Resource Guide... To provide survivors with the information they need to access shelter, medical care, and therapeutic services, the Collab has created an interactive resource guide for all providers in Northeast Ohio. The Resource Guide can be easily accessed here.

From Cleveland Rape Crisis Center:

An integral part of its mission CRCC is promoting the prevention of sexual abuse by now offering free educational and training programs for youth and adults! Go here to see what's available and here to request a program. Questions? Email education-outreach@clevelandrcc.org.

A free, virtual "Human Trafficking Identification and Awareness Training" is scheduled for

10:00 am – 11:30 am, Tuesday, June 20th. – Register here for this overview of human trafficking and information about how to respond to suspected trafficking situations.

"SING OUT!" ... A unique & inspiring musical performance featuring the voices of more than a hundred community leaders coming together to raise awareness and funds for the life-changing and life-saving services of Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. The performance will take place on the evening of Thursday, June 8, 2023, at Severance Music Center. Go here for details and ticketing information.

From Futures Without Violence... Recognizing that homicide is the leading cause of death for pregnant women, often at the hands of a current or former partner, "... coupled w/the country's appalling – and worsening – rate of maternal mortality,...", F w/o V has assembled an impressive collection of programs and resources to focus attention and help mitigate this problem.

For organizations/individuals involved w/Home Visitation visit Connected Parents, Connected Kids for information and materials that help home visitation and early childhood staff address domestic violence among their clients. Research from home visiting programs has shown that as many as half of low-income mothers visited have experienced abuse.

Visit their Health Resource Guide: Key Tools webpage for resources as well as information re two new websites (www.ipvhealth.org & www.ipvhealthpartners.org – IVP stands for Intimate Partner Violence) that are designed to be digital hubs for establishing partnerships between domestic violence agencies and health care settings across the U.S.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

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

Key Bank Foundation; Department of Labor's Youthbuild Grant;

The Abington Foundation (primarily support nonprofits in Cuyahoga County);

The Citi Foundation;The Bank of **America Charitable Foundation;** Intel Semiconductor Scholarship for Women .. Female high-school seniors in Ohio who plan to pursue a STEM-related degree relevant to the semiconductor manufacturing industry can apply for one of 25 $5,000 scholarships! The deadline to apply is June 7, 2023.

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:

If you have students that will be new to Valley Forge or Normandy in September, stop in and tour over the summer. No RSVP is required. Call 440.885.8334 for more information

Last day of school – Students: Thurs, June 1st; Teachers: Friday, June 2nd

PCSD High School Commencement Ceremonies, Saturday, June 3rd, Byers Field...

Normandy: 10 am-Noon; Valley Forge: 2 pm – 4 pm; Parma: 6 pm – 8 pm

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

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma resident, Lena Simovic's photographic images were digitally displayed at the Cleveland's Assembly For The Arts, Art Ball at The Madison on Payne Ave, Saturday, May 13th. Congrats Lena!

Sean Mabin, owner of Prama Artspace & Gallery will be interviewed on June 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM for the podocast Tues@7. Tues @ 7 is a community where new Artists and Artists of Influence gather and collaborate.

Craig Lindsley, Parma Area Fine Arts Council member, and cartoonist will be appearing June 10th and 11th at S.P.A.C.E. Small Press & Alternative Comics Expo at the Ohio Expo Center in the Rhodes Center building.

Parma Area Fine Artists, Katie Harroff and Donata Rahne will be exhibiting their artworks at the Beachwood Library during the month of July. The opening reception will be held July 9th from 1 to 5.

Visit Denise Jansen, Parma Arts member, at The Hooley, Saturday, June 10th, from noon to 8 PM, in the West Park area of Cleveland. Lorain Rd will be closed from W. 165th to Rocky River Dr. for this event. FREE Admission to this outdoor event, where you'll find food and marketplace vendors, entertainment, a beer garden, and a children's area. Hooley is Irish slang for a celebration or party.

Stop in and visit Francis The Flamingo at Wall of Books, 7783 W Ridgewood Dr., at Shoppes of Parma. Francis was handmade by the staff from 80% recycled and found materials, and stands at 6 ft tall. If she didn't have her head in a book she would be over 12 ft! A special shout out to Wall of Books for their community support! In May they featured children's art from Parma City School's students Council of PTA's Show Your Voice 2023 in a popup art show called Off The Fridge.

Call For Artists – The Parma Area Historical Society at Stearns Homestead is inviting artists to participate in open air painting on Saturday, July 8, 2023. Artists are to bring their own supplies and set up between 9:30 & 10:00 am. Stearns opens to the public at 11:00 am. Artists should pre-register by email, with Name, Age (if under 18) and medium at stearnshomestead@gmail.com No registration fee. Stearns provides the subject matter, you provides the materials to create.

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.

Medley Of Arts

by Kathryn Mabin

May 20 & 21 was the Parma Area Fine Arts, (PAFAC), Medley of Arts Show & Sale at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in Parma. This year the annual show featured 42 artists and over 120 creations in various mediums. Besides paintings in watercolor, acrylics, and oils, there was alcohol ink, marker, colored pencil, charcoal, mixed media, wood burning on paper, collage and photography. Also three dimensional items like wood carving, assemblage, glass, stained class, and jewelry.

]This event was the largest and most successful show Parma Fine Arts has had in 20 years. The Arts Council has served this area since 1962. It consists of all volunteers, artists and art lovers. Cash prizes and ribbons are awarded to winning entries. The judges are an independent panel not affiliated with Parma Fine Arts. The judges work on a point system, scoring the pieces on originality, composition and technical use of medium. It took them over 2 hours to judge. They remarked on the high quality of the work and that made it very difficult to judge. This year two judges brought their own work for artists to critique during the show, stating that turn-about is fair play.



1st Place Watercolor

Besides artists from Parma, Parma Hts. & Seven Hills, there were entries from Strongsville, North Royalton, Independence, Cleveland, Lakewood, Olmsted Falls and Shaker Heights. Attendees to the two day event came from as far away as Akron to view this show. Attendees watched live demonstrations of wood carving from the Great Lakes Wood Carvers, and live acrylic painting from local artist Denise Jansen. You could meet and greet the artists. You could also win one of the 14 raffle prizes, consisting of original artwork, gift certificates & more, or the split the pot raffle.

The setup for the event was completed by many volunteers and took seven hours to check in, sort, tag and display the work. Twenty-five six foot high display screens, eight eight foot tables, two round tables and numerous chairs were staged for this event which was free admission and open to the public.

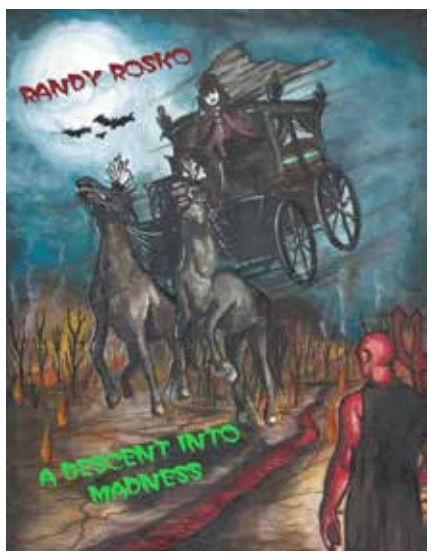
The unique thing about this annual show is that it's not juried. Anyone, amateur or professional can enter, ages 16 and up. The majority of the local shows are juried. You submit your entries along with a fee and a panel decides whether you're accepted or denied. Oh, and by the way, they keep the fee, even if you're denied. PAFAC's goal is to encourage people not discourage people to create. In past years they've even had a student age 16 win the biggest prize awarded.

For more information on what Parma Area Fine Arts Council is all about or what they have to offer, visit www.parmafinearts.org or follow them on Facebook.



Book Review: A Descent into Madness

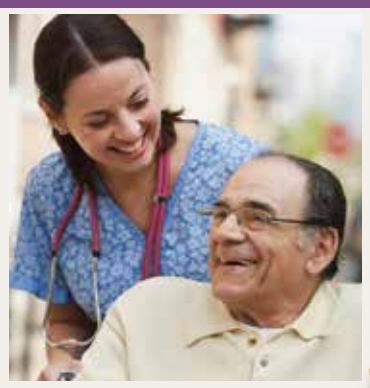
by Scott Miller



Mr. Rosko's book really does live up to its name: A Descent into Madness. As I read it, I felt as if I was a prisoner in this insane and helpless little realm which the author has so cleverly created. Some of Rosko's thoughts and ideas are just so bizarre and twisted that the work is truly frightening and downright disturbing … until you pinch yourself and realize that it is not real … Or is it? In a way, the story reminded me of Dante's Inferno and long, tortuous journeys through the abyss. That is where similarities end. Rosko's journey is more unsettling. For one, in this tale, the reader is lost; this is the most fearsome state of all. Also, unlike Inferno, Rosko's story abounds with sick humor.

Mr. Rosko has a unique gift for describing to his readers his inner demons, fears, frustrations, hopes and loves. Most importantly, Rosko has a need for his dear reader's friendship. For me the big question is why Mr. Rosko is so obsessed with that magical red liquid that is the very essence of the life force. No, he couldn't be one of those!

Like the great Mark Twain, Rosko dislikes the human race and blames it for the world's problems, woes and miseries. Furthermore Rosko would like nothing more than to see the human race self-destruct. Words of wisdom my man! Is this guy a genius or what?!



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