

“Let’s strive to be better in September.” - Charmaine J. Forde

Still Standing With Ukraine

by Daniel P. McCarthy

It was 1991 when Ukraine declared independence from the then crumbling Soviet Union. 32 years later Ukrainians everywhere are still celebrating that momentous decision. Here in Parma we are so very lucky to have Ukrainian Village, said to be the largest Ukrainian community in the US outside of Chicago. Their annual parade honoring Ukrainian Independence every August continues to grow larger and more spectacular every year. The weather was just about perfect for people in Parma to come out and enjoy the lengthy procession and show support for our Ukrainian residents who are extremely proud and also very concerned about what is happening half way around the world. in a land they hold dear



People of Parma standing at attention as the flags of the United States and Ukraine are raised by the color guard during the annual Parma Ukrainian Village Independence Parade.

to a people they cherish.

When Putin launched his barbaric war of aggression on the Ukrainian people in early 2022, no one was sure how long they could last against one of the largest war machines on the planet. Now it has become clear that Ukraine is resolved to emerge from this unwanted

conflict intact, with their heads held high, despite the relentless attacks from an increasingly desperate dictator who has no sense of decency whatsoever. With the help of the United States and other committed countries, they have managed to hold off their giant aggressive neighbor, and in doing so have inspired the rest of the world to understand that the desire to be free and determine their fate should never be taken for granted by anyone. As for Parma, we have stood with Ukraine since day one, and will continue to do so based on the large outpouring of our people showing support at the parade this year.



Parma Heights Launches New Website

by Marie Gallo

The City of Parma Heights is proud to announce the launch of its new website. After several months in development, the website at www.parmaheightsoh.gov was unveiled in August. The new website provides a refreshed design, improved navigation and mobile and tablet friendly.

The previous website was run through the county and they will be ending maintenance and services in less than a year. The goal of the new website was to give the City of Parma Heights the controls on the backend and make it user friendly. All the great information that was on the old site has been migrated to the new site with many enhancements.

The redesigned website features easier navigation for users to click through the drop downs. The website is



a great resource with reliable information that is continually updated. Whether guests are looking for information on the building department for permits, or the service department for bulk collection dates or even recreation signing up for sports and programs, all the information is on the website.

The biggest addition to the website is the icon in the bottom right corner. Once you click on the person, the Accessibility Adjustments screen pops open. This offers a wide array of options for visitors, such as ADHD friendly profile, blind

users (screen reader), content adjustment with scaling and font sizing, color adjusting and much more.

Visit the City of Parma Heights website at www.parmaheightsoh.gov and discover the new updates and enhancements.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofParmaHeights>

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Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.

NEORSRD Assists Parma With \$700,000 Grant

by Jennifer Elting

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s Board of Trustees awarded 17 Member Community Infrastructure Program (MCIP) grants totaling \$14,900,964.98, including \$700,000 for the City of Parma’s Craigleigh Drive Septic Abatement Project.

MCIP provides funding to member communities and eligible political subdivisions for sewer infrastructure rehabilitation, replacement and improvement projects that address water quality and quantity issues. These issues adversely impact human health and the environment and are mitigated through cost-effective sewer infrastructure projects.

Since the program’s inception in 2016, the Sewer District has awarded \$77.4 million towards 107 public sewer infrastructure improvement projects. The Sewer

District’s grants have leveraged an additional \$97.2 million in member community infrastructure investments, greatly improving water quality in the region.

“Failing septic systems, basement flooding, sanitary sewer overflows and common trench sewers all can contribute to poor water quality throughout our region,” said Frank Greenland, Director of Watershed Programs. “This program provides a vital funding mechanism to assist with needed repairs and new sewer infrastructure and protects and improves the region’s water resources.”

The Sewer District anticipates funds will be available annually through a competitive process and upon approval of the Board of Trustees. Additional information about the program can be found at <http://neorsd.org/mcip>

Community Open Houses For New Library Branch

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library and Bialosky Cleveland will host three open house events and welcome the community to attend in September 2023. Share ideas and give input on what the community would like to see in the design plans of a new state-of-the-art Parma Heights Branch. Meet and talk to the architects from Bialosky Cleveland, the Library Management team and the Mayor of Parma Heights.

No registration and all are invited. Open houses will be held at the current Parma Heights Branch Library located at 6206 Pearl Road, Parma Heights in Greenbrier Commons on the following dates.

Tuesday, September 19th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C

Thursday, September 21st from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A

Saturday, September 30th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon in Meeting Room A

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month’s script Parma picture of the month depicts Parma resident Gwynne Haslem and her canine Cinnamon. Gwynne has won a gift card courtesy of Chuppa’s Marketplace. If you would like to submit a photo for the contest, please email it to Sean.Brennan@pierogie5k@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

Anyone who know me, knows that I have a deep respect for law enforcement. In fact, in my nearly two decades on Parma City Council, I was an ardent supporter of the Parma Police Department, advocating for fair wages and benefits, as well as modern equipment, training, and support so that law enforcement can do their public service to the best of their ability and as safely as possible. As state representative my support for law enforcement continues and I am happy to report that I voted "YES" on the biennial state transportation and operating budgets, both of which provide robust funding for law enforcement at the state and local levels.

Recently, I had the honor of flying with two of Ohio's finest – Ohio Highway Patrol Sgt. Chris Hasty and Trooper Jeff Evans. I spent about 8 hours with Sgt. Hasty and Trooper Evans and my colleague, Representative Darnell Brewer, in the Ohio Highway Patrol helicopter that they use as part of the Cleveland Violence Reduction Initiative. Representative Brewer and I are happy to support this program, along-



side Governor Michael DeWine. During the time we spent on the helicopter we worked with multiple highway patrol units on the ground to intercept known felons, as well as the illegal guns and drugs in their possession. In all, we were a part of several high speed pursuits of law-breakers through the streets of Cleveland – from west side to east side. In fact, one

of those we pursued fled all the way down to Akron before turning around and coming back to Cleveland. I am happy to report that all of those we followed were eventually apprehended and arrested.

Representative Brewer represents a portion of Cleveland's east side, while I represent about one-third of Cleveland's West Park. I am convinced that the Cleveland Initiative is making for a safer Cleveland, as well as safer suburbs. The more of these law-breakers we take off the streets, the fewer stolen vehicles, high speed chases, illegal drugs and guns, etc. we will see. I was appalled at the lack of respect for innocent life each of these law-breakers had as they raced through the streets at speeds as high as 120 MPH. I cannot express how impressed I was with how professional and thorough the members of the Highway Patrol were during my time with them, as well as how well they worked with local law enforcement. I was especially impress with how methodical they were about ensuring the safety of bystanders and

I am happy to report that no innocents were injured, although there were multiple frightening close calls.

It was an honor to ride with Sgt. Hasty and Trooper Evans and I thank them and all of their colleagues for their service. Experiences like this make me a better representative for you at the Statehouse. Armed with this firsthand knowledge of what it is like for law enforcement working "in the trenches" reminds me of how important it is to ensure adequate resources for them. Needless to say, I sleep well knowing that my family and those I serve are under their watch. It is an honor to support them and it is a high honor to represent you. I want you to know how sincerely and deeply I care about each and every one of you.

As always, if my office may be of help to you, please contact us at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov. Best wishes to you and yours as we transition into fall this month.

State Rep. Brennan Sets Constituent Events

by Sean Patrick Brennan

District 14 State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland) has announced his September constituent gatherings. Once again, he is holding most of them outside to encourage residents to get out and get active with him.

Sunday, September 10 (7:00 pm – 8:00 pm) – A virtual town hall with State Representatives Sean Patrick Bren-

nan and Juanita Brent. The topic to be covered will be the 2023 redistricting process in Ohio. If you are interested in attending, please email Rep. Brennan at Rep14@OhioHouse.gov. A link to the meeting will be sent to those who RSVP.

Monday, September 18 (8:00 am to 9:00 am) - Hike and chat with Rep. Brennan at 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. There is no RSVP required.

Sunday, September 24 (8:00 am to 9:00 am) – Bike and chat with Rep. Brennan in the Big Creek Reservation. Meet in the parking lot off of Snow Road. – We will bike south through Parma and Parma Heights, then back. Canceled if weather is inclement. There is no RSVP required.

"As a public servant I want to be accessible to my constituents. Knowing what is on the people's minds helps me represent them better at the Statehouse. I hope that folks will join me for these opportunities to engage and learn from one another," Brennan said.

Please contact Representative Brennan's office at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov, if you would prefer a private meeting or if you require assistance with a state issue.

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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Urologists Plan Surgical Mission To Ukraine

by CJ Sheppard

Laura Bukavina, MD, a Ukrainian-born urologic oncologist at University Hospitals, hasn't been able to rest since her homeland was invaded by Russia in February 2022. Within days of the invasion early last year, she and her husband and brother departed for Ukraine to find ways to assist. They ended up at a border crossing where the only medical professional was a Canadian paramedic, assisted by a handful of Polish volunteers.

This fall, on her fourth trip to the war-torn country, she is taking reinforcements: two reconstructive urologists who can perform procedures on patients with war-related pelvic trauma. Dr. Bukavina, along with Shubham Gupta, MD, and Kirtishri Mishra, MD, will travel to Lviv from October 13-22.

"We've been following along as the whole world has, and there has been a great medical need from the trauma of war," Dr. Mishra said. "We were happy to help."

Born in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, Bukavina moved with her mother to Parma – which has the largest Ukrainian population in Ohio – when she was 11. She has stayed in touch with many friends and family in Ukraine and made short videos speaking to her countrymen in Ukrainian, explaining the



Ukrainian-born Laura Bukavina, MD, is planning a medical mission to Lviv, Ukraine this fall with reconstructive urologists Shubham Gupta, MD, left, and Kirtishri Mishra, MD, right. The trio will care for pelvic trauma patients in the war-torn country and teach surgical techniques to Ukrainian surgeons

trio's upcoming medical mission.

"We aren't going to change the world in one trip, but there are a lot of skills and expertise we can bring to bear," said Dr. Gupta. "Laura is providing an amazing example of what can be done."

In Lviv, where Dr. Bukavina maintains many contacts, she is orchestrating for UH surgeons to introduce local physicians to innovative surgical techniques to better care for their patients affected by combat trauma. As a urologic oncol-

ogist who did her surgical residency at UH and her fellowship at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia before recently returning to Cleveland, she is quickly making connections, including with urology practices in Lviv.

"This goes beyond mere temporary relief," Dr. Bukavina said. "By sending our globally recognized surgeons to Ukraine, we're embodying UH's mission: to heal, to teach, to discover. They'll not only execute life-saving surgeries and improve

quality of life, but by training the gifted Ukrainian physicians, we're ensuring these advanced surgical techniques continue to benefit the local population long after our mission concludes."

For more information on this mission, email Dr. Bukavina. Donations can be made at www.clevelandmaidan.info, where every penny goes directly towards backing this surgical mission, said Dr. Bukavina.

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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA



NEORSD’s Annual, Clean Water Fest Is On Sunday September 23. Join Us For A Day Of Free Fab Fun!

by Kirsten Bull

Our festival of all things water is Saturday, September 23, 2023. A full day of free games, giveaways, tours, trucks, education, and inspiration unlike any other. Join thousands of our closest friends from Northeast Ohio and beyond at Clean Water Fest! Guests can tour one of the country’s largest wastewater treatment plants, and our award-winning and state-certified laboratory. Play games, win prizes, meet the stars of the Discovery network series ‘Sewer Divers,’ and walk away winners with newfound knowledge of the work it takes to protect our environment.

If you would like to host an exhibit space at our 2023 Clean Water Fest, please reach out to Jessica Shutty at shuttyj@neorsd.org

Event Details:

Saturday, September 23, 2023
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.)
4747 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125



On August 21, members of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, along with Ward 6 Parma City Councilman Kevin Kussmaul gathered at the brand new Arby's at Broadview and Pleasant Valley Roads. to cut the ribbon and open this long awaited business.

Bullying In America

by Deborah White

In the last few months we have seen a rise in bullying incidents across America. Children are dying because too much of our adult population have turned a blind eye. When a child and/or parents communicate issues to appropriate school personnel, they are being shrugged off or ignored. Bullying has become an epidemic in America. There are millions of children bullied every day. And based off of recent events, it is no wonder that most of these children will never tell anyone. Children fear that no one will believe them, no one will sincerely care, and many adults will not listen at all. Unfortunately, some individuals say it is part of growing up. But, when is it not? Bullying starts at a young age and the lesson of how to deal with bullies must start at home. And even more important is how do we teach children not to bully? Being bullied has caused children to commit suicide and if you don't think this is important to stop, then you are part of the problem! Anyone can be a bully. Now is the time to teach your children NOT to Bully! It is up to school staff, friends, neighbors, and especially, parents! And, since we cannot possibly stop every bully in the United States, we must learn to handle the situations correctly and hopefully without fatalities. Also, should children suffer the consequences of fighting back? I don't believe they should, as long as it isn't with guns. But, children need to stand up for themselves, especially when others will not.

Bullying can be defined in different ways. Everyone has their own ideas and experiences. I define bullying as, “a pattern of harmful and aggressive behavior aimed at injuring and/or controlling others”. Bullying can start with the smallest act. It can be cutting in line or refusing someone a seat at the cafeteria table. This is what I call Progressive Bullying. And it can even come from the closest of friends. There are many types of bullying and different avenues to do so. They include: Cyber, Physical, and Verbal.

Helping students to understand why peers bully is hard to do, but we want our kids to start with positive re-enforcement of themselves and why they are important. Positive re-enforcement begins with learning how to believe in themselves, even when the bully is dragging the child's self-esteem across the ground. By building confidence and self-esteem, students can learn and understand how to handle bullies and possibly gain control of the situation. Self-defense techniques and defense strategies are important in this area of development. Here are some rules that you can start with which may help:

- 1- Don't Bully Back --But Don't Back Down
- 2- Use words before fists
- 3- Use Controlled Breathing to remain calm & focused
- 4- Don't put your hands on him unless it is absolutely necessary
- 5- Don't be aggressive--be assertive & confident
- 6- Tell a trusted adult as soon as possible

Bullying prevention classes can help teach your child to stand up to bullies. To learn more about how to handle bullies you can contact me at theselfdefenseguru@yahoo.com

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PARMA HEIGHTS

When And How Do I Harvest?

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host When and How do I Harvest on Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Learn about harvesting, canning and preserving vegetables from the Master Gardeners Speaker Bureau. Growing vegetables has great rewards! Whether enjoying them immediately in a salad, as a dinner dish, or canning and freezing for later use--this presentation includes all you need to know about the right time to harvest and how to do it! Presented by Master Gardeners Speaker Bureau. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

Aging With A Plan: With Author Sharona Hoffman, JD, LLM, SJD

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Aging with a Plan: with Author Sharona Hoffman, JD, LLM, SJD on Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Professor Sharona Hoffman will talk about challenges that people encounter as they grow older or become caregivers to aging loved ones. Ranging from social, financial, legal and medical challenges, Professor Hoffman will offer practical advice supported by research studies and share personal anecdotes based on her 2022 book Aging with a Plan. Learn how some thought today can greatly improve tomorrow. Book sale and signing following the presentation. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

Paranormal: The Pursuit Of The Afterlife

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Paranormal: The Pursuit of the Afterlife on Saturday, September 23rd, 2023 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. The Ohio Researchers of Banded Spirits (ORBS) will talk about its paranormal team, types of Spirits, equipment used and how to get started. Featured on television shows and one of Ohio's top paranormal teams, ORBS will share information about its 17 years of investigating and recording paranormal activity with compelling evidence. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

Discover Affordable, Stylish Glasses At 168 Optical

by Emery Pinter

168 Optical is all about making prescription glasses affordable. And you can customize your new eyeglasses to create a set of prescription sunglasses or transitional specs that tint in the sunlight. 168 Optical is located at 6315 Pearl Road on the 2nd floor, Ste #206 in Parma Heights. At 168 Optical, this store has quality, durability and comfort you expect from glasses, in the styles you're proud to wear. You'll find everything from classic low-profile styles to bold, standout picks that make a fashion statement.

All lenses are put through a series of inspections to check for quality, clarity and proper alignment. You also have the option for upgrades like progressive lenses, anti-reflective coatings and transition lenses. Making really good prescription glasses requires an advanced level of skill and

Amy, the manager, pays serious attention to detail. 168 Optical also accepts vision insurance or funds from flexible spending or health savings accounts, so if you're looking for a way to use up FSA or HSA dollars by the end of the year, this is it! This is a great local store to shop because of their combination of attractive glasses, and a super-affordable price-point.

Visit their website at www.168opticalshop.com for business hours, a full list of vision care plans, and current promotions. If you're in the market for a new pair of prescription glasses, you can't go wrong with the options at 168 Optical. Whether you have a fairly standard or more complicated prescription, 168 Optical can likely accommodate with its wide range of available glasses/lens types from progressives to transitions. 168 Optical has you (and your eyes) covered!!

Learn To Square Dance- FREE Lessons!!!

by Brenda Nelson

3 FREE Square Dance Lessons are being offered on MONDAYS: September 11, 18, & 25, 2023, 7-9PM, @ St. Paul Lutheran Church (276 E. Bagley Rd. Berea, Ohio 44017- corner of Eastland & Bagley)!!! All ages welcome (12 yrs. & up); singles & couples welcome! Please join us for lessons, if you like what you see! (continuing on October 2, 2023, @ \$5/lesson, or we have bargains!) Come & see what square dancing is like! It's a wonderful, wholesome family activity! It's fun, friendship, & aerobic exercise, set to music!!! Questions? Call Diane (440-779-8379), or email solosquaredanceclub@outlook.com



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INSPIRATION



Hometown Heroes...
Parma Senior Veterans Group,
Growth Exceeding Expectations

by Tony Kessler

September marks the 6-month anniversary of the newly formed “Parma Area Senior Veterans” meetup group. What was expected to be a meeting place for 20 or 25 senior veterans, has turned into a meeting place for 70 to 100 each month. Veterans from WWII to the most recent war on terrorism, have enjoyed the camaraderie of the monthly meetups while gaining valuable information about VA benefits and issues relating to seniors as well as veterans. Guest speakers each month have provided a plethora of information pertinent to the well-being, health, and safety of senior veterans. Guest speakers have included Molly Carlin President of Cleveland American Veterans Association (CAVA), Ginger MacCutheon of the DAV/Amvets, Diane Griggs Veterans Outreach Coordinator of the Parma Vet Center, Special agents from the Cleveland Division of the FBI, Preston Bures of the Parma Fire Department. City officials including Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, State rep Sean Brennan and many council members have been regular attendees at the monthly meetings. Spouses, caretakers, and supporters are welcome.

The monthly meetups always

include a guest speaker, snacks, door prizes, 50/50 raffles and plenty of mix and mingle time. Through the group efforts, they have helped veterans with problems they could not solve through any other avenues. One member who has health issues was about to get a citation for not having his lawn mowed, through the group we were able to provide him with a lawn care service. Another member was having trouble cutting through the red tape to get her husband into the VA Hospital, with our help he got admitted within a few days.

There is a planned group bus trip to the Ohio Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton Ohio on Sept 28th. There is also a very special Veterans Day meetup on November 8 with a lunch buffet, professional entertainer, special guest speaker, VIP guests, door prizes, 50/50's and much more. We had a similar event for Memorial Day which drew over 100 attendees.

For more information contact Tony Kessler
Phone or Text: 440-263-0507
Email: parmaareaseniorvets@yahoo.com
Join and follow us on: facebook/[parmaareaseniorveterans](https://www.facebook.com/parmaareaseniorveterans)

“Rabies” Documentary Airing On Cox Cable

by Kevin Kelly

Believe it or not, September 28, is World Rabies Day. Advocating for its elimination, the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), has set aside this day for raising awareness about this fatal disease. Most people don't realize that rabies is still killing 60,000 people worldwide each year. That is an average of one death every 10 minutes. Even though animal control programs have significantly decreased rabies cases in this country, 3 to 5 people and approximately 7,000 animals are known to die from rabies every year just in the U. S. In the United States the rabies virus is mostly found in wild mammals such as skunks, raccoons, coyotes, dogs, cats, horses and livestock. The Ohio Department of Health says that rabies in wildlife continues to pose a threat to people and should keep up with the current rabies vaccine for their pets.

Rabies can not only enter the body through a bite from an infected animal, but also through mucous membranes, such as eyes, nose or mouth. There have even been a few cases where people contracted rabies through organ transplants. An infected animal will begin to show

change in its behavior, usually aggressive rise to a fever pitch or mute and slack-jawed, which is known as dumb rabies. Many animals will have a marked change in their “voice.” The animal will die within days of showing signs of rabies.

When the rabies virus enters the human body, it can take up to several weeks to a few years before a person develops any symptoms. The bite mark will eventually heal over, causing the person to forget the altercation they had with an animal. However, once symptoms began to manifest the bite will eerily reappear, usually with a burning and itching sensation at the wound. The symptoms may begin with a fever or headache, and it will progress to severe agitation or sleepiness. Once a person develops symptoms, they will likely die of the disease. That is why, if any animal bites you, the World Health Organization stresses that you talk to your doctor or health care provider right away.

For more information on this subject, you can watch the documentary about the history of rabies, during the Month of September, on COX Cable, Channel 45, Sundays at 9:00 PM or email: Kevin@shockerenterprises.com.

Commander Of American
Forces In World War 1

by Robert Stilwell

John J. Pershing was born Septemeber 13, 1860, near Laclede, Missouri. He was decorated for bravery in the Spanish American War, 1898. He led the American forces in World War 1. He died on July 15, 1948, in Washington D.C.

Trainig Soldiers

Pershing had to create America's World War 1 army---the American Expeditionary Force---from scratch. Raw recruits were trained aboard ships on the way to France. At first there were not enough rifles, and some soldiers drilled with broomsticks instead.



A New Rank

After World War 1, Pershing was named General of the Armies. He was the first person in American history to hold that title.

A Pulitzer Prize

In 1931, Pershing wrote his memoirs, (My Experiences in the World War). The book won a Pulitzer Prize and is considered an outstanding history of Americas role in the War.

Mobile Food Pantry

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, September 20th 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.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**
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
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NEIGHBORHOODS

Are We Now Living In That Dystopian Future?

by Lee Kamps

Fifty years ago, this past summer, one of the top movies playing in the theatres was *Soylent Green*. That movie starred Charlton Heston as a police detective and Edward G Robinson in his last movie before he died as his old friend and confident. The setting was in an overpopulated dystopian society in 2222 where there weren't enough jobs to go around, and we couldn't produce enough food to feed the masses. The giant Soylent corporation literally controlled the world's entire food supply, and the favorite food was their Soylent Green.

The authorities used front end loaders to clear people from the streets demonstrating against the food rations in a society controlled by giant mega corporations that ran everything from the food supply to how people lived. Edward G Robinson's character was an old man in his 80s who had seen enough and remembers what it was like long ago when there was plenty of food and getting out into nature was easy to do. But in that dystopian society, nature was hard to find as pollution had poisoned the air and water.

In the society of the movie, assisted suicide was legal and encouraged to ease the population crunch. Edward G Robinson's character had seen too much and opted to have assisted sui-

cide as his way out. He was taken into a well-lit room while a projector showed movies of nature and what the world looked like when he was a healthy young man while the sound system played Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony while he slowly fell asleep and died.

I will not go further into this movie's plot, but the Charlton Heston character decides to look for his old friend and, in the process, discovers the "secret" to Soylent Green. The movie is available on streaming on Amazon Prime video and other streaming services.

In 2014, director Christopher Nolan, whose movie *Oppenheimer* is currently playing in theatres did a movie called *Interstellar* set in another dystopian society in the not too distant future starring Matthew McConaughey as a retired astronaut who is recruited for a mission to find another suitable planet for people to live. It seems that due to global warming, the earth is becoming increasingly uninhabitable. He is sent on a mission into deep space to find a suitable planet for humans to live on. I won't go into the plot, but the special effects are really good as well as the theories of Einstein and Steven Hawking that are used in this movie.

So, here we are in 2023 and it seems that the dystopian society seen in movies has become real. We are witnessing wildfires all over and smoke

from fires thousands of miles away drifting to the shores of Lake Erie. Hot weather in Texas is common, but in parts of Texas, they have had unrelenting 100-degree heat with no rain for two months. Then, a hurricane hits southern California and the desert of the southwest. Meanwhile the northeastern states have experienced flooding rains. Off the coast of Florida, the sea surface temperatures have hit record high levels. Warm sea surface water is like rocket fuel for hurricanes.

After experiencing the worst pandemic in more than a century, I read an article about leprosy being discovered in Florida. Leprosy? That is a disease from biblical times that hasn't been around for centuries. But it is caused by a bacterium that thrives in hot humid climates and where people are crowded close together. Could a plague of locusts be next?

In 2006, former Vice President Al Gore produced a documentary titled *An Inconvenient Truth* that showed the evidence of global warming or climate change has accelerated since the beginning of the industrial age in the mid-19th century. That movie showed scientific evidence and that this global warming was due to increased burning of fossil fuels that sent more carbon into the atmosphere. That movie won an Academy Award as Best Document-

tary for Al Gore.

Almost immediately following the release of “An Inconvenient Truth”, the deniers came out in force and the issue became political. After all, Al Gore almost became President of the United States six years earlier. But science is not political. Now seventeen years after An Inconvenient Truth was released, it seems that climate change or global warming is here and is getting worse as our weather is becoming more extreme and weather disasters are daily headlines.

Fifty years ago this summer, the nation was riveted by the Watergate hearings that were on television. During those hearings that summer, a bombshell was dropped when a Nixon aide revealed that all the conversations were secretly being recorded. This was unprecedented, the President of the United States was being accused of breaking the law and abusing his power. But we all know now what transpired.

Fast forward and here is a former President now facing criminal charges in four jurisdictions who still is claiming that the election three years ago was “stolen” from him. Despite those criminal charges against the former President, he is the clear front runner for his party’s nomination for President next year. So, I ask, are we now living in this dystopian society portrayed in the movies?

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PERSPECTIVE

Republicans, We Can Definitely Do Better...

by Davidione Pearl

Here we are, America, a former president indicted four times facing ninety-one criminal charges - an unprecedented corrosion that has seeped into and infected the nation hurling our era among those of the darkest days in our country's history. Regardless of political affiliation, many understandably wonder how we got here, and to that end there has been a cascade of events that went unchecked, optics that have been purposefully directed to mislead. The idea that these charges are a witch hunt by democrats is patently untrue.

Special Counsel Jack Smith is a registered Independent that has prosecuted democrats equally for crimes under the law, namely former disgraced senator and presidential candidate John Edwards (NC-D). Additionally, it is firmly impractical to consider it a witch hunt when the former president's own republican legal staff informed him that the race was lost after they endeavored rightful legal actions in over sixty national court cases and lost - many of the losses before federal judges appointed by the former president himself up to and including the Supreme Court, who decided unanimously to dismiss his grievance, another court with several of his appointees.

Apart from hundreds of republican staffers in total across the nation and in his administration testifying to his criminality after the election loss, (and) his Chief of Staff Mark Mead-



ows informing him that the Mara Lago documents needed to be returned to the National Archives (a warning that he simply dismissed), and both Mark Meadows and V.P Mike Pence stating under oath that the documents were never declassified (corroborated by the former president's own audio tapes), the former president has simply brought all of this on himself - not some democrat witch hunt in the slightest with the monumental amount of supportive republican testimony under oath. He went the legal route after losing, when that didn't work he chose coercion and violence, and sat back and watched while our Capitol was attacked, a supreme dereliction of duty, leaving the Dept. of Justice with no choice but to follow the evidence (all of which was provided by once-

supporters of the former president).

The D.O.J presented the facts to grand juries, everyday neighbors doing their civic duty once their number was called, and (they) decided on charges. Some may ask why the charges took so long to be brought forth - the answer is right before our very eyes. There were thousands involved in the crimes and the resulting widespread investigation was destined to take an extremely long time to sift through.

The former president had nearly three years to provide evidence to support his grievances and provided none, zero, yet continued to mount egregious evidence against himself because his ego is seemingly incapable of accepting another's win. He fomented insurrection and gave aid and comfort to insurrectionists, both disqualifying factors for presidential office under Article Three in the 14th Amendment.

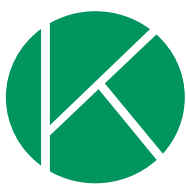
If an aggrieved candidate for Parma Mayor inspired an attack on city hall would it not be prudent to investigate and charge that individual once a jury found it to be so? His own wife and children see the writing on the wall and have distanced themselves from him in public the last few months.

Last, some may wonder why his poll numbers remain elevated, the answer is simple. Fox "News" and certain G.O.P leaders continue to sow seeds of support towards him to keep their own ratings, power, and revenue dollars consolidated, and the more they steer the people in efforts to line their pockets the more they maintain its veneer of validity, when it is not.

They are all gifting.

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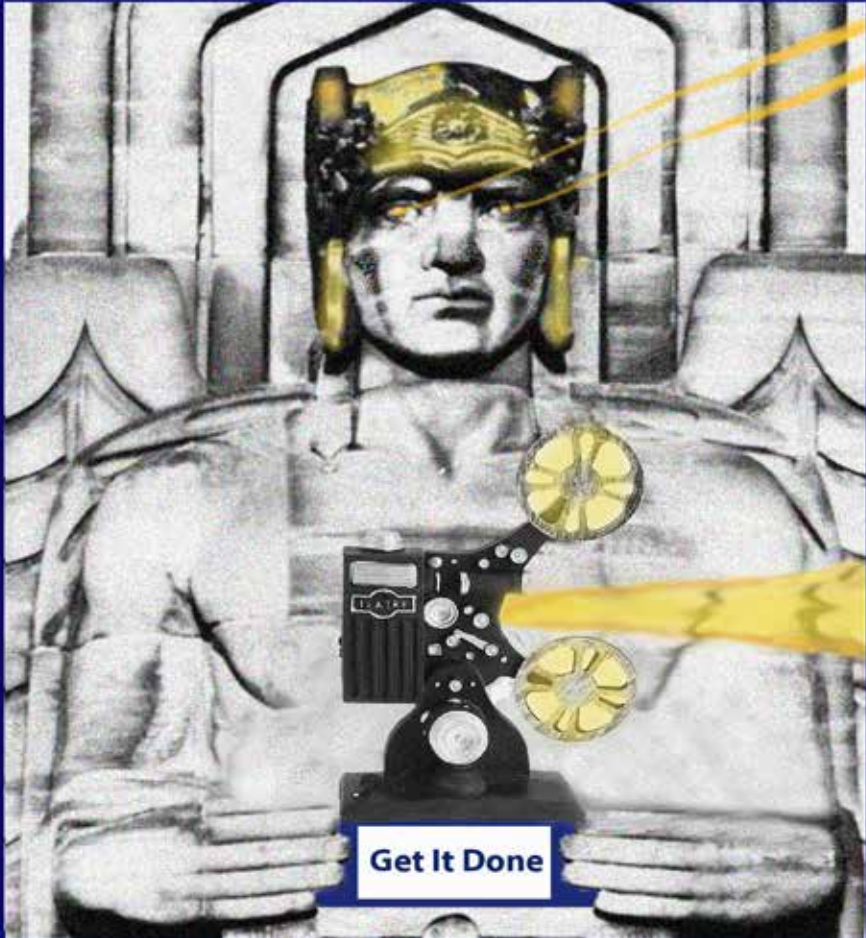
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OBSERVER

Parma's First Bike Lane

by Jeff Moenich

Congratulations, Parma, you have your first bike lane! You may have noticed some symbols painted on the right outer lanes on Pearl Rd between Brookpark and Snow Rd. This is called a sharrow. Bike Cleveland describes it as this: "This symbol is a "Sharrow" (a cross between "share" and "arrow") or "Shared Lane Bicycle Marking". They are painted on roadways as a reminder to motorists that bikes may be present on the road, and yes, they are legally allowed to take the full lane."

I have attended 4 council meetings to encourage bike lanes in Parma so we can keep up with other cities in promoting biking, safety, exercise and alternate means of transportation. Over the past few months,

Mayor Tim DeGeeter has met with Bike Cleveland and other officials and finalized the Pearl Rd bike sharrows in October of 2022. This now connects miles of Parma Heights sharrows and bike lanes with City of Cleveland bike lanes. There are other areas of concern in our city:

1. No continuous sidewalk on Ridgewood Dr to connect State Rd to West Creek Park. Have you ever tried to ride your bike on this road? Dangerous! At the last council meeting on June 5, 2023, Mayor DeGeeter said there are definite plans to make a safe, connecting bike lane or trail.
2. No sidewalks on Ridgewood to connect State Rd to Ridge Rd (Shoppes at Parma). Speed limit 35mph with dangerous curves. The Mayor stated after the eastbound trail to West Creek Park, this section wil then be addressed.
3. More signage needed in Parma promoting "sharing the road." Mayor DeGeeter is working on it!
4. Consideration of bike lanes on any new road construction. It would be great if Parma could add some striped or designated bike lanes. I think it's

time to let our elected officials know we're ready for designated bike lanes in Parma. We also need to start educating motorists and bicyclists on safety issues.

Some starters for motorists:

1. Bicyclists are permitted to ride on most streets in Ohio, the road is meant to be shared.
2. Give the cyclist at least 3 feet as required by law ehcn passing a bicyclist. You are also permitted to cross the double yellow line to pass them.
3. Watch for bicyclists, especially on sharrow lanes, side streets, near parks or schools and especially when pulling out of your driveway.
4. Use your turn signals so others can see if your are turning in front of them.
5. Look for pedestrians or bicyclists on the right side when you are turning right on red. Most motorists just look to the left for oncoming traffic.

Some tips for bicyclists:

1. Parents, teach your children about bike safety, practice crossing busy streets.
2. Wear a helmet!
3. Make sure you have reflectors and a bell. Wear reflective vests or clothing if night riding. State law requires a headlight and rear red light if riding at night.
4. Obey traffic signals. Stop at traffic lights and stop signs. Use hand signals.
5. Walk you bike in a crosswalk!!! You are considered a motorist if you ride in a cross walk and don't have the legal rights of a pedestrian, ie, you don't have the right of way. Check out this article: [https://plaintiffmagazine.com/recent-issues/item/hey-you-re-riding-in-the-crosswalk#:~:text=Bicyclists%20do%20not%20have%20the,Code%2C%20%2A7%2021950.\)](https://plaintiffmagazine.com/recent-issues/item/hey-you-re-riding-in-the-crosswalk#:~:text=Bicyclists%20do%20not%20have%20the,Code%2C%20%2A7%2021950.))
6. Ride defensively! Motorists can't hear you (use your bell) and your are



small, hard to see. Your are not surrounded by steel!

7. Stay as far to the right as possible.

8. Please, please, please, give warning to others (especially elderly pedestrians) and slow down when you are passing them on the bike paths or on sidewalks!!!

55 bicyclists lost their lives in Ohio in 2020, according to News 5

Cleveland: In Depth:Bicycle Crashes-Climbing Across Ohio, (May 19,2021)

As biking has become more popular and e-bikes are coming in droves, you will see more cyclists on the roads this Summer. Use common sense and be respectful of each other so we can all be safe.

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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (and where to find it)

by Gene Lovasy
Local Events And Opportunities:
From Ohio House District 14 Representative Sean Brennan - Monthly Newsletter

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

These focus primarily on supporting organizations, programs, and projects related to minority mental health awareness: > Bob Woodruff Foundation; > Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation; > Ridge-cliff Foundation; > Community West Foundation; > Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation. If you're affiliated with a family/youth-serving organization visit these funders' sites to see if your program/service fits their mission.

From Parma City Schools:
Go here to view the 2023 – 24 school supply lists for the First Step program and links to lists for each elementary & middle school.

Go here to view the 2023 – 24 school year calendar. The first day of school will be the day after Labor Day, Tuesday, Sept. 5th, the last day will be Friday, June 14, 2024.

From Parma Council of PTAs ... The Council's 2023 – 2024 fiscal year has begun & joining this organiza-

tion has never been easier. Clicking on this LINK TREE provides immediate access to all individual school PTAs as well as Parma Early Childhood, First Step Preschool, and A.C.E.S. Center For Education PTAs. Get involved; make a difference.

From Southwest Community Based Services (SWCBS – a program under the umbrella of University Settlement)... Now, in addition to serving just families involved with the Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services, the program has expanded to assist ANY family w/ children up to 18 as well as offering services for youth aging out of foster care. Call 216.331.7323 for more information

From Cuyahoga Community College:
The Fall Semester begins August 28, 2023, & registration has begun. As a member of Tri-C's Paralegal Studies Advisory Board, I can vouch for it as being one of the highest-rated such programs in the region recognized and well respected by our local Bar Association. For reasonable tuition, this ABA-accredited program offers in-demand career opportunities with a median salary in the mid-\$50s. For any folks out there specializing in

career counseling, you might consider recommending the program as an inexpensive gateway for someone thinking of becoming an attorney. Check it out here or call 216.987.5113.

From the City of Parma ...
Parma's Annual Safety Fair is scheduled for 11 – 2:00 pm, Saturday, August 12th. Go here to learn more about one of this area's signature community events.

From Ohio Dept. of Education (ODE):
COSI hosts a game design challenge for students. The Summer BOARDom Breaker challenges students in grades K-12 to design a new, fun, educational game that COSI will professionally design, produce and include in their water-themed COSI Connects Kit. Click on the hyperlink for details and registration. The deadline for submissions is noon on August 18th.

ODE is introducing A Family's Guide to Engagement. This new resource offers tangible, accessible tools for parents to encourage engagement with service providers and educational teams supporting students and advocacy on behalf of their children. Focused on the early childhood years, the first chapter, Lived Experi-

ence, and the second chapter, Fostering Family Engagement, are available now. The Department will release additional chapters monthly.
Child Sexual Abuse, Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence Prevention – Go here to visit the webpage developed to assist schools and districts with meeting the requirements of recent legislation.

From Connecting For Kids:
ADD & ADHD are some of the most common concerns shared by Connecting for Kids families. Nearly 1 in 10 U.S. children between the ages of 2 - 17 years are diagnosed with ADHD. Check out C4K's Revised Resource Guide to help identify Red Flags, learn about Solutions & find Resources.
C4K posts all of the latest fliers and webinar information it receives from local and national providers on the CFK Flier Connection page on Facebook – click the link to join. Visit their website to learn more about what this local organization has to offer.

You can read the full list online at: parmaobserver.com
Online the hot links are active.

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Prama Artspace Gallery opened *An Alternate Route*, a show & sale of alternative photography processes, on August 25th, which runs through September 16th. This exhibit is one of a series brought to you by Cleveland Photo Fest, a local non-profit whose mission is to strengthen the appreciation of Photography as a major force in today's visually driven culture. Lena Simovic, Lena Atomika Photography will be appearing September 8th at Prama to discuss her book, *Legs: & the Art Photography of Lena Atomika Photography*. Lena was also artist of the month of August for her photography on the Ohio Artists Gallery Shows/Sell/Buy Facebook page.

Mitzi Lai, founding member of Evergreen Artists has a one woman show at Gathering Place West Cancer Support Center 25425 Center Ridge Rd in Westlake, until the end of September.

Evergreen Artists, Nancy Notaranni & Anna Hsu were accepted into the exhibit at the airport titled "Oil and Water, They Do Mix". Show runs October 5th to January 31, 2024.

Denise Jansen, Parma Area Fine Arts Council, board member, is the winner of Rocky River Library book-mark contest, for her self portrait in

the style of Dutch Golden Age artist Age painter Johannes Vermeer with herself as *Girl with a Pearl*. Denise also demonstrated crochet techniques at the Cuyahoga County Fair. She also won first place for a religious doll and tole painting, second place for tole painting, nutcracker collection, and collection of marbles. Third place for an abstract painting, room box, and a collection of nationality dolls.

Michelle Behal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, demonstrated her skills in pyrography, or wood burning at the Cuyahoga County Fair. She won first place in that category also. You'll find her creations at The Rift Shop, 8125 Columbia Rd in Olmsted Falls. Visit her web page, www.beartracksart.com.

The Cleveland Open Photo Show at Bostwick Design Art Initiative, 2731 Prospect Ave runs September 1st through the 30th. Opening night vote for your favorite image, winner receives \$100 prize. Several local photographers are in this exhibit, brought to you by Cleveland Photo Fest.

Jan Hasselbusch, a member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, artworks are on display at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center in the lobby, stop in and view.

AN ALTERNATE ROUTE
A SHOW OF ALTERNATIVE PHOTO PROCESSES



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Reflecting Point Arts – is a newly opened Art center featuring sales of stained glass, mosaic and collage, at 5957 State Rd. Owner/operator Joe Dull, is a Parma artist. He is also offering Art making sessions for children, teens and adults. Go to www.reflectingpointarts.com for details and more information..

Anthony DeMarco created a bird that will be on display for one year in downtown Hudson at Birdsong Public Art Exhibition. Birdsong is a unique multi-faceted public art installation of 150 bird sculptures hand-painted by local artists and installed in the trees throughout downtown Hudson. Tony is one of the several Parma photographers in the Cleveland Open Photo Show at Bostwick Design.

Sean Mabin's photography will be on display, starting September 12th in the *Living In America* exhibit at Hildebrandt Bldg at 3619 Walton Ave. In November he'll at the Doubting Thomas Gallery in Tremont. Sean also taught a Cyanotype or Sun Print workshop in August at the Smallwood Center. Cyanotype is a form of camera-less photography.

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



Wall of Books And Local Artists

by Kathryn Mabin

Wall of Books, located at The Shoppes at Parma, 7783 W Ridgewood Drive, now carries the original art works of a select few talented local artists. You'll find paintings, photography, prints and more, reasonable priced, along with their excellent selection of books, toys, games, puzzles and gifts.

The artists include: Emis Art Corner, RKW Photography, Kim Karbon Photography, Fluid Vibes by Evy and Kris, members of The Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Katie Harroff, Kathryn Mabin, Donata Rahne and Michelle Behal. Stop in, view and possibly buy, the works of your talented neighbors.

Of special note, Emis Art Corner, is the work of Emilie Bonsignore, a student from Holy Name High School. She's the 2023 Cleveland.com HS Stand Out Student Artist of the Year. She was also Holy Name's 2023 4-Year Art Award & 4-Year Music-Instrumental Award Winner. This talented young lady has also shown her work in Cleveland art galleries, such as Worthington

Yards, and Grumpy's Cafe.

Since the beginning of May, Wall of Books has brought much to this community. Such as, Off The Fridge Pop Up featuring artwork from the Parma PTA Council's children's art show Show Your Voice was on display, Chalk The Block an outdoor chalk drawing event, a coloring contest and several Pizza Party Story Time. There's been author book signings, talks, and book launches. Plus coffee tastings and live music by Serenity Chamber Players. Besides these events, and tons of books, they also carry toys, puzzles, games and gifts. BTW, they have Parma-Opoly!

Side note – the We Are Parma Proud's Picnic In The Park's, fun and dog lovin' Flamingo Pet Parade was the brain child of Wall of Books manager Theresa Nagy. Kuddos to her creativity!

Wall of Books is an excellent example of a business that brings a community together. Shop Wall of Books, see all they bring to the community, and while you're there say Hi to the 6 foot tall handmade Francis The Flamingo!

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