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September, 2024  
Vol, 16, Is. 9

# ParmaObserver

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

## City of Parma Heights Works Together To Rally Back From The Tornado

by Marie Gallo

The residents of Parma Heights will remember for years to come where they were on Tuesday, August 6 around 4pm. As the notifications came in, the weather turned quickly and the tornado touched down in the City of Parma Heights and surrounding areas.

I would like to take this time to again thank the City of Parma Heights Service Department for helping to clear down trees and branches, the Police Department for rerouting and directing traffic and the Fire Department for assisting with seniors who needed oxygen refills and other assistance.

The staff at City Hall helped answer hundreds of phone calls from residents and posted updates on social media. Our Parma Heights Senior Center staff went above and beyond to help with seniors by grilling hot dogs, providing food for the homebound and even using the senior bus as a charging station.

Special thanks to our neighboring cities and Mayor Biasiotta of Seven Hills and



Mayor DeGeeter of Parma for their support, Parma City School District for open-



ing Valley Forge High School as a charging station and Cuyahoga County Emergency Management team for helping provide a generator for the Parma Heights Senior Center.

I also want to offer special thanks to the many local businesses that reached out to support and serve our community and the residents for their patience and understanding. The storm caused widespread damage, and the teams have

**continued on page 9**



## Parma Safety Fair 2024

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On August 17 the City of Parma held the always popular annual Safety Fair at the Parma Justice Center. This event features hands on displays and presentations by police, fire, rescue and medical services arranged so that the public can interact in such a way that they are much better informed about the various operations of the vital functions provided by these public servants. Lots of families were in attendance, participating at each exhibit, learning all about the function of our various safety forces in real life situations.

Since the community had experienced the devastating effects of a storm and subsequent tornado over a widespread area of the city on August 6, which resulted in significant power loss for several days, the timing of this Safety Fair was more or less perfect. It helped to emphasize the point that the residents of Parma have a close connection to our safety forces, and appreciate their hard work and dedication to public safety that these public servants exhibit day in and day out.

One of the more popular events during the Safety Fair is the live landing and takeoff of the University Hospitals medical chopper. Once it lands, people flock around and observe the functions of this vital piece of equipment as the crew shows and explains the process and procedures of what is involved in a life flight. Most people are amazed, and also hope to never find out personally what it is like to be rescued onboard this machine.

I saw Parma Police Chief James Blair circulating among the citizens, and we had a discussion about the vital role the Annual Safety Fair serves to maintain a connection between the safety forces and the people they serve, in a real personal way. We both agreed that it is one of the things that makes Parma a special place, and a city which enjoys the status of being one of the safest cities in Ohio. This is no coincidence- they receive strong support from the public and return excellent service, which is most appreciated.

## Ward 6 Safety Meeting



by Kevin Kussmaul

Living in Parma we are blessed to have some of the best Safety Forces in Northeast Ohio. On Thursday August 15th the Ward 6 Safety Meeting was held at my house with over 80 residents attending. This event was postponed by one week due to the tornado coming through Parma. Throughout the question and answer time the residents expressed their

thanks and appreciation to all of our Safety Forces.

**Thank you to the following Ward 6 Businesses who donated door prizes:** 7 Brew Coffee, Milk n' Tea, Tony's Family Restaurant

Thank you also to the Parma Fire Department, Parma Police Department, Parma Auxiliary, Law Director Scott Tuma, State Representative Sean Brennan, Congressman Max Miller's

Office and members of the Parma Animal Shelter for attending. A big thank you to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District for attending and talking about different ways residents can save money on their sewer bills. These ways to save can be found at: <https://customerservice.neorsd.org/s/cost-saving-program>



This month's script Parma photo of the month contest winner is Parma's Kayla Detore whose son, Dax, appears. 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](mailto: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**

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The Representative's Corner

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

I was very excited recently when I got word from the Governor's office that he was going to sign House Bill 466. H.B. 466 is the second bill that I have introduced that the Governor has signed into law. I am told that it is rare for a freshman member of the Ohio House of Representatives to pass one bill, let alone two. After teaching American Government to middle and high school students for 30 years, I am literally living my life's work.

H.B. 466 establishes minimum standards for written real estate representation agreements between real estate professionals and homebuyers. In fact, under this legislation, parties will be required to enter into a written representation agreement before a seller may show a property or a buyer may make an offer to purchase a property.

Written representation agreements must include an expiration date, information on fair housing and block-busting laws, whether the relationship is exclusive or nonexclusive, and terms of compensation.

If you have been keeping up on my work for you at the Statehouse, H.B. 466 is a collaboration between me and my esteemed colleague Jean Schmidt (R-Loveland). She and I became fast friends in the State Legislature because of our mutual love of running. In fact, although I have run 115 full marathons, she has almost completed 200! What is particularly fascinating about this bill is the swiftness that it moved from introduction to the Governor in just a few months—a testament to working in a bipartisan fashion.

This law promotes transparency and protects all parties involved in the home buying process. It will be especially helpful to new homebuyers by educating them on the various aspects of the transaction. I am honored to join

Rep. Schmidt on this very important and needed legislation and I remain honored to serve as your state representative.

### STEPS TO PASSAGE

3/27/24 - Introduced in the Ohio House of Representatives

4/2/24 - Referred to the Ohio House Committee on Civil Justice

5/1/24 - Passed by the Ohio House Committee on Civil Justice

5/8/24 - Passed the Ohio House of Representatives (88-1)

5/14/24 - Introduced in the Ohio Senate

5/22/24 - Referred to the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing

6/26/24 - Passed by the Ohio Senate Select Committee on Housing

6/26/24 - Passed by the Ohio Senate (30-1)

6/26/24 - Ohio House of Representatives Concurs with Ohio Senate Amendments (92-0)

7/24/24 - Governor Michael DeWine signs the bill into law



Governor Michael DeWine signs H.B. 466 at the Ohio State Fairgrounds as State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma) and guests watch.



Recently, State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan hosted Jason Stephens, Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, at Parma's Schnitz Ale. They met with the command staff of the Parma and Parma Heights police and fire departments to discuss state safety policy and funding, among other issues following the storms that struck the communities.

**Parma**  
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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS



### Crile General Hospital / Cuyahoga Community College

by Robert Stilwell

Named after George W. Crile, the founder of the Cleveland Clinic and a prominent Spanish American War and World War I Surgeon. Crile General Hospital opened on York and Pleasant

Valley roads in Parma on April 21, 1944.

At the time it was a rural area, perfect for a sprawling Hospital Base. Eighty Seven building were constructed on 53 acres for the Barrack style Military Hospital, with Operating rooms, Inpa-

tient wards, Administration buildings,

### UH Parma Medical Center Earns Prestigious Five Stars For Quality From CMS

by CJ Sheppard

The quest for Zero Harm at UH Parma Medical Center has resulted in the highest possible quality rating of five stars from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the federal agency that administers Medicare. Of more than 6,000 hospitals in the nation, fewer than half receive any star quality rating from CMS and hundreds fell from the rankings entirely this year. Only 13% received the top rating of five stars.

“Caregivers at UH Parma Medical Center strive to not only meet but exceed standards for excellent care close to home,” said James Hill, MD, MBA, Chief Operating Officer, UH Parma

Medical Center. “This significant honor showcases how our caregivers are dedicated to ensuring the best experience possible for all patients who trust UH Parma for their care.”

Safety, efficiency, and patient experience are considered in assessing star ratings, and the CMS star ratings are ones that no hospital can apply for or pay for to receive. Star ratings are based solely on publicly available data from 2019-2023 covering mortality, hospital-acquired infections, readmissions, patient experience and performance on core measures.

CMS rates hospitals from one to five stars, based on quality measures in five categories: mortality, safety, readmission, patient experience, and timely and effective care. Scores reflect common conditions, such as heart attack and pneumonia, and the overall rating indicates how each hospital performs.

These star ratings, published on Hospital Compare, are intended to provide patients the ability to compare hospitals. By publicly sharing quality data, CMS also spurs hospitals toward continuous quality improvement. Click here to learn more about the ratings and methodology on Hospital Compare.



### Wound Care Center located at UH Parma Medical Center

Providing comprehensive care using the latest surgical and nonsurgical treatments for chronic or nonhealing wounds, at a convenient location. Our team of providers, including, Podiatric, Vascular, and Plastic Surgeons, as well as Infectious Disease and Family Medicine providers can develop an effective treatment plan just for you.

Some of the types of ulcers treated are:

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- Skin tears/Traumatic wounds
- Road rash
- Vascular wounds
- Mild burns
- Pressure ulcers



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# GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

## SAG-AFTRA Picnic At Westcreek Reservation

by Brandi Bennett

The 10th Annual SAG-AFTRA Family Picnic took place on August 4 in Parma at the Westcreek Reservation Pavillion. What a wonderful day and an amazing turnout. 87 degrees and sunny. There were over fifty people that showed through out the day from many places. It was nice to see everyone that was able to attend. Ms. Fay Porter even showed up. Ms. Porter is a wonderful lady that recently turned 95. The organization presented Executive Director Brian Lysell with a plaque for ten years of service. He has done a wonderful job to continue to organize and strengthen the Union for Ohio-Pittsburgh. Our friend

Peter Lawson Jones was able to stop this year. He is such a great friend and was recently inducted into the Karamu House Hall of Fame. Congratulations

This year was the beginning of having door prizes donated from many wonderful establishments including Wall of Books, Little Birdie Wine Nest, Rookies, Yorktown Lanes, The Topsy Flamingo, Au Jus, Gentiles, Cassidy Theater, The Beck Center for the Arts, Schnitzel Ale Brewery, Galluccis, and many others. If anyone would like to donate or be a sponsor for next year please reach out. [andyschofield@yahoo.com](mailto:andyschofield@yahoo.com)

Thanks again for another successful day for the members and families.



US Senator Sherrod Brown stands with Parma Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, Ohio Sstate Rep Sean Patrick Brennan, and officials from Ukrainian Village during the Ukrainian Independence Parade on August 24.



SAG/AFTRA Picnic at Westcreek Reservation in August.



Group photo after the parade.

## 90's Dance Party September 28 Supports Area Seniors

by Felicia Martinez

On Saturday, September 28th All Faiths Pantry will host their largest fundraiser of the year, the 6th Annual Music Feeds People 90's Edition at German Central in Parma. The event will feature The Goods, a Cleveland based 90's Alt Rock band known to rock the party in Cleveland.


Board, Staff and volunteers for a fun afternoon in a beautiful outdoor setting. For more information about All Faiths Pantry and "Music Feeds People," contact AFP Executive Director Felicia Martinez at [info@allfaithspantry.org](mailto:info@allfaithspantry.org) or call 216-496-4329. Ticket and info: [www.allfaithspantry.org](http://www.allfaithspantry.org)

Come lend your support to All Faiths Pantry, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that utilizes dozens of volunteers to deliver nutritious groceries at no cost, directly to the homes of low-income seniors and individuals with mobility challenges.

The family-friendly event begins at 1:00 pm and includes music, dancing, food and activities for all ages, as well as a cash bar. Door prizes, 50/50 raffle and raffle baskets will all contribute to the fun. The \$20 ticket includes a picnic lunch (GF and Vegan options available). Admission for seniors (60+) is only \$10 and ages 17 & under are free. Food will be provided by Lisa's Hit the Spot Food Truck.

Says executive director Martinez "The need in our community is very real for so many, especially for older adults living on fixed incomes. They face unique challenges. Almost half of our clients live in Parma/Parma Hts. and we are proud to be in our 18th year delivering groceries." Proceeds will fund the program and AFP's efforts to provide supplementary non-perishable groceries and fresh produce to those in need.

All are welcome to join us for this community event. Meet the AFP



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**[www.cityofparmapolice.com](http://www.cityofparmapolice.com)**

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# Cuyahoga Reads

Readers Win



Making a Difference

CuyahogaReads.org



**A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne**


Cuyahoga Reads participants have been reading throughout the year! To date, 18,121 registered participants have completed 59,016,240 minutes, exceeding our goal of 5,000,000. The reading excitement doesn't end there - September is Library Card Sign-Up Month! Visit your local public library to renew or register for a new library card. Also, don't forget that September 22-28 is Banned Books Week. This week is a great opportunity to help our County libraries protect the right to read by borrowing a book.

**Titles Challenged in Public Schools and Libraries During 2023**

- Attempts to censor books during this period: 938
- Total titles challenged in those attempts: 9,021
- Unique Titles: 4,240

Data Compiled by: American Library Association – Office for Intellectual Freedom

**Freed Between The Lines**  
by Cuyahoga Reads Committee








The number of titles targeted for censorship surged by 65% in 2023 compared to years prior, reaching the highest levels ever documented by the American Library Association. Pressure groups in 2023 focused mostly on public libraries in addition to targeting school libraries. The number of titles targeted for censorship at public libraries increased by 92% over the previous year; school libraries saw an 11% increase. This Banned Books Week, take a moment to think about how life would be different without some of the most renowned stories and titles throughout the history of literature.

## Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips



Library Card Sign-Up Month is an annual campaign sponsored by the American Library Association to encourage readers of all ages to sign-up for a free library card. This September, "the American Library Association (ALA) is teaming up with multi-platform entertainment company Skybound Entertainment and leading toy and game company Hasbro to encourage people to roll out to their libraries with the TRANSFORMERS franchise, featuring Optimus Prime, as part of Library Card Sign-Up Month." To learn more about Library Card Sign-Up Month, visit [cuyahogareads.org](http://cuyahogareads.org).

BOTH GOALS EXCEEDED!

**Number of Days Read**

50,000



**Number of Minutes Read**

5 Million



## PARMA HEIGHTS



### Incarinate Word Academy Educators Travel To Poland With Classrooms Without Borders

by Anne Hribar

Incarinate Word Academy educators Traci Borden and Anne Hribar recently participated in an intensive study seminar, Poland Personally, presented by Classrooms Without Borders. The purpose of the seminar was to increase their understanding of the value of diversity and the results of prejudice. Accompanied by Holocaust survivor Howard Chandler, participants spent over a week visiting many historical sites, including the Warsaw and Krakow ghettos, as well as Treblinka, Majdanek, and Auschwitz.

Traveling throughout Poland was a gift that has no ceiling. The network built with like-minded individuals who share a passion for preserving humanity via lessons that question that very humanity is strong and gives hope to the generations we will reach.

Examining the human story on a

journey throughout Poland along with Auschwitz Survivor Howard Chandler gave way to even more questions, many of which I know I may not be able to find an "answer" to, and also indeed a sense of


Overwhelming uncertainty developed at times of how to accomplish the awesome and daunting task of creating a classroom culture of caring and a sense or even a call of obligation to each individual who needs to be remembered. "No one wants to be forgotten," said Howard. How do we remember? We must remember as an extension of those who are not here and share their stories. Democracy we know is fragile, not just during the time between World War One and World War Two, it continues to be fragile. How do we protect the rights of others? How do we prevent seeds of hate and indifference from sprouting? How do we forge courage? We can. We must.

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### Small Business Series Workshop

stories by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Small Business Series Workshop on Thursday evenings in September 2024 in Meeting Room C. Are you thinking of starting a small business? Are you a small business owner exploring ways to develop? This four-part series is designed for people with a small business idea who are seeking information and are interested in launching or growing a successful small business. Local small business community leaders and entrepreneurs will share their experiences and Q&A following the presentations.

Business Basics / Thursday, September 5th at 7:00 p.m. Learn about the fundamental principles and concepts for operating a successful business.

Business Marketing Principles / Thursday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Learn about concepts and practices to promote business products and services.

Business Loans and Funding / Thursday, September 19th at 7:00 p.m. Learn an overview of different types of financial resources available to stabilize a small business.

Successful Business Management / Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. Learn about strategies for effectively managing business operations to achieve the intended goals.

Registration required. Register for one, some or all programs in this four-part series. To register, please visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

### Native North American Art: Before, During And After Colonization

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Native North American Art: Before, During and After Colonization on Tuesday, September 17th, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. The Cleveland Museum of Art will talk about Native American Art in this hands-on experience with art objects. The artists, who represent the diverse cultures and tribes of Indigenous peoples in North America, created functional and beautiful art objects with spiritual significance. Please note: Participants will be required to have clean hands when handling the art objects. Registration required. To register, please visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

### Tips for Success For Job Seekers Over 40

The Cuyahoga Works: Job & Career Services team of Professional Career Counselors will present Tips for Success for Job Seekers Over 40 as a hybrid program held virtually on Zoom and held in-person at the Parma Heights Branch on Monday, September 23rd, 2024, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choose to attend via Zoom or in-person at Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library. September is International Update Your Resume Month. Celebrate by attending this hybrid program presented by a Career Counselor from Cuyahoga County Public Library's Cuyahoga Works: Job & Career Services. Over age 40? Learn how to increase your marketability in today's competitive job market as a career seeker over age 40. This informative and motivational program will also include tips for success among your competition regardless of experience, age and additional factors that concern you. Gain a new viewpoint to continue your search in the job market with success. Register for the hybrid option or register for the in-person option. To register, visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Please note: An email address is required in order to receive the link to join via Zoom. A link will be emailed to registered participants within 24 hours of the program. You will need a device with audio and/or video and a reliable internet connection to join. If you have questions about this program, please contact a librarian at the Parma Heights Branch at 440-884-2313.

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CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS 2022

## NOTABLES

IN LAW

# INSPIRATION

## Celebrating Parma, Ohio -

# A Heartfelt Reflection On Community, Resilience, And Shared Heritage

by Anthony Prusak

I'd like to take this opportunity to share some heartfelt memories of Parma, OH, with all of you.

Over the past few months, I've been asked to write on various topics—business, sales, marketing, life experiences, and more. This writing journey has evolved naturally, and I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts on these subjects. Having something to say and a platform to say it, where others can read and feel it, is a unique experience. You never know what it's like until you try.

These days, I find great pleasure in sharing my thoughts and ideas. Many of us came from humble beginnings,

often as first- or second-generation Americans. Our parents had big dreams for themselves and us. It was a magical time, the best of times. In Parma, your ethnic background never stood in the way of success. In a generous city and country, you don't need wealth to reach your potential. You had choices: college, trades, or family business.

In no other city in Ohio is your story possible. Success was achievable through hard work. Think about your family: how they maintained a pristine lawn, went to church, obeyed the law, and took pride in living the American Dream in Parma. We are all connected by this shared heritage, even if we live miles apart. Parma will always hold a

special place in our hearts.

We were blessed with wonderful neighbors, teachers, and friends who looked out for us, often without our knowing. We've all aspired to be better people and citizens. We are big-hearted, loving our families, friends, and neighbors fiercely. We embody hard work, toughness, and resilience.

There's no obstacle we can't overcome together. Our history, and your personal history, is something to be proud of, filled with valuable life lessons. Parma has changed over the years, but perhaps many still call it home. The spirit of being a great citizen of Parma endures, and we are not yet finished.

We can reflect on our imperfections and work together to shape a future that aligns with our highest ideals. This demographic shift is part of the American story, the continuing story of the great city of Parma, Ohio.

Named after Parma, Italy, our city's name refers to a round shield used by Roman legionaries—a fitting symbol for our resilience.

Our motto, "Progress Through Partnerships," speaks to the relationships we've built over the years. What we face now is above all a moral issue about social justice and the character of Parma. It's about our ability to empathize with others and stand together, offering a helping hand when someone needs it.

The song "Ripple" by the Grateful Dead comes to mind: "Reach out your hand if your cup is empty, If your cup is full may it be again." This reflects the true spirit of who we are today and who we will be in the future.

We are Parma! Be proud of the wonderful memories we share in this community. Continue to share love and friendship!

## NEORSD's Annual, Clean Water Festival Is On Saturday September 21st. Join Us For A day Of Free Fab Fun!

by Kirsten Bull

Our festival of all things water is Saturday, September 21, 2024. A full day of free games, giveaways, tours, trucks, education, and inspiration unlike any other. Join thousands of our closest friends from Northeast Ohio and beyond at Clean Water Festival! Guests can tour one of the country's largest wastewater treatment plants, play games, earn prizes, and walk away winners with newfound knowledge of

the work it takes to protect our environment.

If you would like to host an exhibit space at our 2024 Clean Water Fest, reach out to Danny Neelon (neelond@neorsd.org)

### Event Details:

Saturday, September 21, 2024  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.)  
4747 East 49th Street, Cuyahoga Heights, OH 44125

## Mobile Food Distribution

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, September 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit [www.cuyahogalibrary.org](http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org) or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

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

## Faith Community Directory

### All Faiths Pantry

P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329  
[allfaithspantry.org](http://allfaithspantry.org)

### All Saints Episcopal Church

8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055  
[parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org](mailto:parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org)

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230  
[www.blc7500.com](http://www.blc7500.com)

### Divinity Lutheran Church

11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060  
[www.divinitylutheran.com](http://www.divinitylutheran.com)

### The Islamic Center of Cleveland

6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786  
[www.iccleveland.org](http://www.iccleveland.org)

### Ridgewood United Methodist Church

6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360  
[www.ridgewoodumc.org](http://www.ridgewoodumc.org)

### St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434  
[www.Stbridgetparma.com](http://www.Stbridgetparma.com)

### Holy Family Catholic Church

7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533  
[www.holyfamparma.org](http://www.holyfamparma.org)

### Parma Christian Church

7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614  
[www.parmachristianchurch.org](http://www.parmachristianchurch.org)

### Calvary Lutheran Church

6906 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, Ohio 44130 440-845-0070  
[CalvaryParma.360unite.com](http://CalvaryParma.360unite.com)

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# NEIGHBORHOODS

## The Parma Heights Library Could Become A Teen/Senior Center And Historical Museum

by Emery Pinter

I am very passionate when it comes to the young and old. I believe that if more decision-makers could relate to the needs of the disenfranchised living in neighborhoods without access to recreational activities, perhaps they would be more likely to offer opportunities for positive engagement.

The conversations that have gone on for far too long, as regards to spaces for children, seniors and families in Parma Heights show how inequities exist throughout the city. A repurposed Parma Heights library as a Teen/Senior Center could offer a variety of programs such as arts and crafts, cooking, dance, gardening, computer classes, workshops, bingo, music hours, fitness and more. A portion could be set aside to display and preserve memorabilia of Parma Heights. There also could be a social hang-out area as well as a snack/dining room. And most importantly the building should double as a community resilience hub for Parma Heights residents experiencing power outages.

There is a difference between



a building that speaks to Parma Heights' proud past and one that just sits there for no reason. It is hoped the city and the Ohio's Historic Preservation groups and Preservation Trusts can work together to identify how to manage irreplaceable history with economic reality,

so that usable buildings can not only represent what Parma Heights once was, but what it is now, and will be. So why should Parma Heights even think about adaptive reuse and return the demolition grant money? Here are some reasons:

1) **Materials.** Seasoned building

materials are not even available in today's world. The Parma Heights Library was built in "Googie" architecture and could be considered a cousin of the Seattle Space needle. These shapes allude to the hopeful symbols of a bright future. Inspired by science and the Space Race, they pointed toward a future utopia, and the style is a great part of Parma Heights' history.

2) **Sustainability.** The process of adaptive reuse is inherently green.

3) **Culture.** Architecture is history. Architecture is memory. Parma Heights has already lost historic homes on Snow road and the Church in the Woods. Destroying this library would be unconscionable.

To expand opportunities for our older adults and teens to connect and build community should be the goal of the city. In this Historic beautiful facility, one would want to continue to welcome people through the doors. Preserving key historical assets and buildings are a key ingredient to any successful city. Let's preserve history; not destroy it!

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# PERSPECTIVE

## A Tale Of Two Conventions And Two Parties In 2024

by Lee Kamps

The opening line of Charles Dickens' classic novel of France during the French Revolution was "It was the best of times, and it was the worst of times." That line could accurately describe the United States this year as we get closer to election day in November. I watched some of the party conventions this summer and the contrast between the two major political parties couldn't be more radically different than they are this year.

The Republican party held their convention in July in Milwaukee Wisconsin, a key "battleground state" in a city that is strongly Democratic. The Democratic party held their convention in Chicago, a Democratic stronghold for a long time, just an ninety minute drive south of Milwaukee. The two convention cities have a lot in common besides both being on Lake Michigan. But the two political parties were worlds apart.

The Republican party was painting this picture of the United States in 2024 as some dystopian society where criminals are running rampant and "out of control inflation" is sapping the people's buying power while the government is spending billions of dollars on "undeserving" people and encouraging illegal immigrants to freely come into the United States bringing crime, drugs and disease. They said, "if only we had completed Trump's border wall" this could have been prevented.

Their message was that only their savior, Donald Trump, could fix these problems that plague the United States in 2024. Funny, but I heard the

same rhetoric eight years ago when the Republican party held their convention in Cleveland where Donald Trump was nominated for President and in his acceptance speech, he told the audience that "only I can fix it." He became President in 2017 and had four years to "fix it." But did he "fix it"?

The Democratic party held their convention just a week ago as of this writing. Their picture of the United States was as optimistic as the Republican's was pessimistic. Since President Biden withdrew from the race in July, the enthusiasm among the Democratic party has been amazing. The party has united behind Vice President Kamala Harris and Tim Walz.

But the truth about the state of the country in 2024 compared to four years ago is radically different than the "gloom and doom" from the Republican party. Sure, in the summer of 2020, gasoline was cheap as was almost everything. Americans were hunkering down because of the worst pandemic in more than a century. No one was traveling and travel bargains were everywhere. The nation's economy had crashed with the highest unemployment since the Great Depression of the 1930s. What prevented this from becoming a full-blown recession that would last longer than the pandemic was the government's actions during that period.

Also, people were not making major purchases and buying houses. Real estate slowed to a crawl as people stayed put. Downtown was a ghost town during the work week and there was an absence of rush hour traffic

as workers learned how to work from home remotely.

That was something I had to master forty years ago when I was managing a new sales staff in Asheville North Carolina before the company opened a new field office. Except than in 1983, we didn't have the computers or the internet like we have now. When I installed an answering machine on my phone so people calling when I was out could leave messages. Many people said that they didn't like talking to a machine. But mobile phones were a decade away.

So, in the 2020 election, the country turned to an old hand with years of experience in government to "build back better" from the pandemic. Four years later, the proof is in the pudding. Statistics don't lie and the official statistics regarding the economy has shown that President Biden has successfully delivered on his promise to "build back better" from the pandemic.

Despite what the Republicans and Trump are saying, crime is down substantially since 2020. This is based on FBI and police statistics. In addition, illegal border crossings are also way down as well as border encounters from pre pandemic levels during the

Trump presidency. The rate of inflation, which peaked two years ago, is down to a manageable level that is sustainable to a stable economy. Statistics don't lie. But politicians do lie, and Donald Trump is the "lyin' king".

Our alliances around the world are much stronger than they were four years ago. This is especially true regarding our most important alliance, NATO, that is now stronger than ever with Sweden and Finland as new members. There are no American troops on the ground in Ukraine. We have been giving the Ukrainian forces some of our weapons and training their soldiers how to use them and now they have Russia on the retreat.

Americans like to be optimistic. One of Ronald Reagan's appeals was his optimism. He envisioned the United States as "the bright shining city on the hill that is a beacon of freedom and opportunity." He also said that "America's best days were ahead, and not in the rear-view mirror" People and voters liked that and responded by giving him their votes. Politics is like driving a car; to go forward you put it in D, to go backwards you put it in R.

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# VIEWPOINTS

## Advancing Ohio's Agricultural Priorities

by Max Miller

In Ohio, agriculture provides 1 out of every 7 jobs, making it one of the state's biggest economic drivers. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I have been working to support our agriculture industry and consumers who rely on our farmers and producers for affordable food.

Earlier this year the committee advanced the Farm Bill, which sets federal policies for the Department of Agriculture. After working with key stakeholders in our region, I am proud that many priorities important to Northeast Ohio were included in the bill. Critical issues like strengthening the farm safety net to ensure a safe and affordable food supply, promoting crop insurance and risk management tools, rural economic development, and expanding trade markets were all included in the bill.

This would not have been possible without the help of my Agriculture Advisory Council, made up of local stakeholders in Northeast Ohio. I am just a city boy who grew up in Cleveland, and believe it or not, I am not an expert on agriculture policy. When I got to Washington, I put together a team of experts including farmers, ranchers, and producers from the district, and also Bob Gibbs, a farmer and former member of Congress who represented much of the same area that I do now. The input from local leaders is truly invaluable, and I thank them for their support.

While the Senate has yet to come forward with its version of the Farm Bill, I'm grateful for Chairman Glenn Thompson's leadership in bringing this bill forward with broad input from members of the committee and stakeholders, and for my colleagues who have worked together to make sure that this is



a strong bill for Ohio and for our nation.

The Farm Bill advanced by the committee also includes major provisions of my Farm to Fly Act, which will foster the development of sustainable aviation fuels and help to expand markets for Ohio farmers, strengthen our energy resources, and make our rural economies stronger. The Training and Nutrition Stability Act, which will incentivize people who are eligible for SNAP benefits to take advantage of workforce training programs, was also included in the bill.

In Ohio, agriculture is the backbone of our economy, and I will continue to advocate for commonsense policies that work for everyone and make our communities better places to live, work, and grow.

I deeply value the trust placed in me by the residents of Northeast Ohio. If you want to learn more about my work, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office at (330) 661-6654 or visit my website at maxmiller.house.gov. My team and I are here to help.



## City of Parma Heights Works Together To Rally Back From The Tornado

continued from page 1

worked non-stop to get the city back to normal. I'm thankful that the city was able to rally together during the tough days created by the tornado. Thanks again for all of your support!

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# OBSERVER

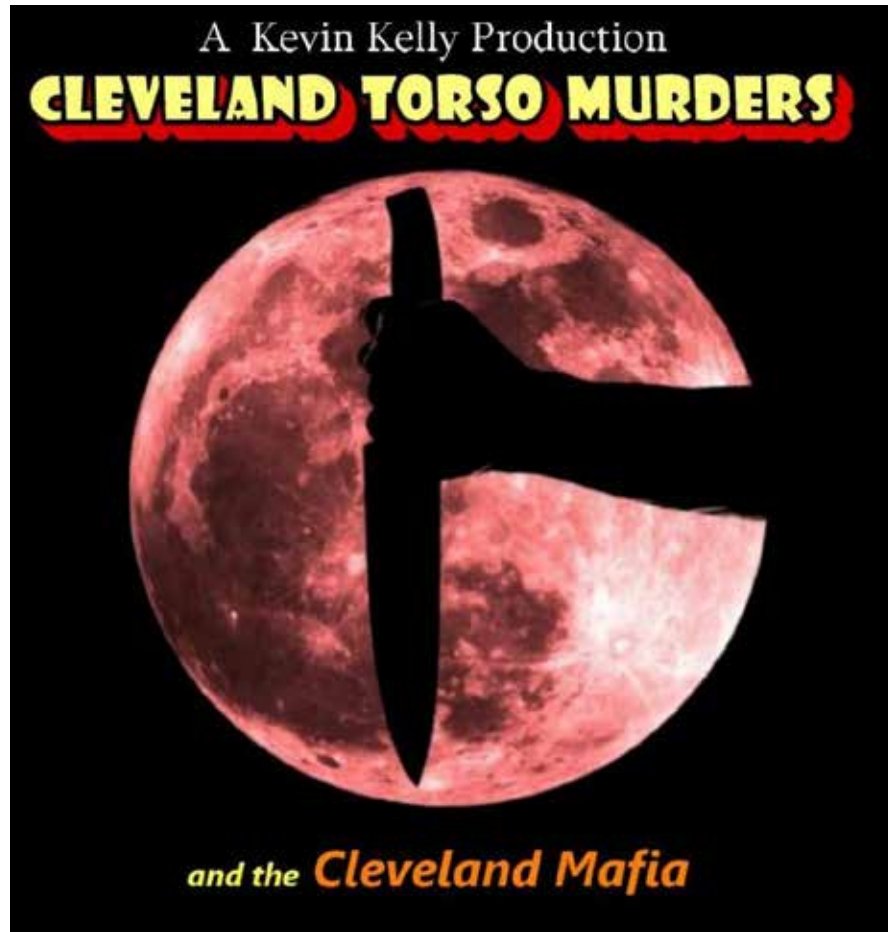
by Kevin Kelly

On July 8, 2024 of this year, it has been decided that the unidentified victims of the Cleveland Torso killer will be exhumed from their graves in an effort to identify them. Dr. Thomas Gilson, the Cuyahoga Chief Medical Examiner, is teaming up with the "DNA Doe Project" to use DNA testing on the their remains.

The Torso Murders took place in Cleveland, Ohio, back in the 1930's. The murders have remained unsolved, therefore the killer has never been brought to justice. Due to the mutilated bodies, many of the victims were never identified. The murderer decapitated and dismembered over a dozen people on the east and west side of the city. The city coroner, Dr. Gerber, discovered that some of the victims were even alive when beheaded. Only three of the murder victims could be positively identified. Back then, the main source of identification was through finger prints and dental records. Many of the bodies were discovered in and around the Kingsbury Run area. These bodies have been buried in unmarked graves in a the city's potter's field. Potter's field is located on the city's west side in a wooded area near Highland Park Golf Course.

It might have been helpful, at that time, in catching the killer if the victims were identified and their whereabouts could be studied. The famous "Untouchable," Elliot Ness,

## Cleveland Torso Murders



who helped put Al Capone away in Chicago, was Cleveland's Safety Director during the time of the murders. Ness was eventually put in charge of finding the murderer who those in the media labeled the "Mad Butcher."

At the time these murders were taking place in the city, there was the "Great

Lakes Exposition" going on in downtown Cleveland. It was theorized by some that maybe some of these unidentified victims may have come from out of state to attend the huge event. Some speculated that because these murders began not long after the murders stopped in London, maybe "Jack the

Ripper" came to the United States to continue his rampage. Another theory was that the "Cleveland Butcher" was responsible for the "Black Dahlia" murder out in California. This hypothesis circulated after J. Edgar Hoover, head of the FBI, received a letter claiming to be from the "Torso Murderer", that he had moved on to California.

To learn more about the "Cleveland Torso Murders," tune into Channel 45 on COX Cable, Wednesdays at 8:PM, or Channel 1025 on Cleveland Spectrum, Mondays at 9:PM. For more information, you can contact Kevin@ShockerEnterprises.com or call: 216 534-7968.

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# PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

## Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

**The 5th Annual Cleveland Photo Fest** runs through September at Bostwick Design Initiative at 2731 Prospect Ave in Cleveland. This year there are several exhibits. A black and white portrait exhibition of 60 Cuyahoga County Mayors and Civic Officials, including Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter. The Women's Self Portrait Show, which includes photos of 40 women. CATography a national cat photography exhibit, and more. Lots of local talent in this exhibit.

**Sue Holick-Bade** entered a couple photographs in the Cuyahoga County Fair for the first time ever and was awarded a 1st Premium(Place) in Class 505: Portrait/Figure Adult Over 18 / Black & White. She also was awarded the 4th Premium(Place) for her submission in Class 504: Portrait/Figure Adult Over 18/Color. Sue is also in the Cleveland Photo Fest exhibit Women's Self Portrait Show.

**Michelle Behal**, demonstrated wood burning, and Denise Jansen demonstrated acrylic painting techniques at the Cuyahoga County Fair.

**Michele Behal, President of Parma Arts**, and owner/operator of Bear Tracks Art, will be appearing at the Westside Flea, 28114 Lorain Ave in North Olmsted on Saturday, September 14th from 9 am to 3 pm with her fabulous wood burned art.

**Craig Lindsley, Caesar Comics**, self published, original art and prints will be at Hall of Fame City Comic Con, Canton Memorial Civic Center, 1101 Market Ave. N on Saturday, September 28th, 10 am to 6 pm.

**Laura Cupach** was on exhibit at the 22nd West Shore Art Council's

exhibit at the Westlake Porter Public Library and won an honorable mention for her floral watercolor.

**Gary Nass**, is on display at Front-door Gallery, 3838 Brecksville Rd in Richfield.

**Anthony DeMarco** was on exhibit in the annual Richfield Art Show on August 11, 2024

**Sean Mabin** was on exhibit at the Cleveland Institute of Art's Alumni Show at Reinberger Gallery, 11010 Euclid Ave. One of his pieces was purchased by the Carta Group, which is a nonprofit that donates annually to Cleveland Institute of Art scholarships through their rent for a year auctions of local artwork. His photos will also be in the CATography exhibit of Cleveland Photo Fest

**Parma Area Arts** is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing art to the community. Located at 7335 Ridge Rd, this organization has both artists and crafters, and those that just enjoy the arts. In addition to classes and workshops they also partner with other community members on events and hold an annual art show with prizes. They are looking for new members. Are you interested? Email [kathrynabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynabin@att.net), or check out their website, [www.parmafinearts.org](http://www.parmafinearts.org), or follow them on Facebook, for more information.

**Collage Techniques Class**, a 4 week class, taught by Jan McAndrew, is set to begin mid-September, at The Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd. Email [kathrynabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynabin@att.net) for details.

**FREE 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](mailto:Lshayko@kent.edu).



## Is Your Name LOIS ?

by Lois Osborne

What's in a Name? Lots if you're a Lois The Northeast Ohio Chapter of the Lois Club (NEOLOis Club) had its first meeting on November 14, 2003 There were 11 women named Lois at the first event. Since then, the group has grown to its current membership of just under 40 members this year. The ladies decided to continue with these luncheons on the same schedule at the National clubs, as there are several across the country, including Canada, which is on the 5th Tuesday of the month. Generally, there are 4 such days in each year, and occasionally there are 5. There are Lois Club groups on Facebook too! An annual convention is scheduled in different locations throughout the states that presents an opportunity to travel, sight see, and meet others who share the name of Lois. This event is open to friends and family.

Our next luncheon meeting is October 29, 2024 at 12:30 PM at Mahle's Restaurant on Detroit in Westlake. If you're a Lois, call 216-676-5399 to RSVP & join us. You are welcome to bring a guest.

Presently, the NEO Lois Club is operating by committee consisting of long-time members, sharing respon-

sibilities. For more information you can email us at [Laosb625@gmail.com](mailto:Laosb625@gmail.com), or call Lois McNabb at 216-676-5399. Annual dues are \$10.00 per person and with that you will receive the Newsletter which will be mailed a month before each luncheon.

### Committee Members

#### Membership / Dues

Lois McNabb

#### RSVP / Reservations

Lois McNabb

#### Name Tags

Lois Richley

#### Newsletter

Lois Osborne

#### Photographer

Lois Walkowiak

All gals with the name of Lois are welcome (first name, middle name, or other). Feel free to bring a guest.

Currently have 39 members; 3 are 100+ years old

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