

"The aim of an argument should not be victory, but progress." - Karl Popper

March, 2024
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Fireworks Returning To Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

The last two years the non-profit We Are Parma Proud has brought the fireworks to the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Rib & Rock. Which will be held on June 6th through the 9th this year. The organization has just begun soliciting businesses and individuals to donate the funds necessary to fund the fireworks display.

For several years residents lamented the fact that Parma no longer did annual firework displays, so two years ago the non-profit organization took the steps to bring them back for the enjoyment of all the residents. The fireworks campaign just kicked off. You can donate funds directly by check, all amounts are welcomed, big or small. Send your donations to We Are Parma Proud c/o 7504 Spring Garden, Parma, Oh 44129.



We Are Parma Proud is an all volunteer organization that brings you family oriented events like the Annual Summer Picnic, The Flamingo Pet Parade, Frosty's Fest and trash crawls. Volunteering is a great

way to meet new people and shape your community. If you're interested in volunteering for an event, or for all of them, contact them through their Facebook page or email www.parmaproud1@gmail.com.

Parma Heights Recreation Spring Programs And Sports

by Marie Gallo

Before long, we'll be hearing the sweet sounds of spring when the ump says, "Play Ball!" The Parma Heights Recreation department is gearing up for spring and summer programs, events and leagues. New in 2024, the Parma Heights Recreation Department launched a new user-friendly website for online registration.

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

Leprechaun Hunt on Saturday, March 16 from 10am to 11am in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre. Wear your green gear and enjoy stories while hunting for Leprechauns. Registration is required and the fee is \$5.

Easter Crafts with Parma Heights on Saturday, March 23 from 12pm to 2pm in the Community Rooms of the Cas-

sidy Theatre. Dress for a mess as we make little houses for your peeps, followed by an egg hunt! Registration is required and the fee is \$5.

Intermediate Line Dancing on Saturday, March 30 from 1 to 3pm in the Community Rooms of the Cassidy Theatre. Instructors Mary and Jamie will help instruct everyone on a boot-scooting good time. Registration is requested and the fee is \$6 cash at the door.

NEW THIS YEAR - Total Solar Eclipse Party on Thursday, April 4 from 6 to 7:30pm at Valley Forge High School. The Parma Heights Recreation team will be partnering with the Parma City Schools and the Cuyahoga County Public Library for this celestial celebration.

Registration is required for spring and summer sports and activities:

Spring Soccer registration is open, but space is limited.

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

T-Ball for ages 5 & 6 years old
Baseball for ages 7 to 18 years old

Softball for ages 7 to 18 years old

Penguin Swim Team for ages 6 to 18. Participants must be able to swim 25 yards Front Crawl (Freestyle) or Breaststroke, they can begin in swim lessons and transfer to Penguins when ready (swim lesson fees apply). Developmental Level: First-time swimmers & those 10 and under. Registration opens on March 1.

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

Mark your calendars, the 3rd Annual Earth Day in the Commons on Saturday, April 27 from 1 to 4pm at Greenbrier Commons featuring North East Ohio's many environmental organizations with music,

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March 10 - 3:00 PM

PSO Concert At Valley Forge High School Auditorium

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a LIVE Classical Music Concert on Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in

Parma Heights.

Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock presents: Felix Mendelssohn: Concerto in D for violin and strings, Mari Sato, violin, and Concerto in E minor for violin, Andrew Sords, violin. Also:

Rienzi Overture, Richard Wagner, and Raiders of the Lost Ark by John William

The orchestra, in its 54th season consists of 80 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly



Mari Sato and Andrew Sords for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM or from any member of the orchestra. Tickets paid with cash are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. Advance Sale tickets are available online at Home | PARMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (square.site) Credit card purchases available include \$2 per ticket handling fee.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools.

Script Parma Picture of the Month



This month's script Parma photo of the month contest winner is Parma's Rachel Baker. If you have a creative photo of the sign that you would like to have published, email it, along with your

address and phone number, to Sean Patrick Brennan at pierogie5k@gmail.com. You could win a great prize if yours is selected.

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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

I have always considered myself a consumer watchdog. From my nearly twenty years on Parma City Council and, now, as your state representative, I am constantly on the lookout to protect consumers. My focus on consumer costs, no doubt, dates back to the days of my childhood. Our family of four lived a normal middle-class lifestyle until my dad abandoned us. My mom lost the house and we would have been homeless if it weren't for family members that helped out. My mom hesitantly applied for food stamps and other public assistance until she sort of got back on her feet because dad never paid a dime of child support and her take home pay was very low.

We eventually moved into a trailer park and life remained financially pretty bad. I recall with sadness mom taking us a couple of towns over to buy groceries because back then food stamps were coupons you tore out of a booklet, so everyone in line knew you were on welfare. It hurt my heart when I heard people murmur things like "white trash" and questioning what mom had in the cart. I also recall how even little costs, like postage stamps and gasoline for the lawn mower, were difficult, let alone buying food, paying the gas and electric bill, and paying the lot space rent.

Since joining the Ohio General Assembly, I have served on the Public Utilities Committee. Public utilities

Judge Kenneth Spanagel Has Retired



Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Steward and State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan honor former Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel for his 36 years of service to the community.



law in Ohio is very complicated, so I work closely with the Ohio Consumers' Counsel and others to help me interpret many of the bills that come before us. One of the things I have learned about Columbus is that there are not a lot of folks who are on the side of consumers. This is probably because there is not a lot of money to be made in that line of work.

Many good ideas come before our committee - energy efficiency, solar, and other programs that I support. However, when one digs deeper into some of these bills, you find hidden costs for Ohio's consumers. These hid-

Another Success! Taste of Polish Village

by Kathryn Mabin

On Saturday, February 24th the Annual International Taste of Polish Village occurred. Approximately 200 people were in attendance, in the St. Charles Parish Hall Lower Level.

This annual event has become a popular addition to the Polish Village calendar of events. Local food establishments set up sampling of their signature selections. This offers attendees the opportunity to taste test from their favorites or find a new favorite offering. No one goes home hungry! I might add that attendees chose the samplings and are encouraged to go back for seconds and thirds. It's a two hour feast.

Sixteen food and beverage stations were set up around the parameter of the room this year Participating businesses were as follows, Barabacu Smokehouse, Brayson's Ice Cream, Chuppa's Market, Colozza's Bakery, Empananda's, Guy's Pizza, Krakow Food & Deli, Little Polish Diner, P Jay's Pizza, Ridge Rd Tavern, Rudy's Strudel, Schnitz Ale Brewery, Sittoo;s Parma, and Twisted Taino. Soft drinks & water was provided by the Polish Village Volunteers. Plus coming soon attendees got to taste the excellent coffee

den costs typically come in the form of what are called "riders" or the new name I recently uncovered in committee, "trackers." These are hidden costs on our utility bills that you and I pay and don't even realize it, because in Ohio the utilities do not have to show you what all you are paying for on your monthly bill. You can find these costs, but it is not an easy task.

Folks, it takes a lot of courage to stand up to the multi-billion utility companies and others who support some of these costly programs, but I serve you. I am often the lone voice speaking for the people. I know from my experience

from Love Coffee which will be opening soon on Ridge Rd. Besides the great food, they also had nice raffle baskets, a split the pot raffle and sideboards. Lot's of winners went home with full bellies and treats too.

Polish Village Parma is a neighborhood nonprofit. Proceeds from this fundraising event help to fund the Polish Constitution Day Parade & After Party in May, the flowers and decorations in the large pots on Ridge & Pearl Rd throughout the year, maintenance of the pocket park on Ridge Rd, and candy for the Annual Treat & Greet in October, and more. Events like this are not only enjoyable family fun but benefit the entire community. Follow their Facebook Page for more information on upcoming events.

growing up, as a member of Parma City Council, and in my new role that there are many Ohioans struggling right here in Parma, Parma Heights, and Cleveland, to make ends meet. So, when I am told, it is only another \$1.50 a month here or \$1.50 there, I remind the folks in the room that we are talking about real money. I am pleased to say that my work has resulted in preventing some of these added costs. Know that I will continue to advocate for you, despite the high pressure.

As always, if my office may be of service, please contact us via phone or email. I also invite you to visit my website at ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for my monthly newsletter. It is an honor to serve you!

Parma
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Medical Examiner's Office Announces Return Of Citizens Academy Program

by Christopher Harris

Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner Dr. Thomas Gilson announced the return of the popular Citizens Academy program. The Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office is now accepting applications for the academy, which is set to begin on April 18, 2024.

"It is with great enthusiasm that we resume our Citizens Academy," said Dr. Gilson. "We hope these sessions with our Cuyahoga residents will leave them with a realistic understanding of the fascinating aspects of forensic science."

The academy, held at the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office, will meet Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Residents can expect to participate in lectures, case reviews, and hands-on demonstrations from doctors, scientists, and investigators. Some of the topics include:

Forensic Pathology, Toxicology, Death Investigation, Trace Evidence, And more

"If you are interested in foren-

sic science or death investigations, this is the program for you," said Christopher Harris, External Affairs Manager for the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. "This is a great opportunity for residents to get an inside look and understand how our agency works."

The Citizens Academy is free of charge and open to all eligible residents. Eligibility requirements include:

- A resident of Cuyahoga County
- At least 21 years of age
- No felony convictions
- Must pass a background check

For more information or to download the application, please visit: cuyahogacounty.gov/medical-examiner/resources/citizens-academy.

All applications should be completed and submitted to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office by March 31, 2024. Applications may also be submitted via e-mail to cbharris@cuyahogacounty.us.

Spring Cleaning For A Healthy Watershed

by Kirsten Bull

Spring is the time of year when many of us begin to organize and clean our homes and gardens. Here are some tips for cleaning and disposing of hazardous materials that are friendlier to your sewer system, local watershed, and Lake Erie.

Safe Indoor Cleaning Tips with Natural Products and Alternatives:

Harsh cleaners include bleach, ammonia, and caustic oven cleaners. White vinegar and baking soda are safe, effective alternatives to many harsh cleansers.

Many kitchen and laundry detergents contain phosphates, which are harmful to Lake Erie. Look for low-or no-phosphate detergents.

Unused household cleaners can be disposed of through Cuyahoga County's Hazardous Waste Disposal Program.

Outdoor and Lawn-care Tips:

Doggy doo is not fertilizer. It contains bacteria that can pollute the groundwater. Always pick up after your pet and dispose of poop bags properly.

Runoff from washing a car on your driveway pollutes storm drains. (At a car wash facility, wastewater safely flows to a treatment plant.) If you do wash your car at home, do it on the grass where the soil can absorb and filter the soapy runoff.

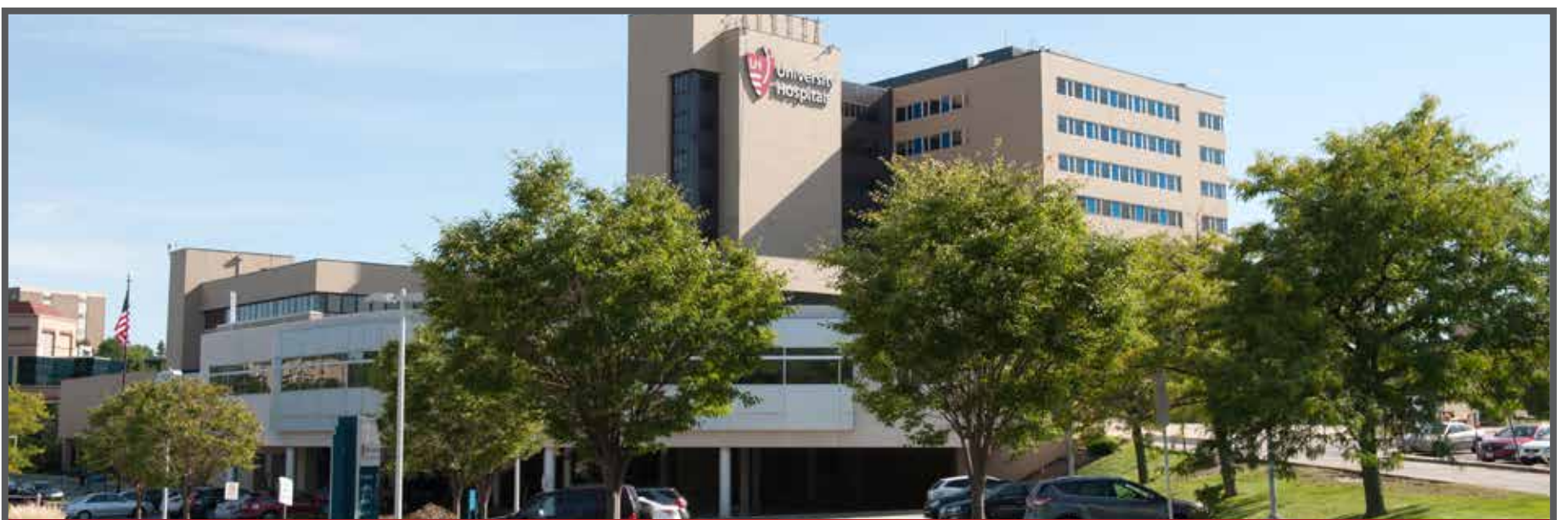


Composting creates useful mulch that you can use to make your yard or garden healthier. Compostable items include eggshells, tea bags, fruits and vegetables, hair/ fur, hay or straw, house plants, coffee and coffee filters, leaves, cotton rags, nutshells, dryer lint, sawdust, fireplace ashes, grass clippings, wool rags, and yard trimmings. Do NOT compost coal or charcoal ash, black walnut tree leaves or twigs, dairy products, meat or fish bones or scrap, diseased or insect-ridden plants, fats, lard, grease or oils, pet waste, or yard clippings from a yard that has been chemically treated.

Cleaning and/or sanitizing your pool with an ionizer can reduce the amount of chlorine and bromine you need.

For disposal of common household chemicals, learn more about Cuyahoga County's Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Program: cuyahogarecycles.org

Questions? Contact us (216) 881-8247 or tweet us @neorsd.



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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA



The Disappearance Of Beverly Potts Documentary

by Kevin Kelly

Some of you may remember the little girl who disappeared back in 1951 from Halloran Park, just north of the City of Parma. This criminal case stands alone because despite being one of the largest police investigations in Cleveland's history. The ten-year-old was never found, and no one was ever brought to justice for her disappearance. The search for the missing child even extended into the Parma Area. These areas included Big Creek Metro Park, near the intersection of Brookpark and Hauserman Roads Sewer drains on West 130 Street, just north of Snow Road. After a piece of clothing was discovered, resembling what Beverly Potts was wearing at the time of her disappearance, at one point during the investigation, the area between Stumph Road and West 130 Street, which was underdeveloped back in 1951, was also searched.

This tragedy changed the cordial attitude parents had back then in safeguarding their children, to being extremely cautious concerning their whereabouts. Today, we have the "Amber Alert" system, which did not exist back in 1951. Now when a child goes missing, the public is notified immediately with an Amber Alert alarm sounding, on mobile phones, cable and local television and radio-



broadcast.

A film crew from Shocker Enterprises right here in Parma, Ohio produced a documentary about this cold case. This documentary first aired on Cox Cable back in 2021. Subsequently, it was sent out to a multitude of networks across the United States. The video was eventually uploaded to YouTube, which drew much attention and controversy, attracting thousands of viewers which generated a great deal of comments. For those of you who missed it back in 2021, the documentary will be aired again during the month of March, on Wednesdays at 8PM, on Cox Cable Channel 45. For more information about the documentary, you can email: Kevin@shockerenterprises.com or Call: 440 888-8327

Parma Seminoles Youth Football & Cheer: Registration Is OPEN

by Bridget McGlynn

Parma Seminoles Youth Football & Cheer, a non-profit organization that provides a place for the youth of Parma, Parma Heights, Seven Hills and the surrounding cities to strengthen their leadership abilities & personal discipline while learning about life, the game of football & competitive cheer. We are part of the Ohio Gridiron Youth Football Association, with all our coaches being USA Football certified. We offer flag football (K-1st gr.), tackle football (2nd-6th gr.) and cheerleading (K-6th gr.). REGISTRATION IS OPEN. www.parmaseminoles.squarespace.com

Parma Seminoles Youth Football & Cheer

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Early bird registration -\$25 off registration fees-ends 4/4/24

Registration will close on 6/17/24

FOOTBALL: All players are required to have cleats & mouth guard
Flag Football - Registration \$130 (K-1st grade) *games played during the week.

Rookie Tackle 2nd grade - Regis-

tration \$225 (2nd grade) *games played on Saturday.

Tackle Football - Registration \$225 (3rd grade- 6th grade) *games played on Saturday.

CHEERLEADING: All cheerleaders are required to have WHITE CHEER SHOES, (must be a cheer shoe), BRIEFS, & BODY LINER. Color to be determined.

All required items are available to be purchased from PSYF's cheer vendor.

Cheer Mini -Registration \$130 (K-1st grade): *games cheered at are during the week.

Cheer -Registration \$225 (2nd grade- 6th grade): *games cheered at are on Saturday.

Season starts 7/29/2024, and ends mid-November, depending on play-off eligibility.

For more information and links to registration, see our website @

www.parmaseminoles.squarespace.com

*Parma Seminoles is a part of the Gridiron Youth Football Association *

Grab Your Running Shoes For Saturday March 9th!


by Christin Sorensen

A day filled with fresh air, fun, fantastic food and music? Sounds great right!?! Still time to sign up and join the festivities!

<https://www.empoweringepilepsy.org/leprechaun-chase>

Race starts at 9 a.m. at Fairview High School track, 4507 W 213th St, Fairview Park, OH 44126. Two race options available: 1 mile or 5k. All ages and skill levels are welcome. After party across the street at Gunselman's Tavern, 21490 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, OH 44126. Live Irish Music all day long, plus great food and drinks.

All proceeds benefiting Empowering Epilepsy. Empowering epilepsy was founded in Cleveland, Ohio in 2014. A plethora of family friendly activities are held all year long for those living with epilepsy and their families. Please visit empoweringepilepsy.org to find out more about all the beneficial programs offered and upcoming events for 2024. Help change the conversation!



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-Colleen Corrigan Day

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PARMA HEIGHTS

Global Flavors From Parma Heights Restaurants

by Emery Pinter

Make your way to Parma Heights for a diverse menu of flavors and explore different cultures through food, giving your palate a trip around the globe at the many international restaurants from Pearl Road to W. 130th.

Classic Italian comfort food is served at this authentic Italian Trattoria, Little Italia, 6863 W. 130th in Parma Heights. Italian in spirit and technique, but with a menu that spotlights flavors and dishes found throughout Italy. Little Italia is likely one of the best places in NE Ohio to buy and consume freshly-made pasta. Portions here are easily shared. Order a couple of pastas for the table like the Chicken Milanese, the Crispy Chicken Pasta, or Homemade Lasagna. Regulars rave about the Caesar salad, and the Fish & Chips (perfect for Lent!) As for the pastas, try the Chicken Milanese, crispy, breaded chicken breasts that are pan fried to perfection in under 10 minutes. It's the kind of dish that just makes people happy. The food is so impressive you might just take a bite with eyes closed and imagine you really are in Italy!!

Find comfort in tasty Indian food made and served with love in a welcoming environment at Honest restaurant, 6400 York Rd. Stop in for one of the elaborate sandwiches or entrees such as Daband Dosa, Chinese Bhel, or the Kattappa sandwich, layered with cheese, green red chutneys, and veggies with a mixture of potatoes tangy, sweet and spicy! Honest restaurant, 6400 York Rd. (in the former Friendly's building) serves the best Indian Vegetarian Food around. I had an amazing Bhaji Pav and I must say that the pav was so soft and fresh! Bhaji Pav is that utterly buttery delicious treat and no food connoisseur will very be able to say no after the first bite. It seems that no matter how many times I have visited, the complex blend of

sweet, savory and spices wake up your taste buds and give the impression of something new with every experience. If any food could turn me into a vegetarian, it would be Bhaji Pav with Cashew. The combination of smooth & creamy potato, rich spices, and soft pancake like dosa is a match made in heaven. Be prepared for an unforgettable meal.

Parma Heights loves its sushi, and at Osaka, 6328 Pearl Road, it's a fact not lost on the talented sushi chef. We have come to expect fresh ingredients, & serious knife skills. People can still expect to see the charming Chef behind the counter preparing extravagant courses of sushi, crispy veggie, crab and spring rolls, and other Japanese small bites and cooked dishes.

Whether you're in the mood for spicy Cantonese fare, dim sum,

dumplings, or even a bowl of soft chicken Lo Mein Noodles, you're likely to find it a Dragon Gate Chinese Restaurant, 6681 W 130th. The menu features standards like Beef Broccoli, Lemon Chicken, and Empress Chicken with pea pods, carrots, and water chestnuts. But also includes a few American-Chinese dishes, too, like General Tso's Bean Cake and Mongolian beef. The menu here is vast and varied, so bring a few friends and tuck in for a meal that will surely please everyone.

Are you as obsessed with all things Japan as many chefs are these days? Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi, 6405 Pearl Road, opens this Spring! Everything is cooked to order right in front of you, and it is well worth the wait. Perfect for a date night or a family dinner when

you don't feel like cooking! Portions here are generous, and you won't have to worry about leaving hungry. (As I've learned from the Columbus location) Japanese food is all about specialization, and this new restaurant takes laser focus to the food it prepares! Don't forget that grilled meats are great drinking food, so accompany your meal with a glass of sake. The prices are slightly higher than others, but the service and ingredients feel a little more high-end and are still a great bang for your buck. And there's no bad seat in the restaurant. No matter where you're sitting you get to experience every facet of the restaurant.

Some eat while they travel; others travel to eat. Parma Heights has the international restaurants where the portions are generous, the service is warm, and the food is the real deal.

Battle For The Ballot: Cleveland's Suffragist Movement

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Battle for the Ballot: Cleveland's Suffragist Movement on Tuesday, March 19th, 2024 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Learn about the local history of Suffragist movement in Cleveland and the women who petitioned and advocated for the right to vote for women in the United States. With the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 which legally guaranteed women the right to vote, these dedicated Cleveland women later championed their efforts to help establish an organization known as The League of Women Voters. Registration required. To register, please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Valentine's Day

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Valentine's Day on Saturday, March 16th, 2024 from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Shake off your post Valentine's Day blues with Lou Armagnano and Sinatra Selects! Valentine's Day may be over but love never dies. Enjoy a music concert program with this local Cleveland Sinatra tribute band performing signature Frank Sinatra favorites. Sponsored by The Friends of the Parma Heights Branch Library. Registration required. To register, please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Parma Heights Recreation Spring Programs And Sports

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activities, live animal experiences, food trucks & more!

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

For more information and to register, visit <https://parmaheightsoh.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>
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INSPIRATION

Hometown Heroes...

A Grateful Welcome Home To Vietnam Veterans

by Tony Kessler

The Vietnam War was one of the most Challenging and controversial chapters in our country's history. The Vietnam War began on November 1, 1955, and ended April 30, 1975, and claimed the lives of over 58,000 Americans with many still unaccounted for. The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition act of 2017 established March 29th as the annual observance of Vietnam War Veterans Day. March 29th is a fitting choice to honor Vietnam Veterans,

as it was the day United State Military Assistance Command Vietnam was disestablished and the day that the last of American troops left Vietnam.

It was to be a bittersweet day. Yes, the troops were coming home, but the controversy that was existent at home over the war shed a dark shadow over what should have been a celebratory time. Unlike the celebrations and parades for the troop's homecoming from earlier wars, our Vietnam troops were instead met by people turning

their backs on them when seen in public and asking questions like "how many babies and women did you kill over in Vietnam". It became clear that the Vietnamese peasants did not welcome American troops. Many Americans questioned that if this be the case, why their country was involved if the local population did not want them there, and questioned how the American Government could justify standing up for this oppressive regime.

Opposition to the war came from a number of sources and for a number of reasons. No matter the reason for the opposition, it was the American troops who suffered, not only the physical and psychological fallout of combat, but the emotional letdown effects of expecting a welcome home, only to be shunned and in some instances ridiculed.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are more than 7 million U.S. Vietnam veterans living in America and abroad, along with 10 million families of those who served during this time frame and to them we offer a

very grateful WELCOME HOME!
Mark Your Calendars!!!

The Parma Area Senior Veterans meetup group is hosting a Vietnam Veterans Day Tribute event on March 27th at 1pm at the Donna Smallwood Senior Activity Center, 7010 Powers Blvd, Parma. All Viet Nam Vets in attendance will receive a Vietnam lapel pin and a certificate. There will be a narrative reading of the famous picture "reflections", a POW/MIA empty chair table ceremony, Welcome speech by State Representative Sean Brennan, a tribute to all those lost in the Vietnam war from Parma and surrounding areas, special VIP guests, door prizes, raffles and a 50/50 followed by a complimentary Luncheon Buffet.

We expect a capacity turnout, so it is imperative that you register to be guaranteed a seat. Reserve your seat by calling or texting 440-263-0507, or by email to parmaareaseniorvets@yahoo.com or stop by the front desk at the Smallwood Center.

Parma Standing With Ukraine



IT is hard to believe but two long years ago, Parma had their first "Stand with Ukraine" event, when Russia attacked Ukraine, and started their disturbing decimation of the country and the people. Let's not forget what is still happening.

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
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NEIGHBORHOODS

Denbrook DeMolay Posts Flags At Veterans Memorial Park

by Melissa Wolfe

Denbrook DeMolay members met at the Veterans Memorial Park on Sunday February 11th, in observance of Patriots Day. DeMolay International defines the Patriots Day Observance as a day convenient to the Chapter during the month of February, where the Chapter arranges a special observance featuring the nation's great patriotic events and the great patriots who participated in them.

The posting of the flags included a Veterans Prayer by the Master Councilor Tyler Wasinski, and the part of the Installation of the Junior Councilor by Quinn Brown, State Officer of Ohio DeMolay and Past Master Councilor of Denbrook Chapter.

The DeMolay fraternity is the premier and most widely prestigious youth organization in the world dedicated to teaching young men between 12 to 21 years of age to be better persons and leaders. DeMolay members learn leadership skills, public speaking, time management and financial management. In addition to these skills, DeMolay also offers an expansive social and athletic program with the opportunity for civic awareness, responsibility and character development through a variety of self-directed, real-world applications and activities.

Numerous young men in the



United States actively participate in DeMolay chapters today and well over one million men have benefited from the DeMolay program and experience since it was founded in 1919. There have been Senior DeMolays that have achieved greatness and fame as Astronauts, Presidents, U.S. Senators, Governors, business leaders and successful community minded citizens.

General information is available at www.beademolay.org. For local information contact David Wolfe (Chapter

Dad Advisor) at denbrook1923@gmail.com

Follow Denbrook Chapter on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Denbrook.OhioDeMolay/>

or on Instagram: @DenbrookDeMolay

Denbrook DeMolay appreciates the opportunity to post colors at the Memorial, and would like to thank the City of Parma for allowing them to host the Chapter's Patriots Observance at the park.



Old Enough To Fight And Vote

by Robert Stilwell

The Vietnam War produced many changes in American life. One was the Twenty-sixth Amendment to the Constitution, passed in 1971 which lowered the voting age from twenty-one to eighteen. It reflected the widespread opinion that young men who were old enough to be drafted into the Armed Forces should be able to vote for or against officials who could lead their Nation into War. A common slogan was, "Old enough to Fight, Old enough to Vote".



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PERSPECTIVE

An Important History Lesson For This Year

by Lee Kamps

There is a favorite quotation that said that those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it. This could be coming true in this year's election. One of my favorite cartoon programs from my youth was the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show. One segment on that show featured a very brainy dog and his boy, an eager lad named Sherman. Peabody the dog had invented a "way back machine" that could go back in time where they could change history. For this piece, let's set the "way back machine" to the year of my birth, 1948.

Like 2024, the year 1948 was a presidential election year and the incumbent President, Harry Truman was running for a full term after becoming President following the death of Franklin D Roosevelt three months after his fourth inauguration. As an "accidental president", Harry Truman had the weight of the world thrust on his shoulders dealing with the conclusion of the Second World War and one of his first decisions as President was to order the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan. As President, Truman wasn't afraid to speak his mind and his presidency had many controversial moments.

However, in 1948, things were not looking good for his election to a

full term as President. In the 1946 mid term elections, the Republican party captured control of both houses of congress for the first time since 1930. Then the economy was plagued with rampant post-war inflation. In fact, the annual rate of inflation for 1947 was the highest since the end of the First World War at a 14% annual rate. Then, after four years of wage and price controls, labor wanted more money and there were many strikes by unions wanting better wages and benefits. At the beginning of 1948, the Republicans were smelling blood.

Their presidential candidate in 1948 was the polished New York governor Thomas E Dewey who gave FDR the toughest battle of any of his presidential elections. He was also a good eighteen years younger than Harry Truman. He was the governor of New York and very popular in a key state. All the polls were showing that President Truman was trailing Dewey and that he would become another Vice President who failed to win a full term of his own.

In addition to a strong younger Republican candidate, Truman had to deal with divisions in his own Democratic party. South Carolina Governor Strom Thurmond ran as the candidate on the "Dixiecrat" ticket in opposition to Truman's executive order integrat-

ing the armed forces in 1947. He also faced another candidate from the progressive wing of the Democratic party as FDR's former Vice President, Henry Wallace who was dumped in favor of Truman in 1944 because of Wallace's alleged ties to communists. Faced with two candidates from his own party, few gave President Truman a chance of winning a full term in November.

But Harry Truman had an ace up his sleeve. During the summer of 1948 and into the fall, he embarked on a multi-state railroad trip across the nation conducting campaign speeches at whistle stops. His major campaign issue was against the "do nothing" Republican congress that had failed to pass some important legislation that President Truman had sent to congress. He went on a barnstorming tour of the country focusing on the mid-western states and in the west. At one whistle stop, a man yelled at President Truman to "give 'em hell, Harry." That became the theme of his campaign, as President Truman was going to give those "do nothing" Republicans hell.

Still, the pundits and many newspapers didn't give President Truman a chance of winning the election on November 2, 1948. In fact, the Republican leaning Chicago Tribune printed a headline for their edition on November 3, 1948, that Dewey had defeated Truman.

But the results of that election were a convincing win for President Harry Truman. He managed to win 49.6% of the votes, carrying 28 states and winning 303 electoral votes. Republican Thomas Dewey won 41.5% of the popular vote and carried 16 states winning 189 electoral votes. Strom Thurmond won 2.4% of the popular vote but won 39 electoral votes from four states in the deep south.

On November 3, 1948, a jubilant President Truman was shown holding up a copy of the Chicago Tribune with their headline that was dead wrong. Truman's win helped his Democratic party retake control of congress from the "do nothing" Republicans.

Thomas Dewey served out his term as New York governor and went into the private practice of law. He never ran for public office again. He died in 1971 at the age of 68. Strom Thurmond was elected to the Senate after he was term limited as South Carolina's governor. He still holds the record for a one-person filibuster where he spoke for 57 hours against the Civil Rights Act of 1957. After the filibuster, the act was passed. He became the longest serving and oldest Senator in history when he finally retired in 2002 at the age of 100. Harry Truman lived for twenty years after the conclusion of his presidency, dying on December 26 1972 at the age of 88. Now many presidential historians rank him among the top ten best Presidents of the United States. Despite his unpopularity, history has recognized that Harry Truman was a good President.

As for myself, I arrived on this earth on September 21, 1948. The Cleveland Indians won the World Series in 1948, and the Cleveland Browns won another All-American Conference championship in 1948, going undefeated in a 14-game season. In addition, the Cleveland Barons Hockey team won the Calder Cup as American Hockey League champions. It was a good year.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/09/Dewey_Defeats_Truman.jpg



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VIEWPOINTS

Repurposing And Saving Parma Senior High School

by Armand Grossman

An open message to the residents of parma, parma heights and seven hills
WHAT IS CLEARLY BEST FOR Parma Senior High School

Raised on the West side of Cleveland my parents eagerly wished just to own their own home. Thrilled to buy their first home in Parma in 1953, coincidentally it was the same year the new Parma Senior High was opened. Visiting the school at the grand opening tour I was thrilled to know that I would enjoy the privilege of attending what was then known as “The Queen of High Schools” for which it was widely acclaimed.

My parents, along with my generational cohorts were raised by parents who were the product of the “Greatest Generation.” A generation who grew up during the Great Depression only to be followed by World War II.

Living through the Great Depres-

sion, only a few could afford to attend college. But it was universally believed that a good education, particularly strong college prep and ultimately college was a pathway to an elevated, enriched life. Parma was the fastest growing suburb in the country during the fifties primarily fueled by this generation buying their first home. Generally, a three-bedroom, one-bath bungalow and a single-car garage was the standard of the day. We were living large.

The fundamental values this generation embraced were heavily imbued into their children: my cohorts. Values such as hard work, personal responsibility, frugality, trustworthiness and effectively a good education. Parma Senior High School was built as a commitment and tribute to that generation and those values.

Sadly, the PCSD School Board has decided to demolish this facility with

demolition already in progress. This can be and should be stopped immediately. The board’s decision to tear down a perfectly good building at a cost of over three million taxpayer dollars and replace it with a new similar structure (to include the iconic tower) for 250 million dollars is foolhardy. This is fiscally burdensome to a school district that is already 19 million dollars in the red.

Two weeks ago, I presented to the Board, at their invitation, a contract to purchase the school. We intended to repurpose the building with the following:

- Repurpose the two gyms and swimming pool into a community recreation center to be enjoyed by all district residents year-round. The benefits of such a facility are enormous to the populace. To offer swimming, exercise, and connectivity to fellow neighbors provides benefits that cannot be ignored. The benefits of a healthy lifestyle and purposeful longevity are irrefutable. Within the facility, a coffee and health bar following enriching exercises would serve to foster new and enhanced personal relationships within the community.
- The existing little theatre could serve as the community “Parma Playhouse.” This is a common facility often found throughout America. Such a facility serves to enhance the arts and creative experience as well as public entertainment.
- Repurpose the building would include transforming former classrooms into condominiums. Such a repurpose has widespread precedents. The old West Tech high school was converted to lofts as have several other former schools. The even older Frank-

lin YMCA was also converted. These are just a few examples, and they are much older structures. Parma High was built in 1953, a steel framed structure of brick and block. Additions were made in the 70’s and 80’s. This monumental structure certainly does not deserve to be demolished.

It does not make sense to demolish this building and deny the residents a facility that would only serve to significantly enhance several quality-of-life benefits for all the residents. Repurposing the building will serve to further contribute to the property tax base for the community. Additionally, the building will continue to serve as the beautiful architectural focal point of the area which it originally was.

In summary. Why is the school board spending 3 million dollars to demolish a building and then committing to financially burden the residents by building a new high school at a taxpayer cost of \$250 million? An egregious cost only to serve a declining total school enrollment when the facility can be restructured to significantly enrich the quality of life for all the residents.

Call your school board members and demand the demolition be stopped and repurpose the building to the benefit and enrichment of all the district resident taxpayers.

440.885.2324

Mark Ruda, President, Ashley McTaggart, Vice President, Steven Vaughn, Linda Kohar, Brittany Kurpik

Thank you,

Armand Grossman

PSH 1961

Armandocean7@gmail.com

Office: 561.419.0454

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial In Washington, D.C.



by Robert Stilwell

Maya Ying Lin, born (October 5, 1959) is an American Designer and Sculptor. In 1981, while an undergraduate at Yale University she achieved National recognition when she won a National Design Competition for the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was dedicated in 1982.

Frederick Elliott Hart, (November 3, 1943-August 13, 1999) was an American Sculptor. The creator of hundreds of public monuments, portraits, and other works of art. Hart is most famous for a part of the Washington National Cathedral and the Three Serviceman at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was Dedicated in 1984

Glenna Maxey Goodacre, (August 28, 1939-April 13, 2020) was an American Sculptor most famous piece was a bronze sculpture of the Vietnam Women's Memorial depicting 3 uniformed women helping a wounded male G.I. The women who served in all branches of the Military, humanitarian organizations and the women who waited at home deserve to be honored. This sculpture was dedicated to the 11,500 women who served in Vietnam as Nurses, intelligence analysts, air traffic controllers and other roles. It was dedicated on Veterans Day in 1993. March 29, 2024 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day

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OBSERVER

Should You Buy Your Child An Ebike?

by Jeff Moenich

Should You Buy Your Child an Electric Bike? With the Spring around the corner, many parents, family or friends are considering buying an electric bike (ebike) for their favorite child, or maybe they got one for Christmas. If you search the internet for advice on whether an ebike is safe for your children, you'll see that there aren't a lot of concrete studies on the topic.

Before doing so, the pros and cons of an ebike (versus traditional bikes) should be considered:

Pros:

1. Ebikes are easier to ride, especially uphill, therefore your child gets exercise, vitamin D from the sun and develops confidence.

2. People riding ebikes tend to bike further distances due to ease of use, and therefore get more exercise as long as the bike is equipped with pedal assist.

3. Ebikes allow children to keep up with their parents on bike rides, which means better bonding and a more enjoyable family experience. When my children were young, they did not have the best experiences biking with me because hills were so difficult.

Cons:

1. Safety. A lot depends on your child's physical abilities and their ability to focus on everything around them. You can travel at faster speeds

on ebikes, but this results in longer braking times. Some children are less coordinated than others and may have trouble riding at higher speeds.

2. Safety. Faster speeds and longer braking times may result in more injuries. Injuries at faster speeds may result in internal injuries, similar to those seen in motorcycle accidents.

3. Safety for others. Traveling at faster speeds may result in your child hitting others on the sidewalk, street or bike paths. Guess who is liable for any injury to another person caused by your child?

4. Cost. Ebikes are going to be more expensive and may be more costly if mechanical/electrical problems occur. Theft is going to be an issue.

5. Lack of exercise: If your child relies on throttle (where pedaling is not required) all of the time, they will not receive the physical exercise benefits. If the bike is equipped with throttle vs pedal assist (which will give some assist while pedaling), which do you thing



most children would choose?

6. Ebikes require frequent charging.

6. Because ebikes are heavier, they may be more difficult to control and transport

Some suggestions:

Research safety concerns, consider if your child would have the coordination to control an ebike, especially at higher speeds.

Talk to the experts at bike shops. Learn about all of the features on an ebike and what would be safest for your child.

Make sure the bike is properly fitted for your child's size.

Use safety precautions, **WEAR A PROPERLY FITTING HELMET AT ALL TIMES.** Buy a loud bell and use it when near pedestrians, other bikers and cars

Educate your child on safety precautions when biking. **NEVER PASS SOMEONE WITHOUT SLOWING DOWN AND GIVING NOTICE!**

Teach your child that others often can't hear bikers approaching and may not see your child when they are biking.

Supervise your child, be aware of how fast the max speed is and observe if your child can handle these speeds. Go on frequent bike rides so you can determine how good their riding, maturity and judgement are. The max speed of an ebike can vary greatly, from 5 mph to over 20mph. Most authorities recommend children travel under 10 mph on an ebike. Consider your child's abilities and maturity when making a purchase.

Learn what your state/local government laws say about biking and use of ebikes. In Ohio, Class 1 and 2 ebikes reach a max speed of 20mph and are allowed anywhere traditional bikes or pedestrians are allowed. There is no age limits for these bikes. Class 3 bikes have a max speed of 28mph and riders must be over 16 years old to operate them. Be sure to know what your local laws say about biking.

The decision to have your child ride an ebike or traditional bike is yours. The most important issue is safety for your child and others who may be affected by your child's bike riding abilities. I must also say that it would be great to see more children biking rather than playing video games when the weather gets nice this Spring!

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

*The 25th Annual Valley Forge Spring Craft Show hosted by The Valley Forge Cross country Team will be held on March 16th, 2024 at Valley Forge High School, 9999 Independence Blvd, 10am to 3pm. Team led concessions will be available for breakfast and lunch, Vendors include holiday décor, ceramics, jewelry, knits, wreaths, candles, purses, kitchen items, embroidery, soap, beauty products, Easter items and more.

*Parma Community Middle/High School Spring Craft Fair, held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, 10am to 4pm, at 5983 W. 54th St. FREE ADMISSION. Visit with the Easter Bunny! Face Painting! Lots of vendors too!

*Sean Mabin – is on exhibit at the 11th Annual Waterloo Arts DayGlo Art Show “How Does Your Garden Glow?” 3/1 to 3/30/24, at 15605 Waterloo Rd. Sean demonstrated photography techniques at the Lakewood Art League, Thursday, February 22, 2024. Both Sean and his wife, Angie Reali-Mabin are in the Geauga Park District’s Community Art Exhibit titled “The Forest is Calling and I Must Create”. This show is a Tree Inspired Exhibit, on display February 3, through April 21, 2024 from 10 AM to 4:30 PM at The West Woods Nature Center.

*Marianne Legeza – Member of the Greenbriar Art League and Parma Arts is currently on exhibit in the Geauga Park District’s Community Art Exhibit titled “The Forest is Calling and I Must Create”. This show is a Tree Inspired Exhibit, through April 21, 2024 from 10 AM to 4:30 PM at The West Woods Nature Center. Her three watercolor paintings are " Autumn Splendor"- red and golden maple leaves, " End of Season"- grove of birch trees, and “Serenity”- a winter landscape with snow and pine trees.

*Figure Drawing at The Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd (inside City of Parma Parks & Recreation Center). Ongoing FREE figure drawing the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 PM. No instructor, just a gathering of artists. Welcome beginning or experienced artists to draw or paint. Live models, fully clothed. Each session a different volunteer model from the community will pose in exchange for a drawing/painting from each artist present. This is a body-positive group, all shapes, sizes, and ages are welcome to pose. Great way for artists to hone your figure drawing skills, meet other artists, in a relaxing atmosphere. For more information, or if you want to volunteer to model, email Lynne Shayko at Lshayko@kent.edu.

*Beginning Watercolor at The Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd (inside City of Parma Parks & Recreation Center). Instructor Jan McAndrew, a licensed art instructor. Starting Thursday, March 7, 2024, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. This 4 week “Try Me” beginners class is limited to 15 students, in order to offer individualized attention. A \$20 supply fee, payable

the first session, covers the cost of paper, paint and brushes for the entire 4 weeks of class. Dates are January 7, 14, 21, & 28. Register now by email to kathrynabin@att.net. Instructors fee is covered in part by a grant received from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the cigarette tax monies. Thank you CAC.

* Parma Arts - located at the Parma Arts Center, 7335 Ridge Rd, in the Parks & Recreation Department Building is currently seeking members. Membership in this 501(c)3 nonprofit



Figure Drawing Session

is inexpensive. They haven't raised fees in over 20 years. I can't name another organization that can boast a statement like that. Their mission is to bring arts to the community. View

their web page www.parmafinearts.org for more information.

*Call for Artists – Annual Medley of Arts Show & Sale coming in May. Details coming in next months article.

Coming Soon To Stearns!



Scale Model by Jack Dacek

by Kathryn Mabin

Last year The Parma Historical Society was contacted by a very talented Jack Dacek indicating he was interested in building a model replica to scale of the Stearns house. He proceeded to take measurements and photos. Several hundreds of hours of work later, the scale model has been completed. The next step is to build a plexiglass box for it to be displayed in. Kuddos to Jack for sharing his talent with us. Watch the Parma Observer and Stearns Homestead Facebook Page for when you can view this in person



Seven Hills Health Fair

On February 24 Seven Hills Recreation Center was the location of a fabulous Health Fair, where all kinds of providers and other extremely useful information was made available to residents all in one place. Outstanding events like this one are what make our community such a great place to live and grow.



PSD State Of The Schools Event

On February 22 Normandy High School hosted the Parma City School District State of the Schools event. catered by the Sword and Shield and featured a speech by Superintendent Charles Smialek.

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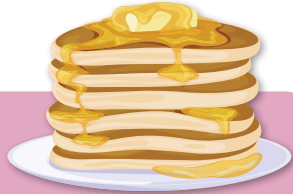
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