

"A fool contributes nothing worth hearing and takes offense at everything." - Aristotle

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November, 2023
Vol, 15, Is. 11

Parma Observer

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Grand Opening Parma Art Center

by Kathryn Mabin

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, you are invited to the Grand Opening celebration of the Parma Art Center, at 7335 Ridge Road. The Parma Art Center is the new location for the Parma

Area Fine Arts Council, Inc. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit that has served Parma and surrounding communities for 61 years, by offering inexpensive art classes, workshops, and annual art exhibits, show and sales.

A members only art show, with small item vendor tables of unique hand crafted items, entertainment, and refreshments will be available at this event. This event has free admittance, free refreshments, and free entertainment. It's open to the public. Everyone is welcome to attend and see what they have to offer.

The new location offers the organization a larger venue, centrally located, with lots of parking. Once the boxes are all unpacked, the furniture arranged, paintings and signs hung they'll be able to begin the New 2024 Class Schedules.

This non-profit survives through donations and annual memberships. The membership fees haven't increased in over 20 years. The past couple of years they've been awarded a small matching grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture (the cigarette tax) which has enabled them to offer a series of free workshops titled Art For The Fun of It!. These workshops have targeted senior citizens, and are all at beginner level. Due to their popularity Parma Arts will be expanding their program-

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Live Streaming Of Parma City Council Meetings

by Kevin Kussmaul

Earlier this year during the Parma City Council budget meetings I suggested allocating money to upgrade the sound/audio system of the Parma City Council Chamber. I also suggested adding cameras to the Chamber to allow for the streaming of Parma City Council Committees and Meetings. The rest of Parma City Council agreed and approved the funding. Working with our Clerk of Council Kristin Saban and the rest of the council office we evaluated what we needed. After recording several test meetings, October 16th was the first live streamed Parma City Council Committee and Meeting. The link to the Parma City Council recorded meetings can be found at <https://cityofparma-oh.gov/en-US/City-Council.aspx> under the Quick Links.



Council meetings are usually the first and third Mondays of the month unless there is a holiday on Monday then they will be on Tuesday. The exception is the next council meeting which is Wednesday November 8th. Committees start at 6pm and the Council Meeting is scheduled to start at 6:30pm. Thank you to my fellow Councilmen and Councilwomen for your support in the upgrades to the Parma City Council Chambers and for the streaming of meetings.

November Election, School Master Plan And Beyond

by Tony Biasiotta

Once again, I want to encourage everyone to vote this election. I ask that you join me in voting "YES" on Issue 12. Issue 12 is a no tax increase renewal of two existing Parma City School District operating levies. This issue is completely unrelated to the FOUR failed bond issues related to new construction. Operating levies are how we pay for the day-to-day activities at our schools such as teachers, student curriculum, and support staff. Regardless of any differences on the direction of this district or who one may or may not support for school board the only responsible vote for issue 12 is "Yes".

Next, I'm going to set the record straight. Since my last article Char Eastin Rossi, administrator of the Parma Senior Alumni Facebook Group wrote that I "spoke without the facts...they found out that Charlie was right but they don't

apologize now do they?" Nothing can be further from the truth. I immediately reached out to Ms. Rossi asking for explanation and/or to meet to discuss the facts and have not heard back in two weeks. In August I brought new facts to everyone's attention, and I stand by each item as 100% factual.

Based on this information, I asked the School Board for an immediate halt to liquidation and demolition so that all options available are made public and open for debate before irreversible events occur.

That information was:

1) The Parma City Schools could have qualified for 100% of the funding they sought from the OFCC without tearing down more schools.

2) In the event that the waiver is not approved, it is not unlawful or against any rules or OFCC guidelines for the school

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Childhood Dream Becomes Reality For Officer Braude



Work hard and dreams do come true. See story page 3

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma picture of the month depicts Chad and Bunny from The Chad and Bunny Comedy Show which you can find on YouTube. They have 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 Patrick Brennan at pierogie5k@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

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

Back in 2018, when I was serving as President of Parma City Council, a tragedy struck the community. Police Chief Joseph Bobak informed me that a little boy who obtained his father's handgun accidentally killed himself. Needless to say, like many, I was very saddened by the incident and the councilman, school teacher, and father in me wanted to prevent this type of calamity from happening again on my watch.

As a result, I worked with Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck and Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis to design a free gun lock program. Since that time, we have worked with the National Sports Shooting Foundation's (NSSF) Project Child Safe program and the Parma Police Department to give away nearly 2,000 gun locks to residents.

Ever since joining the Ohio General Assembly in January, I have worked hard to seek ways to bring folks on both sides of various issues together. I am very happy to say that I have experienced much success, as most of the bills that I am working on are bipartisan in nature. I am especially proud of House Bill 186 (HB 186), which I introduced with Representative Darnell Brewer of Cleveland. HB 186 would exempt firearm safety devices, such as gun locks and safes, from sales tax. Many tell me that the bill is historic in the sense that it has brought folks on both sides of the



gun debate together. In fact, gun control groups such as Moms Demand Action, Sandy Hook Promise, and Every Town for Gun Safety and gun advocacy groups like the National Rifle Association, the NSSF, and the Buckeye Firearms Association support our bill.

Our proposal addresses a critical aspect of public safety, responsible gun ownership, and the well-being of our communities. By making gun safety devices more affordable, we remove financial barriers for gun owners to secure their firearms properly. We know it will not solve every tragedy and we are not discussing the merits of gun ownership or gun policies. Instead, we are focusing on a common-

sense approach to incentivize firearm owners to do so responsibly and safely, like I have since I obtained my first gun when I was a young man growing up on my grandma's farm.

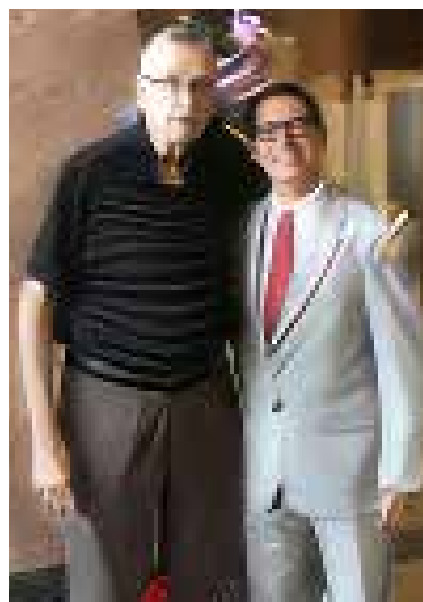
Studies have consistently shown that gun safety devices, such as gun safes, trigger locks, and biometric access systems, play a crucial role in preventing accidental discharge, unauthorized access to firearms, and gun thefts. They provide a layer of security that can help keep firearms out of the wrong hands, particularly when it comes to protect-

Rep. Brennan Responds To The Death Of Ronald Mottl, Sr.

by Sean Patrick Brennan

State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma) today responds to the passing of Ronald Mottl, Senior. Former Congressman Ronald Milton Mottl served as Parma Ward 2 City Councilman, President of Parma City Council, state representative, state senator, Parma City School Board member, among other offices and untold accomplishments. While serving in the Ohio General Assembly, he championed the bill that led to the creation of the Ohio Lottery. As a result, many referred to him as the Father of the Ohio Lottery. Since its inception, the lottery has raised over \$30 billion for public education in Ohio.

"Mr. Mottl was a great friend and served as an excellent 'role Mottl' for me. His record of service to Parma, and all of northeast Ohio, is second to none and it was an honor to follow him as Parma Ward Two councilman, president of Parma City Council, and now state representative. He was a wealth of knowledge whenever I needed advice and will be deeply missed," said Rep. Brennan.



Mottl was the beloved husband of Debbie Mottl (nee Budan); Dear father of Ron Mottl Jr., Ron Mickey Mottl (Karen) Ronda Mottl (Daniel Compton) and Amanda Mottl; Cherished grandfather of Alexis, Samantha, Mickey and Mickayla, and friend to many.

AARP Foundation Tax Aide Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

In Southwestern Cuyahoga County (Parma and neighboring cities)

AARP Foundation has kicked off volunteer recruitment for its Tax-Aide program, the nation's largest volunteer-based tax preparation service. Volunteers may sign up to assist taxpayers either in person or virtually, with a number of roles available.

In addition to tax preparers and greeters, whom the program will train, Tax-Aide needs people who can provide technical and communications assistance, interpreters, and program leaders. Volunteers come from a variety of industries and range from retirees to university students. All levels and types of experience are welcome. Our recruitment of volunteers is on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has grown since its inaugural team of just four volunteers in 1968 and has served over 68 million taxpayers since its inception. The program has volunteers in every state who typically number more than 30,000.

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, visit aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aide/, call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277), or contact Steve Donovan, 440-237-7348. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

ing children and vulnerable individuals. Further, safer storage can prevent firearms from being stolen and ending up in the hands of criminals, contributing to crime rates and endangering our communities. Firearm safety devices are essential tools for responsible gun owners who prioritize the safety of their families and communities.

In closing, we can all do our part to prioritize the safety of our community, regardless of one's stance on the firearms debate. If you own them, please take steps to secure your weapons. If you would like a free gun lock, please call my office at 614-466-3485 or email me at Rep14@OhioHouse.gov. Together we can make a safer community. Best wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Childhood Dream Becomes Reality For Officer Braude

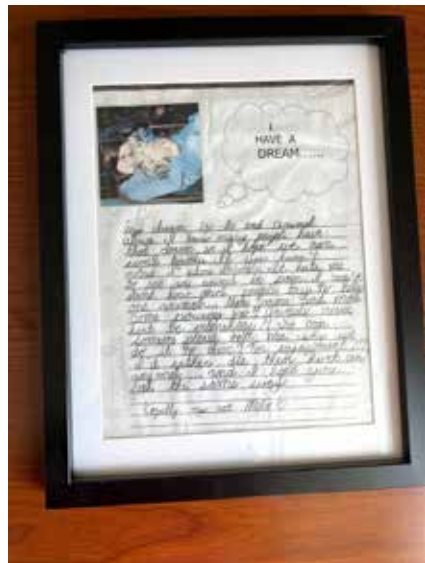
by Marie Gallo

Animal Control Officer Miranda Braude knew as early as third grade that she wanted a career working with animals. Little did she know that she would eventually be the Animal Control Officer for the City of Parma Heights and the City of Brooklyn.

In 2016, Miranda was going on her first job interview for the Animal Control Officer at the City of Parma. Her mom encouraged her to take the framed "I Have a Dream..." essay assignment she wrote in third grade. Moms know best – Miranda was offered the job and worked for the City of Parma until 2019.

Officer Braude has worked for the Cities of Parma Heights and Brooklyn since 2019. This has been a great partnership for both cities to have Officer Braude as the Animal Control Officer. Officer Braude is a certified Animal Control Officer through The National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA) and a certified humane investigator through the Humane Society of the United States.

Every day is a new and different, Officer Braude never knows what to expect. Common calls include dogs off leash, loud barking, welfare checks, and sick animals, but Officer Braude has taken calls to help with pigs, ducks, and she has even captured a few snakes behind refrigerators!



Earlier this year, Officer Braude and the Parma Heights Police Department helped a dog that had fallen down a ravine. Assisting with the search and rescue was so gratifying when officers were able to reunite the family with their dog.

One of the most rewarding parts of the job has been helping facilitate over 175 animal adoptions since 2017. For more info on adoptions, visit <https://www.facebook.com/brooklynohioanimalcontrol> "Helping animals find their forever home is one of the best parts of the job," said Officer Braude.

The City of Parma Heights and the City of Brooklyn are both happy Officer Braude listened to her mom and chased her dreams.



UH Parma Pumpkin-Decorating Contest Captures The Spirit Of The Season – And The Team

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center is known for warm and welcoming atmosphere, a medical center built on clinical excellence while maintaining a community feel. The pumpkin decorating contest is a festive example of this spirited environment.

Colorfully and creatively decorated pumpkins from 28 departments fill the main lobby of the hospital at 7007 Powers Blvd. Patients, visitors and caregivers alike place their votes for their top three favorites. Themes range from Barbie and Betty Boop (UH Seidman Cancer Center – Kickin' cancer radiantly!) to ET and other movie characters. Pink flamingoes abound, as well as the many Jimmy Buffett fans in the house, because we all

know "It's five o'clock somewhere." And several teams paid tribute to the recent transition to the Epic electronic medical record, which has been a major focus for caregivers.

"We have had a lot going on lately, with our Epic changes, and still coming out from three long COVID years, but despite it all, our caregivers still know how to have fun," says Patient Experience Manager Kim Tomblin. "We also know how much visitors and patients enjoy taking part in competitions like this. The talent of our staff leaves us in awe in more ways than one!"

"We realize a hospital is not the most fun place to be, so it shows how special our staff are that they take the time to make it a more spirited place."



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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

Frosty's Fest is Back!

by Kathryn Mabin

Mark your calendars, save the date, Sunday, December 3rd is We Are Parma Proud's flagship event, Frosty's Fest. This family friendly extravaganza takes place on the Parma City Hall campus, encompassing the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, parking lots and the Powers Blvd Library, where multiple events will take place. Frosty's Fest follows the annual Christmas Parade which begins at 1:00 pm. The parade route begins at Stearns Farm travelling north to Parma City Hall.

Frosty's Fest begins when Santa, his Sleigh, and his Elves arrive at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr., following the parade. This family focused event has a lot to offer, free admission and it's open to the public, no residency is required. As in past years free photos with Santa, kids crafts, activities, lots of extras too. Bakeries will be on hand with their mouth watering holiday goodies for you to purchase. Oh, and don't forget to stop and shop the We Are Parma Proud merchandise table, offering great items like the official logo shirts, sweatshirts, and more, that show your pride of this great city. (makes great gifts too!) Food and beverages indoors and out. Outside there's food trucks, free s'mores, and watch



a live demonstration of ice sculpting. Ends at 4:00 pm.

As in past, this event is brought to you through sponsorship by local businesses and non-profits. This event draws thousands of people and is a great way for businesses to give back to the community and promote their name simultaneously. Interested? Email parmaproud1@gmail.com.

Frosty's Fest is brought to you by We Are Parma Proud, an all volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization created in 2019. This organization brought the fireworks back to Parma, has an annual summer community picnic, several trash crawls to clean up the city and sponsored the Parma Visitor's Guide. Follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook and Instagram for additional information.



Ohio Senate Minority Leader Nickie J. Antonio pleased to accept the 2023 PCSAO Legislator of the Year Award

Antonio Honored With 2023 PCSAO Legislator Of The Year Award

by Nickie Antonio

Recently, I was honored to receive the 2023 Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) Legislator of the Year Award. These awards, as described by PCSAO, "recognize outstanding leadership and action by legislators on issues impacting children and families served by the children's services system." I was joined in this distinction by Representative Jim Hoops (R-Napoleon).

As a former teacher of children with special needs and the mother of two daughters, protecting the rights of women, children and families has always been at the heart of my work as a legislator. My legislative priorities throughout Ohio's biennium operating budget reflect these values and my commitment to improved quality of life for all of our families.

In the budget that passed in July, House Bill 33, we were able to achieve:

- Increased funding for infant vitality and health
- Expanded access and greater support for childcare
- \$3 million in support for behavioral healthcare for children

- Removal of barriers to access to SNAP
- \$50 million in support for vulnerable multi-system youth

There is still much work to do to uplift our children and families. However, I will continue to advocate for Ohio to be the best state to live, work and raise a family. This includes allowing Ohioans to fully embrace who they are and live life as their authentic selves. That is why I continue to introduce the Ohio Fairness Act, which would provide civil rights protections for members of the LGBTQ+ community. This important, family-centered legislation would help move our state forward to be as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

As I continue to serve as your state Senator, I am determined to continue to pass legislation with an unwavering dedication to children, families, workers, health and human rights, but most of all, for a brighter future for the state of Ohio.

(PCSAO) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that advocates for sound public policy, promotes program excellence, and builds public value for safe children, stable families and supportive communities.

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NEW LOCATION

PARMA HEIGHTS

Spend Your Holiday Dollars Right At Home

by Emery Pinter

Finding the perfect holiday gift for a loved one can be a challenge. But putting in the effort is worth it when you see a child, sibling, friend or parent tear off the ribbons and bows, and peel back the wrapping paper, only to be delighted at what's concealed inside. But as you map out your holiday shopping plans, make sure to include the locally owned stores on the Main Street (and perhaps some side streets too) of your community. That's where you can find gifts that will likely surpass anything on the wish lists in your hands.

Shopping Local means connecting with a person who chose the products themselves and lovingly displays them for their customers. It is about seeing and hearing what makes the shop unique and learning about the history of their lives, their family. Sure, shopping online is buying, shopping local is an experience!! Local retailers deck the halls and stock their shelves with carefully selected items chosen with their customers in mind and stand by to help us find a present for even the trickiest or Grinchiest person.

Small Business Saturday is November 25, a day set aside to support small, local businesses and the very important role they play in the community. Launched by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday has grown into a big opportunity for retailers. In 2022 Small Business Saturday spending was about 17.9 billion. This



year? Who knows? And 2ND Fridays Parma Heights will host the Annual Jingle & Mingle along Pearl road on Friday December 8. Find unique gifts for everyone on your list during holiday open houses as you shop and stroll the sidewalks to view the beautifully decorated windows, smell the fresh greenery and enjoy the sparkle of holiday lights.

The Christmas shopping season is important to all businesses. Just a few weeks can mean the difference between profit and loss. Many local stores in Parma Heights have created special promotions and discounts that will be available to those who shop locally during the Small Business Saturday event. And some will be hosting a giveaway or raffle with every purchase, offering the chance to win a free gift, prize, or service. Small businesses close to our hearts and our homes need and deserve to receive support from us. Buy from your locally owned shops this Christmas!

Grand Opening Parma Art Center

continued from page 1

ming to include adults and children's in 2024. No residency is required.

Parma Arts wants to thank the City of Parma for its support. Throughout our existence we've been honored to

have support from the City of Parma's leadership. Over the last several years they've graciously offered us office space in a city owned building.

Celebrate the arts! Come see what your talented friends and neighbors have to offer!

Clara Barton - Civil War Nurse And - Founder Of The American Red Cross

by Robert Stilwell

* Clara Barton was born December 25th, 1821, in Oxford Massachusetts

* She Distributed Medical Supplies to Civil War Battlefields

* Founded the American Red Cross

* Died on April 12, 1912 in Glen Echo, Maryland

When the Civil War began Clara Barton was working as a clerk in the U.S. Patent Office. She learned that the Union Army was short of Medical Supplies, so she immediately set up an agency to fill the need. Although she was told the battlefield was no place for a woman, she gained permission to go to the front lines. At one battle after another she distributed supplies, nursed the wounded, and searched for men listed as missing. To the soldiers, she became known as "The Angel of the battlefield".

After the war, she went to Europe for a rest. Soon, though, she became involved as a Nurse in a War there, She learned about the work of the newly formed International Red Cross and returned home determined to establish an American Chapter.

After a ten year struggle, the American National Red Cross was established in 1881, with Barton as its first President. She also wrote the American Amendment to the Geneva



Convention, which was an international agreement that gave the Red Cross the authority to provide help in time of any disaster, such as floods or earthquakes, rather than only in wartime.

It's important to note that Clara Barton was a very INDEPENDENT Woman. Barton caused criticism of the Red Cross when she appeared on the battlefield in Cuba during the Spanish-American War (1898). Some people said that she should not have been there as she was 77 years old. Her insistence on doing things her way led to the request that she step down as Red Cross President in 1904.

It is my opinion that if it were not for Clara's INDEPENDENT nature, the American Red Cross may not have been adopted. Thank God for Clara Barton and Women and Men like her.



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Hometown Heroes....

Thank A Veteran On Veterans Day

by Tony Kessler

On Saturday November 11th we celebrate Veterans Day as a recognition and tribute to all service men and women who have sacrificed so much, were willing to, or have given their lives to defend our country. The difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day is that Memorial Day is a somber day in which we honor and pay tribute to those servicemen and women who gave their lives in the defense of our country, on Veterans Day we celebrate and honor "all" Veterans past and present. This is a day that we must also remember and honor the families of the men and women who served and especially the Gold Star families that has lost an immediate family member in the line of duty of military service.

Veterans Day was originally called "Armistice Day." Originally on November 11, 1919, it was the first anniversary of the end of World War I and was originally established to honor veterans of World War I, but now it extends to all veterans. The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day.

In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill was passed by Congress, which moved the celebration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The law went into effect in 1971, but in 1975

President Ford returned Veterans Day to November 11, due to the important historical significance of the date. Every year on Veterans Day, at exactly 11 a.m., a wreath-laying ceremony is held at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are over twenty-three million war veterans living in the United States. Veterans over the age of sixty-five number 9.2 million, while 1.9 million are under the age of thirty-five, Female veterans' number 1.8 million, those who served during the Vietnam War era (1964-1975) number 7.8 million, which is 33 percent of all living veterans. Veterans who served during the Gulf War (standing for service from Aug. 2, 1990, to present) number 5.2 million. Veterans who served during World War II (1941-1945) number 2.6 million. Veterans who served during the Korean War (1950-1953) number 2.8 million. Six million veterans served in peacetime.

Veterans Day is all about honoring those who served. If you see one, thank one. They probably don't hear it enough, and Veterans Day is the perfect opportunity to express your gratitude.

The Parma Area Senior Veterans Meetup Group will be holding a special "Veterans Day Tribute Event" on Wednesday November 8th at the Donna Smallwood Activity Center in Parma. Lunch Buffet, Live entertainment by Nashville recording artist Harry James "The Italian Cowboy," special guests Mayor Timothy DeGeeter and WEWS News Anchor Rob Powers. Door prizes, Raffles and 50/50's.

Reservations required. For info and seating availability call: Tony Kessler at 440-263-0507

A Soldiers Plea:

Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives

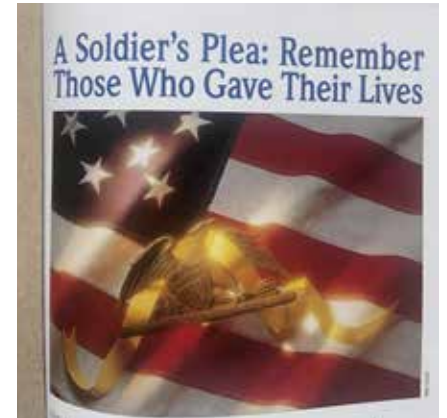
by Robert Stilwell

V-J Day August 14, 1945

The Day the War ended, Sgt. Ralph Lewis Jr. wrote this letter to his parents. He was stationed at Brooke Field, Texas and now lives in Erlanger, Kentucky. While this day means personal happiness for us all, in that we'll be going back to our homes and loved ones, we couldn't help but think of the guys over there -- our buddies, the ones who will never know the joys of this day or realize how much they gave to make it all possible.

These boys who sleep now in many foreign lands are the ones whom the world should turn and be eternally grateful. They too dreamed of their homes, wives and sweethearts and longed for the day when they could go back. Today the world must remember them--and tomorrow, the next day and Forever! The day the world forgets, they will truly have died in vein.

I for one, will never forget them. In my heart, I will always see the rows and rows of little white crosses I saw so many times in Africa and Italy. "They died that others might live." How very fitting and true!



So folks, it's up to you and me and the rest of us to remember how much was given to bring peace to the world. We must never betray these boys that wanted life so very much and who had so much to live for, but died so that future generations might be entitled the right to Freedom and Happiness.

All of the above letter is a shortened version of the original. This was deliberate on my part because of space. All of the content that I chose from the original letter is driving the theme of the entire letter. "WE MUST NEVER FORGET"



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NEIGHBORHOODS

Self-Defense- Prepare For Danger

by Deborah White

It is one thing to see crime stories plastered across the news headlines, and another one to be a part of those headlines. Nobody wants that! But how do you prepare yourself for a potentially dangerous situation? It's usually not the first thing on a person's mind. Although, most people do prepare for other unseen circumstances or disasters by purchasing insurance. But how do you maintain your personal safety? Financially speaking, there is no, "personal safety insurance" to purchase. Sure, you could hire bodyguards, but realistically this is impossible for a huge percent of the population.

Usually when the subject of personal safety is raised, the first thought is that of guns. The second is mace which is the first weapon that is normally associated with a women's safety. But weapons are not dependable. And if you are thinking that you have a definite plan to use them, then think again. Weapons can fail. Guns can jam and mace can be aimed in the wrong direction. And obviously, if the assailant is using a gun to threaten you, the time is gone to pull yours.

Preparing for danger is more than just "thinking" of what you will do. It means preparing yourself mentally and physically. Self-defense is more of a mental process than a physical

one. Since fear interrupts your thinking processes, you must try to focus the fear into an effective response. One way to help accomplish this is to participate in a self-defense course. Self-defense classes not only helps you prepare physically, but they also enhance your mental abilities and your state of awareness. These are important to your well-being, whether you are carrying a weapon or not. In the instance when you are caught off guard, your first response must be a lifesaving response. Will you be ready if someone grabs your shoulder, or a gun is pointed in your face or to the side of your head? Preparing for these types of situations takes mental preparation. Where do you start? You are the only one who can decide what measures to take. The best place to begin is with a defense plan. Practice the plan until it becomes routine. Then change that routine. This means having a backup plan in place. A backup plan is needed in case the original plan fails. It must follow quickly since there will be no time for you to think of what to do next! With this in mind you must remember that no matter what safety measures you decide to take, don't forget to add a backup plan! What's yours?

I have listed some helpful tips to remember when faced with an attacker:

Remain calm

Don't show your fear

You have approximately three to five seconds to respond

Make it count the first time

To learn more about preparing for danger please visit me on, "X" (Twitter), Instagram or email me at

theselfdefenseguru@yahoo.com .

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

Author of: *Predator Prevention Guide, Be Bully Proof-(Stop Bullies in Their Tracks!)* Available on Amazon.com

November 22, 1963

by Kevin Kelly

On November 22, 1963, John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Over the years, there have been numerous books, documentaries and movies that were made putting forward different theories about who was behind it. One of the 1st major motion pictures about the JFK assassination that reached the theaters was the conspiracy thriller "Executive Action", released in 1973, starring Burt Lancaster. This movie hinted that certain powerful politicians were behind organizing the killing of Kennedy over political ambitions.

Then in 1991, the epic thriller "JFK", directed by Oliver Stone, was released to theaters everywhere. Even this movie altered many of the facts of the case, so the director could push his own theory on the American people. (An example of this is when a certain governor of the United States made a

statement that, Oswald could not have shot Kennedy from the depository building because his military shooting score was very low, when in fact he scored very high marks in the rifle range.

For a fresher look at the assassination of John F. Kennedy, check out "JFK Collusion", on Cox Cable channel 45, Wednesdays at 8:00 PM. This non-narrative documentary takes real footage taken that day in Dallas, Texas and puts it in chronological order so the viewer can have a unique look at the timeline of the event to determine for themselves what the truth may be.

In addition, a controversial documentary called, "The Secret Files of JFK", which has been banned from certain networks, will air Sundays at 9:00 PM. For more information, email at: Kevin@Shockerenterprises.com or Call; (440) 888 - 8327

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PERSPECTIVE

We Have Been Through Strange Times Before

by Lee Kamps

A favorite television cartoon show back in the early 1960s was the Rocky and Bullwinkle show that featured a flying squirrel and a moose fighting the cold war. One segment on that show was a brainy dog, Peabody and his eager boy, Sherman and their “way back machine” that allowed them to go back in time. It made for great entertainment in my early adolescence. Let us imagine that we had a “way back” time machine and we could set the time to go back in time fifty years to the autumn of 1973. Here we go.

The first thing that we would notice is the colorful and weird clothing styles of the day. Patterned flared pants were popular on both men and women. Blue jeans were everywhere, and men’s suits had wide lapels and wide neckties as well. The cars were radically different. Muscle cars were still popular, but their day was fading fast.

The #1 song on the charts in October 1973 was “Angie” by the Rolling Stones. Elton John had released perhaps his best album, a double album of songs titled “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road”. Other top songs in the autumn of 1973 were Marvin Gaye’s “Let’s Get it On” and Gladys Knight’s “Midnight Train to Georgia”.

The most popular movies playing then were “The Way We Were” starring Barbara Streisand and Robert Redford and “The Sting” starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Also playing in theatres in the fall of 1973 was “The Exorcist”, still one of the best horror movies of all time. On television the

most popular programs were “All in the Family” about a lovable bigot in Queens named Archie Bunker. Other favorite shows were The Waltons, Sanford and Son, M*A*S*H, Hawaii Five-0 and Happy Days.

But there were a series of events that happened in the autumn of 1973 that still have relevance fifty years later and may even be repeated. On the holiest day in the Jewish year, Yom Kippur, the Arab nations surrounding Israel launched an attack that caught the world by surprise. The attack was beaten back, and the war was quickly ended.

However, the Arabic nations of the Persian Gulf, disgusted for the United States support of Israel organized an embargo of oil to the United States. At the same time, a new organization, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) dramatically increased the price of oil that was being exported.

The effects were quickly felt back home in the United States as gasoline prices doubled within the space of a few weeks and gas stations were ordered to close on Sundays to conserve gasoline. Then, to conserve gasoline, people with odd numbered license tags could only get gasoline on odd numbered days and the same applied to those with even numbered license tags could only get gasoline on even numbered days. If your day to get gasoline came on a Sunday, you were out of luck.

American car buying habits changed almost immediately. People stopped buying the large sedans that had been the mainstay of the auto

industry and fuel economy became a primary buying motive. But American small cars were usually cheaply made cars that were junk. That is when American car buyers discovered that Japanese and European made cars were more fuel efficient and were better built than the smaller American cars. The auto industry was hard hit and never fully recovered.

Politically, the Watergate scandal still dominated the headlines despite the summer’s congressional investigation concluding. Under pressure President Nixon had appointed a special prosecutor to investigate any law breaking associated with the Watergate break in and cover up. When a low level staffer revealed during the hearings in July that the conversations in the White House were recorded, the special prosecutor wanted those tape recordings for evidence of the cover up.

President Nixon steadfastly refused to release any of those White House recordings, citing “executive privilege” as President. But the special prosecutor was now seeking a court order to force the President to release those recordings. Finally, on a Saturday night when most Americans were more concerned with the football games, President Nixon ordered his Attorney General to fire the special prosecutor. The Attorney General refused to carry out Nixon’s order and was fired. His deputy Attorney General then took over and he also refused and was fired by the President. Finally, the third in command, Solicitor General Robert

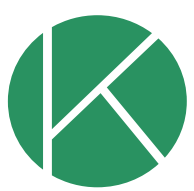
Bork complied with the President’s order and fired the special prosecutor.

The “Saturday Night Massacre” as it was being called in the media shocked the nation and created a firestorm of protest. Even congressional Republicans who had defended the President were appalled. In the House of Representatives on the following Monday, they House voted to begin an inquiry into the impeachment of President Nixon. Public opinion was strongly against the President and most Americans supported impeaching President Nixon.

Eventually the outcry forced President Nixon to appoint another special prosecutor. The struggle to obtain those tape recordings of White House conversations would dominate the news for almost another year. But it was clear in the autumn of 1973 that President Nixon’s hold on the presidency was beginning to unravel.

The oil embargo by the oil producing countries in the middle east continued well into the next year and was lifted in the spring of 1974. But that led to a full-blown recession, the most severe since the end of the Second World War. The speed limit on highways was lowered to 55 miles per hour and congress passed new fuel economy standards for cars manufactured in the United States.

Even now, fifty years later, the events from that autumn of 1973 are still having repercussions in the present day. But there were great songs on the radio as well as great movies in the theatres and great shows on television.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote Wisely For The Sake Of Future Education

from Pat Nemeth

Dear Parma residents,

I have been either writing to, or attending, school board meetings since October, 2022. I was against buildings being torn down without more taxpayer input. I felt that due to high inflation, children with educational difficulties due to Covid disruption, and high construction costs, the school board should re-think their plans. I felt that there was no money and no real plans since plans were not really being made clear to the public. I now think that I was Sooooo wrong. I am now convinced, and in my opinion, that the board does have a plan, and that it is to tear down the best con-

structed school buildings that we have like Parma Senior High and Parkview, jam our children into as few schools as possible, watch the badly built buildings like another high school (where I've been told walls are separating from its foundation) continue to deteriorate, and then, come at the Parma taxpayers yelling that there is an emergency, and that we must pass a bond issue, or else. They will, also, probably tell you that the new schools have to be mega-schools which most people are convinced are not student friendly, and are not necessarily good for education. Smaller classes and school settings are less disruptive and are better educational settings. You would think that

the people on a school board would know this, and want to use this setting.

In a 2018 e-mail to the board, plans to renovate our buildings were included. This was conveniently "overlooked". Recently held meetings and petitions have let the board know that most residents want our iconic buildings renovated. The board has, also, learned that there is money, which we have already paid in taxes to the state, to do this. They have refused to listen to the people that have studied this, including city officials, who offered this information in early August. In my opinion, they refuse to apply sensibly for these grants. It seems that they want their plan. Renovations have been done by several school systems including Shaker Heights, the hometown of our superintendent.

Recently, a board member passed away. This was posted on the board website very quietly, and a replacement was chosen very quickly. This seems to be this board's standard way to communicate with the public. In my opinion, they seem to use very limited social media, or very small publications, to limit their audience to get limited input. This would allow the board to choose the path that will get what they want. Other cities, such as Aurora, Hudson and others, called local news stations to announce messages about city planning meetings and such, to get public input for their plans. The Parma board was upset about no public input, but never bothered to use this media. Why not? I feel that they have an agenda! They said that no one attended their town hall meetings. After talking to several residents, I have

come to the conclusion that many people had not heard board information. They were not privy to the types of media that the board was using.

I would like to remind the public that on November 7, 2023 there is an election, and several Board of Education seats will be filled. After what I have witnessed, in my opinion we can do better for the educational plans for our children by voting for new people to sit on this board. In my opinion, by voting for incumbents, education will not be the board's focus, Agendas will rule all decisions. Please think twice, and vote wisely.

A retired teacher

48 yr. Parma resident

Parma school parent/grandparent.

Why Israel?

by Kevin Kelly

Many people are wondering why what's happening in Israel has to do with us here in America? Why is World News consumed with what's happening in that country? Well, believe it or not, what happens in Israel affects the entire world. According to the Bible, Israel is the external focus of the end times. Around 33 AD, Jesus Christ prophesied what would happen to Israel when he cursed the fig tree which represents Israel. (Mark 11:20-21). This prophecy came to pass when the Roman army surrounded and slaughtered the Jews in 70 AD. However, many of the Jews escaped into European nations. It was also prophesied in the Old Testament that the Jews would eventually return to their homeland.

"who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of the north and from all the countries where He had banished them. For I will restore them to their own land, which I gave to their fathers" (Jeremiah 16:15). This prophecy came

to pass on May 14, 1948.

However, because of their rejection of their own Messiah, Jesus Christ, it was also foretold that they would be surrounded by their enemies and they would be persecuted until the Lord returns in the final days. Unfortunately, in the last days, Israel's persecution will intensify. This will open the door for a false Messiah to appear on the scene to rescue Israelis from their enemies. "He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall". (Daniel 11:41). This false messiah will be the "Antichrist", who is referred to as "The Beast", in the Book of Revelation, chapter 13.

If you would like to learn more about what will transpire in the end times for Israel, you can watch, "The Coming Antichrist", on Cox cable Channel 45 at 8:00 PM on Friday nights. For more information you can email: Kevin@shockerenterprises.com or call (440) 888-8327.

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
www.parmachristianchurch.org

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CalvaryParma.360unite.com

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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

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

From Ohio House District 14 Representative Sean Brennan - Monthly Newsletter... or website.

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

These funders support organizations, programs, and projects that connect kids to careers: > The Hearst Foundations > Nord Family Foundation > Prudential Emerging Visionaries > U.S. Bank Foundation's Community Possible Grant Program > Diana Davis Spencer 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:

The Superintendent will be hosting quarterly Town Hall meetings this year. The first took place on Tuesday, October 17th. Click here to view.

Students of Normandy's Sword and Shield Restaurant are ready to

serve you! Treat yourself or your family to a delicious homemade meal. Orders will be available for pick up Thursday, November 16th from 3:00-6:00 pm at Normandy High School. We accept cash or checks for your order. Check it out & submit an order here.

PCSD offers a combined total of 17 different Career Technical Education programs at Normandy & Valley Forge High School. Open Houses for students in Gr. 5 – 11 & their parents have been scheduled as follows: Normandy, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9, and at Valley Forge, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., Thursday, Nov.16. Click here to view the flyer.

Ballot Issue 12 is not a tax increase nor a new tax. Voting YES indicates approval for this renewal and has no impact on your current level of property tax.

O From Ohio Dept of Education (ODE):

Effective Oct. 3, 2023, Ohio law requires all athletic coaches to complete a student mental health training course approved by the Ohio Dept of Mental Health and Addiction Svcs. The new training requirement will help coaches recognize risk factors, signs of suicidal ideation, and symptoms of common mental health disorders and learn strategies to support youth experiencing mental health concerns. Learn

more here.

If you're in a position to assist families with Medicaid & CHIP Enrollment / renewal, the U.S. Department of Education and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have developed a two-page checklist for schools, districts, and community leaders to help families navigate this process.

The U.S. Department of Education is preparing an updated Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that will launch in December vs October. Go hereto learn what's going on & more about the program and its value to your child's education.

From Parma Council of PTAs:

Their Annual Holiday Poinsettia Sale is underway now thru November 17th. Plant pick-up should take place on or about Nov. 29th at Valley Forge H.S. Watch for more information coming soon.

Total membership has seen a steady increase over the past 3 years reaching close to 1,800 women and MEN. You do not have to have a child attending a District school & and you can join the PTA of any or all PCSD units. 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.

Plan now to attend PCPTA Night at the Cleveland Monsters Hockey Game the evening of Saturday, February 10, 2024. Go here to learn more & to purchase tickets.

From Help Me Grow NE Ohio ...

Will be hosting a free COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER on Saturday, Nov. 4th, from 11 am -1 pm, at the Parma-Snow Library. There will be games, give-aways, and food but you must be REGISTERED to attend.

From SW Community Based Services (SWCBS) ... Interact w/representatives from Cuyahoga County's Dept of Children & Family Services (DCFS); learn more about services they have available & share your concerns about safety & child/family well-being. Attend the "Safe Children – Safe Families Community Conversation & Resource Forum " from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Thursday, November 9th at The Gardens, 6871 Ames Rd in Parma. Download the attached flyer for additional details.

From Greater Cleveland Food Bank ... Check out their Food Locator Tool. Use it to enter your address & find food distributions near you.

continued online with hotlinks at parmaobserver.com

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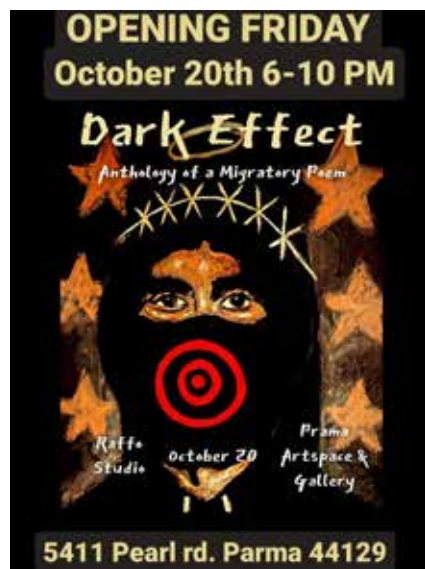
PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Donata Rahne - is a local artist, member of Greenbriar Art League and Parma Area Fine Arts Council. She creates posters for the plays at the Cassidy Theatre, 6200 Pearl Rd. in Parma heights. The play in October was Cinderella. Posters are available for purchase. Enjoy great theatre right in your neighborhood.

Prama Artspace Gallery – Dark Effect: Anthology of a Migratory Poem opened Friday October 20th. The artist Rafael Valdivieso Troya was born in Ecuador and now living in Cleveland. He's done murals at various locations throughout the Cleveland area. He's created papier mache sculptures for Parade the Circle. The paintings and papier mache at this exhibit are large and bold, and are based on his experience as an



immigrant artist straddling two cultures. Show closes on November 19th.

Parma Art Center – Grand Opening, 7335 Ridge Rd., Sunday, November

November Election, School Master Plan And Beyond

continued from page 1

district to make sufficient repairs to bring a building under the 67% threshold, and once again be eligible for OFCC funds.

3) While it is true that a school may be demolished to prevent a charter school from moving into an unused building, state law requires the acquiring school to pay full market value as determined by an appraisal of less than one year, or the district can reject the sale.

The above facts were provided to me from State of Ohio officials and the OFCC itself, none of which have been proven false. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-3313.411>

As I wrote last month, the school board held 2 meetings as a result of that letter. One discussed the cost of a 3rd high school, and the other presented a high-level review of the rebuild vs. refurbish cost of converting the current Parma Senior structure into the "Mega" school. There wasn't any new discussion of the many other potential uses of this building (elementary, middle or temporary high school while the others are refurbished or rebuilt), there also wasn't any new discussion on the master plan that calls for our schools to be demolished, nor has an appraisal been made by a state certified appraiser.

The district needs modern and improved facilities. However, our district is also facing an operating deficit. This presents a very challenging situation that at some point will involve asking our residents for both a bond to put towards improved building conditions and an operating levy that will pay our teachers, coaches, support staff, and fund opportunities for our children.

This can only be achieved through complete and transparent honesty and a willingness to embrace all options in developing a plan that puts children first and is as considerate to all residents of the three communities as possible.

I plan to do my part. The following information was recently shared with me through Governor Mike Dewine's office.

The Ohio Department of Development works to support communities in revitalizing local properties and creating opportunities for improvements through its redevelopment programs. Two redevelopment programs that could potentially help our district or our communities in general are the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program and Energy Efficiency Program.

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program provides a state tax credit up to 25% of qualified rehabilitation expenditures incurred during a rehabilitation project, up to \$5 million. To be eligible for this credit a building needs only to be Certified Local Government historic district; or be listed as a local landmark by a Certified Local Government. Note these are local designations that can be established by our local governments, nothing further is required by the state or federal government to become eligible. In the most recent awarding of this credit Lakewood Board of Education Phase 2 and Willoughby Union High School were recipients (these structures will serve the community in a non-educational capacity going forward). <https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/ohio-historic-preservation-tax-credit-program>

The Energy Efficiency Program helps businesses, manufacturers, non-profits, schools, and local governments modernize buildings with improved energy use – resulting in lower energy costs. <https://development.ohio.gov/community/redevelopment/energy-efficiency-program>

If we have enough people not giving up and asking more questions, I believe we can achieve our shared goals of providing quality public education in quality facilities.

12th, 11am to 2pm. Program for the Grand Opening includes a member show with hanging artwork, and small hand crafted item vendor tables. Free admission, open to the public. Includes free refreshments and entertainment. Large venue, lots of parking. New class schedule in 2024. Come see what they have to offer.

Sean Mabin – is currently showing at Lakeland College's The Skull &

Skeleton In Art VIII: Folk Art to Pop Culture, in Kirtland Ohio. September 21 to November 3. Next up is Doubting Thomas Gallery in Tremont, 856 Jefferson. Show opens November 10. Last but not least, Pinwheel Gallery's Group Show – To Drive The Cold Winter Away, November 24 to January 1, 2024. Pinwheel is located at 2019 Broadview Rd.

GRAND OPENING

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On-site Hemodialysis partnered with CDC

Amenities and services:

- 60 private short term rehab suites with private bathroom and shower
- Medications administered by 24-hour nursing staff
- Visiting physicians, including dentist, optometrist and podiatrist
- 24-hour personal response system
- Secure Dementia unit
- Beautiful, secure and private courtyard for residents to enjoy fresh air
- Medical model assisted living
- Non-Denominational chapel
- Housekeeping, personal laundry and linen services
- Barber shop and beauty salon services
- Complimentary in-house cable television and in-suite internet and phone service
- Aromatherapy/gentle massage. The use of essential oils and lotions helps reduce stress for the resident
- Music stimulation, which includes using instruments, provides an invigorating experience provoking improved memory and coordination
- Gardening, cooking and arts and crafts

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



Pleasant Lake Villa

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

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