

“The greatest lies ever told are before the marriage, after the hunt, and during the election”

Otto von

Bismarck

November, 2024  
Vol, 16, Is. 11

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## Groundbreaking Ceremony For The New Parma Heights Library Branch

by Marie Gallo

On Wednesday, October 17, the Cuyahoga County Public Library held a groundbreaking ceremony for the highly anticipated new Parma Heights branch. This event marked a significant milestone in the community's journey towards enhanced educational and technological resources.

The ceremony featured an esteemed lineup of speakers, each highlighting the library's potential impact on the community. Among them were Tracy Strobel, CEO of the Cuyahoga County Public

Library; Mayor Gallo of Parma Heights; Chris Ronayne, Cuyahoga County Executive; Ohio State Senator Nickie Antonio; Ohio State Representative Sean P. Brennan; and Chase Conklin, representative of Congressman Max Miller.

Following the speeches, the speakers, accompanied by the Shook Construction team, donned their hard hats to participate in the ceremonial first dig, symbolizing the commencement of construction.

The new Parma Heights branch is designed to be a state-of-the-art facility spanning



ning 22,000 square feet. Key features of the new library will include expanded library ser-

vices with a larger collection and more space for community activities; an innovation

center equipped with free computers and the latest production equipment; a drive-up window for increased accessibility; meeting spaces for various community gatherings

## Frosty's Fest Is Back!



by Kathryn Mabin

Mark your calendars, and save the date! On Sunday, December 8th is We Are Parma Proud's flagship event, Frosty's Fest. This family friendly

extravaganza takes place on the Parma City Hall campus, encompassing the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, parking lots and the Powers Blvd Library, where multiple

events will take place. Frosty's Fest follows the annual Christmas Parade which begins at 1:00 pm.

Frosty's Fest begins when Santa, his Sleigh, and his Elves arrive at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr., following the parade. This family focused event has a lot to offer, free admission and it's open to the public, no residency is required. As in past years free photos with Santa, kids crafts, activities, lots of

extras too. Bakeries will be on hand with their mouth watering holiday goodies for you to purchase. Food and beverages indoors and out. Outside there's food trucks, and watch a live demonstration of ice sculpting. Ends at 4:00 pm.

As in past, this event is brought to you through sponsorship by local businesses and non-profits. This event draws thousands of people and is a great way for businesses



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## Thank You!

by Kathryn Mabin

Monday, October 7th was a very special day for two Parma non-profit organizations, We Are Parma Proud & Parma Animal Shelter. They each received a GIANT check in the amount of \$5,000. from the Cleveland Building & Construction Trades Council's executive director Dave Wondolowski at the Parma City Council meeting.

While planning their annual Labor Day weekend softball tournament, which was held at James Day Park, they decided to add something new, a fundraising element of a dunk tank. Parma resident James Denk, a member of Cleveland Boilermakers Local 744, agreed to sit in the tank. For his brave and valiant efforts he was awarded Parma Citizen of the Month.

Besides the funds earned through James Denk's valiant efforts, the Cleveland Building Trades Foundation, and corporate support from ADMAR Construction Equipment & Supplies and Forest City Erectors added to make the \$10,000. Both non-profits not only thank you but commend you for giving back to the community.

We Are Parma Proud, is an all volunteer organization that brings to the community events like Frosty's Fest, Picnic In The Park, the fireworks at the Rib & Rock, Parma's first ever Visitors Guide, trash crawls and more. Parma Animal Shelter is also run by volunteers for stray and abandoned pets in the City of Parma. Both always welcome new volunteers.

Thanks again for being such good community partners!

## Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's script Parma photo of the month contest winner is Parma's Alleson Armstrong. Pictured are members of the Dance Step World Dance Championship qualifying team: Madeline, Shoshanna, Paige, Evelyn, and Melina. 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

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

Recently, I took part in the Transatlantic Summit of the Strong Cities Network in Columbus in the Governor's office at the Ohio Statehouse. In attendance were the following: Andrii Besedin, Mayor of Kupyansk, Ukraine, Oleksandr Senkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv, Ukraine, Lydia Mihalik, Director of the Ohio Department of Development, Tobias Engle, Manager of the International Affairs Strategic Investment Division of the Ohio Department of Development, Michael Schadek Director of Regional Partnerships for the city of Columbus, and representatives of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, Nazar Zhdan, State Relations and Advocacy, Marta Liscynsky-Kelleher, Past President, and George E. Jaskiw, M.D., President.

The mayors of the two Ukrainian cities described the deep challenges of providing for their communities, while experiencing daily attacks by the Russian Federation. The city of Kupyansk



is less than four miles from the front line. Mykolaiv is further away but continues to be attacked on a regular basis. Director Mihalik and I reaffirmed Ohio's steadfast support for Ukraine and potential partnerships were outlined, including initiatives in education, governance, advisory services, clean water management, and positioning Ohio businesses to play a vital role in Ukraine's reconstruction. Both mayors expressed their gratitude to everyone in attendance, the residents of Ohio, and

all people of the United States for the continuing humanitarian and military support which has allowed Ukraine to resist Russia's brutal invasion.

During the summit we discussed and shared information regarding Ohio's close and important economic trade ties to Ukraine. Many do not realize the importance our trade relationship is to many Ohio businesses or the jobs related to it. For instance, from 2021 to 2023, Ohio exports to Ukraine totaled approximately \$100 million.

Among our top exports include vehicles and parts, pharmaceutical products, industrial machinery (including computers), tobacco and manufactured substances, optic, photo, and medical instruments, electric machinery, sound and television equipment, sugars and sugar confectionaries, aircraft and parts, furniture and bedding, rubber and rubber articles, etc.

Ukraine also provides us with many of things we need to stoke Ohio's economy. In fact, our main imports from Ukraine include iron and steel, paper, paperboard, apparel articles, industrial machinery, inorganic chemicals, rare earth minerals, aircraft and parts, plastics, plastic articles, etc. Total imports from Ukraine into Ohio were valued at over \$500 million from 2021

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AARP Foundation Tax Aide - Volunteers Needed

by Stephen Donovan

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

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

Tax-Aide offers free in-person and online tax preparation and assistance nationwide to taxpayers with low to moderate income. Because of the complexity of the U.S. tax code, many taxpayers overpay their taxes or turn to paid tax services they cannot afford. Some may forgo filing their taxes and miss out on the credits and deductions they've earned because they are unable to pay for assistance. Tax-Aide volunteers can help by providing necessary services in communities where there is the greatest need.

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

To learn about our volunteer opportunities, visit [aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aide/](http://aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aide/), call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277), or contact Steve Donovan, 440-237-

7348. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in coordination with the IRS.

About AARP Foundation

AARP Foundation works to end senior poverty by helping vulnerable people over 50 build economic opportunity. Our approach emphasizes equitable outcomes for populations that have faced systemic discrimination. As

AARP's charitable affiliate, we serve AARP members and nonmembers alike. Through vigorous legal advocacy and evidence-based solutions, and by building supportive community connections, we foster resilience, advance equity and restore hope. To learn more, visit [aarpfoundation.org](http://aarpfoundation.org) or follow @AARPFoundation on social media.

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# HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## University Hospitals Announces New Urgent Care Location In Parma

by Maia Belay-Roberts

University Hospitals opened a new urgent care facility in Parma. UH Urgent Care Parma is a welcome addition to patients in the community and reduces their travel time when seeking medical attention. This new location is part of the larger plan to deliver healthcare closer to where patients live, shop and work.

UH Urgent Parma opened October 14, at 1634 Snow Road Parma, OH 44134. Located less than a ten minute drive from UH Parma Medical Center, this location, near a mass transit bus route, has prime visibility from the road with ample parking for convenient access to high-quality healthcare services for Parma and surrounding area residents.

This new location, and all UH Urgent Care facilities, are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, with special hours on some holidays. UH Urgent Care Parma uses integrated technology through MyChart, powered by Epic, allowing caregivers to share information about a patient's urgent care visit with their University Hospitals physician, supporting a seamless transition to follow-up care. This location is equipped with advanced medical technology and staffed by experienced healthcare professionals dedicated to

providing compassionate, efficient, and personalized care to patients of all ages.

Services include on-site x-ray, lab, EKG, medication dispensing, and more. With the opening of this Parma location, UH Urgent Care now offers 25 locations in Northeast Ohio.

"Our UH Urgent Care delivery model aims to provide the most convenient and valuable care for our patients," explained UH Chief Operating Officer Paul Hinchey, MD, MBA. "Having easy access to urgent care locations provide a more affordable option than emergency departments for patients who don't have a primary care physician but need immediate, non-life-threatening medical attention. By offering more urgent care locations, we can relieve the burden on emergency departments and reduce wait times so our emergency medicine teams can focus on critical cases."

UH Urgent Care President Lee Resnick, MD, looks forward to the expansion.

"Our primary goal is to reimagine urgent care for Northeast Ohio by easing access to care while delivering exceptional patient experiences," Dr. Resnick said. "The expansion of UH Urgent Care in Northeast Ohio is a significant step towards fulfill-

ing this commitment. By increasing access to urgent care services, we aim to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout the region, providing them with the prompt and effective care they deserve in retail locations where they live, shop and work."

University Hospitals is dedicated to improving healthcare accessibility and meeting the evolving needs of the Northeast Ohio community. The expansion of UH Urgent Care locations contributes to this mission, ensuring residents have easy access to high-quality care when and where they need it.

UH Urgent Care is being operated as part of a joint venture with WellStreet Urgent Care. To support the expansion, UH Urgent Care will be bringing hundreds more healthcare jobs to the Northeast Ohio market. The health system is currently seeking experienced physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other medical professionals looking for consistent, meaningful work, to join the team. For more information about career opportunities with University Hospitals Urgent Care, visit <https://www.uh-urgentcare.org/about/careers/>.



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# GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

## Groundbreaking Ceremony For The New Parma Heights Library Branch

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and events; and outdoor green space providing a welcoming environment for relaxation and community connection.

The Parma Heights Library will also house the headquarters for CCPL's Aspire Greater Cleveland program, which focuses on adult education and workforce development. In collaboration with The Centers for Families and Children, Cuyahoga Community Col-



lege, and the City of Parma Heights, the library will serve as a regional Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Training Center. This center will emphasize early literacy and provide workforce development opportunities for future early childhood educators.

The new \$16 million facility is expected to open by late 2025. It promises to be a cornerstone of the Parma Heights community, enhancing educational resources and fostering a culture of innovation and learning. Through its comprehensive offerings, the new library branch aims to empower residents and shape a brighter future for all.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofParmaHeights>  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parmahts/>  
<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>  
Parma Heights – Community Grows Here.



## Spooky Pooch Parade At Pleasant Lake Villa

Pleasant Lake Villa hosted a wonderful Pooch Parade for their residents and members of the public on October 23. Several people and their wonderfully dressed pooches turned up, as you can see here. Much fun was had by all. and the weather was perfect for this event.

## Parma's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral Turns 100



Recently, State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan presented Rev. Michael Hontaruk, Pastor of Parma's St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, with a resolution from the Ohio House of Representatives commemorating the Cathedral on achieving 100 years.

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PARMA HEIGHTS

Trio Of New Spots Up The Culinary Ante In Parma Heights

by Milenko Budimir

A trio of new businesses are breathing new life into the Pearl Road commercial district in Parma Heights, offering visitors a variety of culinary adventures.

First up is Café Blanc (6500 Pearl Road) — a svelte café in the European style, with a range of coffee and teas, and a wide assortment of freshly prepared foods including crepes featuring Nutella filling as well as all-day breakfast items and pastries. All of it is served up in an atmosphere that invites lingering and lounging, taking life slowly, enjoying and savoring the moment with friends and family.

A few visits have made a convert out of me, with regards to the cappuccino. Friends have visited too, vouching for the high quality of the crepes served up at Café Blanc.

Find out more at their web site: <https://blanc.cafe/>.

Next is Sky International Market (6444 Pearl Road), in the space that



once housed a party supply store, and long before that a Blockbuster Video.

This grocery store’s specialty is imported foods from the Middle East and the Mediterranean, with items from Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey, among other places. Of course, there are plenty of olives to choose from, as well as the more exotic quince fruit I spotted on a recent visit, and even the Balkan kitchen staple “Vegeta” is on offer. You’ll also find flavored tobaccos for hookah (or shisha) waterpipes. And if that isn’t enough, the kitchen makes hot foods such as the popular zaatar bread, sujuk, and other specialties.

Speaking for myself, I am a fan of the Syrian coffee flavored with cardamom as well as a variety of cookies and biscuits that go well with coffee.

You can find Sky International Market on Facebook.

Rounding out the trio is Bazar Market and Grill (6619 Pearl Road) — Open for a little over a month now, you’ll find a growing array of imported

foods from Eastern Europe, like Ukraine and Poland, but also freshly prepared foods. A deli offers cold cuts as well as sandwiches made fresh to order, including Reuben sandwiches and gyros.

A big plus is their assortment of homemade prepared foods you can take home, heat up, and eat right away. The stuffed peppers were delicious, but there’s even more: stuffed cabbage rolls, homemade kielbasa, handmade pierogies, and a variety of soups including borscht. Oh, and desserts, too.

View their full menu here: [bazar-marketandgrill.com](http://bazar-marketandgrill.com).

These new businesses drive home an old point; that when immigrants move into your community, your food choices will get better, you will have more variety, and your community will be richer for it. So go ahead and indulge; find some old comfort food, or discover some new favorites, and support your new local businesses and help our community thrive.

Friends of Parma Heights Library  
Ongoing Holiday Sale –Adult  
Fiction Hardback Books

by Bridget Lavelle

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Shop at the library! The Friends of Parma Heights Library will have an ongoing Holiday Sale – Adult Fiction Books with special pricing at \$.25 per book from November 1st, 2024 through January 7th, 2025. New inventory weekly for a great selection of recent bestsellers and old favorites of Adult Fiction Hardback books! Visit

the Parma Heights Library located at 6206 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, OH 44130 in the Greenbrier Commons during library hours. Proceeds from Holiday Sale support library programming at the Parma Heights Library. For additional information about this Holiday Sale or interested in joining The Friends of Parma Heights Library, please call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

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# INSPIRATION

## Parma Cathedral Returns To Its Roots In Tremont



Clergy and parishioners of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, State Road in Parma, gather on Saturday, September 21, 2024 for a visit to their original Church building in Cleveland.

by Rev. John Nakonachny

The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on State Road in Parma, Ohio. Originally, the parish was located in the Tremont section of Cleveland near the steel mills, where the early Ukrainian immigrants settled at the end of the 19th century.

They built their first church on West 11th Street. In 1924, the basement was built and Liturgies were served there until parishioners were able to complete the upper portion in 1932. Seeing an exodus from Cleveland in 1950s, the parish purchased land in Parma. In 1957, the old Parma City Hall was purchased for \$11.00, moved two miles and placed on the new church property at the corner of State Road and Marioncliff Drive. From 1957 until 1967, this building served as a chapel for the 8:30 a.m. Liturgy and the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy continued to be held in the Cleveland church.

In the 1960s, many more Ukrainians began moving to the suburbs – south to Parma. It was then decided that construction should begin on a new, larger church and a cultural center in Parma. The chapel was converted into classrooms for Ukrainian and Sunday school and a new rectory was built.

With the move to the newly completed church building, the original church was then sold to a Spanish Protestant church which later was sold it to Olympic Forest Products to be converted as its corporate headquarters. Since the City of Cleveland considered the building a historical landmark there were stringent requirements for remodeling it to an office building. The offices set up throughout the church, basement and rectory have clear glass dividing the rooms in order

to maintain its appearance as a church when it served the spiritual needs of the parishioners. The remodeling cost six million dollars.

As part of the centennial celebration, the parish clergy contacted the new owners to see if a tour of the current facilities could be arranged. They responded very warmly and it was decided that they would host the event. Saturday, September 21st was selected to be the “Solemn Day of Remembrance.” At 10:00 a.m. on a beautiful, sunny day, 150 people gathered in front of the church building for a memorial service for the departed pastors, their wives, founders and all deceased parishioners.

Mr. Daniel Andrews, President of Olympic Forest Products, which hosted Saturday’s “Solemn Day of Remembrance,” addressed the gathering. He invited all the participants to view the interior of the former church, as well as to enjoy the refreshments that they had prepared for everyone. The clergy presented Mr. Andrews with an Icon of Christ, a Certificate of Appreciation and a Ukrainian flag to be hung in the former church. A number of the participants then walked the short distance to visit the Ukrainian Museum-Archive building on Kenilworth Avenue.



## Going WAY Above And Beyond

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Mario Innocenzi is not your ordinary barber, which is obvious to those who know him, and so many more people who don't know him at all but nonetheless are so grateful for what he does and has done for many years now. When natural disasters strike, he is quick to organize relief efforts, calling on members of the community to donate items that are badly needed, especially after hurricanes like the one which recently devastated

parts of North Carolina. Once again he summoned his many volunteers, filled up an entire trailer with materials, and headed down himself, towing a trailer filled to capacity with so many badly needed items, which certainly are appreciated by the unfortunate people affected by this disaster. We are fortunate to have a member of our community like Mario realizing that help is only one ask away, and making it a reality.

## Faith Community Directory

- All Faiths Pantry**  
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329  
allfaithspantry.org
- All Saints Episcopal Church**  
8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055  
parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230  
www.blc7500.com
- Divinity Lutheran Church**  
11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060  
www.divinitylutheran.com
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**  
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786  
www.iccleveland.org
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**  
6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360  
www.ridgewoodumc.org
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church**  
5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434  
www.Stbridgetparma.com
- Holy Family Catholic Church**  
7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533  
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# NEIGHBORHOODS

## Revisiting Lucerne Ave: A Journey Through Time And Memories

by Anthony Prusak

Standing in front of her childhood home, Chrissie Hynde’s recent return to Akron triggered a cascade of memories for me. It’s funny how a single image can conjure up an entire era of your life. That era revolves around a house on Lucerne Ave. in Parma, Ohio. I left it in 1990, and my mother sold it in 1994. That house hasn’t been mine for over 30 years, yet it remains the repository of my earliest and most vivid memories.

I remember passing by it ten years ago when it was up for sale. I had the chance to tour it, but it had undergone such a drastic renovation that it no longer felt like my childhood home. A brand-new two-car garage replaced the familiar backyard, and the echoes of my past were drowned out by modern fixtures and unfamiliar walls.

Like many, I’m drawn to the places of my youth, hoping to reconnect with those fleeting moments of innocence and joy. Each visit is a bittersweet pilgrimage, reminding me how swiftly time has carried me away from those simpler days. The high school that once stood proudly in my neighborhood was recently torn down. The mall, a hub of adolescent mischief and weekend cruising, has vanished. Even our go-to pizza



Chrissie Hynde Captures Childhood Home in Portrait as Pretenders Return to Akron for Concerts

parlor, the epicenter of post-football game celebrations, has closed its doors.

Yet, the memories of Lucerne Ave. are indelible. The neighborhood was our world. We played basketball and baseball, roamed the woods, set off fireworks, and loitered at McDonald’s. Each corner of that street held a story. I often think of our next-door neighbor, a woman whose children had grown up and moved out. She had a pristine basketball court, and in a gesture of kindness, she welcomed my brother and me to play there anytime. I like

to believe that our laughter and games filled her empty nest with echoes of family life, giving her a sense of love and belonging she sorely missed.

One character stands out viv-

idly—a neighbor spitting on another neighbor’s lawn every time she returns from work. She was a mean old witch, a testament to the quirky, and sometimes antagonistic, dynamics that color every neighborhood.

Driving down Lucerne Ave. now is a journey through a gallery of memories. The laughter, the friendships, the mischievous antics—they all come rushing back. Friends have drifted away, neighbors have grown old or passed on, but the memories remain vivid and unyielding.

Those childhood years are a tapestry of joy and sadness, a testament to the relentless march of time. But they are also a reminder of the connections we forge, the laughter we share, and the places that shape us. Lucerne Ave. may have changed, but its spirit lives on in the stories we carry with us.



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PERSPECTIVE

Fixing A Broken System

by Lee Kamps

When most of you are reading this, the election may be over and perhaps the winners will be announced. The campaigning will be over and the much tougher work of governing will begin in earnest. For the winners, there will be a short time to cheer, but the task will be to begin the process of establishing an administration to govern. For the losing side, it will be time to reflect on what went wrong and to best make sure that their positions are heard.

Regardless of political party, affiliation or belief; one thing that just about everyone can agree on is that our system of electing a President is seriously flawed and needs to be fixed. The campaign season is way too long. We are bombarded with nasty negative campaign commercials designed to inflame passions. There is way too much money spent on campaigning and not much attention paid to governing. There is way too much attention paid to a few “battleground” states that can flip from one party to the other, while the other states are ignored. As a result, by the election day, voters are cynical about all candidates regardless of their political party.

Nasty election campaigns and contentious elections have been around a long time. Here is some history. In the 1824 election, four presidential candidates received electoral votes, but none had a majority. Andrew Jackson had the most popular votes as well as the highest number of electoral votes. John Quincy Adams, the son of John Adams

the second President had the second most popular and electoral votes. William Stewart had the third highest number of popular votes and electoral votes, and Henry Clay had the fourth highest number of popular and electoral votes.

Under the constitution, this election would be settled in the House of Representatives where Henry Clay was the speaker. Stewart released his electors and Henry Clay threw his support to John Quincy Adams because he detested Andrew Jackson. That made John Quincy Adams the 6th President. So, there was a problem two hundred years ago.

Fast forward to the present day. The electoral college is outdated and twice since 2000 the person who won the electoral vote lost the popular vote. The last time that happened was in 1888 when Benjamin Harrison won the electoral vote but lost the popular vote and defeated Grover Cleveland. Four years later, Grover Cleveland won both the popular vote and electoral vote and became the only President to serve two non-consecutive terms.

We need to bring our process of electing a President up to date in the 21st century. How about establishing a national presidential primary held six months before the general election with all states participating on the same day. This would force candidates to campaign nationwide. It would force serious presidential candidates to go back to the old-fashioned method of working with state and local officials

in advance to build a strong campaign team and make their case. The political parties would still hold their nominating conventions in the summer with the “official” campaign season beginning in late summer. This would “weed out” weak candidates that cannot raise enough money to fund a campaign or whose message just doesn’t get through to the voters.

Then, let’s require that all candidates accept public funding while strictly limiting campaign contributions from wealthy people and those who are “self-funding” their campaigns. We need to repeal the Citizens United Supreme Court ruling that opened the flood gates to unlimited donations to third party advocacy groups that have proliferated since that ruling. All candidates, political parties and third-party groups must publicly disclose all their donors and amounts donated.

Currently our elections are running smoothly for the most part. The election of 2020 showed that mail in voting as well as early in person voting allows for greater participation and it is always a good thing when more Americans are voting and involved. One flaw is that we need to declare election day a national holiday for federal elections

and a state holiday for state elections. This way, those people who are working on that day can have the day off or be able to take time off from their work to go vote.

Regarding that disputed election of 1824, Andrew Jackson who had the most popular and electoral votes called it a “corrupt bargain” when Henry Clay threw his support to John Quincy Adams and Jackson did what he could to make John Quincy Adams presidency as difficult as possible. Four years later in 1828, there was a rematch with no other candidates receiving electoral votes and this election has been described as the dirtiest election in our nation’s history. This time Andrew Jackson clearly won.

John Quincy Adams was elected again to the House of Representatives where he became a leader in the movement to abolish slavery and got the mutineers acquitted of the mutiny on the slave ship “Amistad” in their trial. They were repatriated back to Africa. He served in the House of Representatives until his death while at his desk in the House chamber in 1848 at the age of 80. Andrew Jackson had died in 1845 at the age of 78.

Wiremens Credit Union 1st Annual Members Appreciation Day

by Andy Schofield

On Saturday October 19th from 1-4pm we had our 1st Annual Wiremens Credit Union Member Appreciation Day. Thank you to the City of Parma for their assistance and the Parma Firefighters for stopping up with a fire truck and ambulance. We are grateful they were able to stop. What a huge hit. We had perfect weather with amazing food trucks -Jimbos Original Steak Sandwiches, Black Kettle Barbeque and Braysons Ice-cream. We had

2 bounce houses as well as an extraordinary face painter for the children. What a memorable day filled with good stories, terrific food and great people. Thank you to the over 200 members and families that showed. Stay tuned for next year's 2nd Annual Member Appreciation Day. Last but not least thank you to all the board members that made our event possible. From set up, tear down and helping throughout the day.



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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Closing The Skills Gap With Career And Technical Education

by Max Miller

In Ohio, there are only 62 available workers for every 100 open jobs. In the last two years, I've had the chance to meet with business leaders and workers across my district. Many of them tell me they can't find workers to fill jobs in the skilled trades—and similarly, workers don't have the preparation they need to fill those jobs. This disconnect between the skills businesses need and the training and knowledge candidates possess is known as the "skills gap." And it's wider than ever.

Businesses across America need more employees with technical expertise to fill high-paying, in-demand jobs. Our country needs more electricians, plumbers, carpenters, elevator technicians, welders, high-tech factory workers, and so many more. The construction industry alone faces a labor shortage of over half a million workers.

Building America's workforce is crucial to the continued success of our nation's industries and our workers' prosperity. In today's world, it's clear that the government's hefty investment in higher education hasn't quite set up our next generation—or our businesses—for success, leaving behind



those who do not go to college and hanging our businesses out to dry. It's time we fix this.

Earlier this year, I introduced the American Workforce Act, a bill that improves the way we prepare our young people—and some not-so-young people—for the workforce. The legislation provides businesses with a workforce training voucher to help put high school graduates through workforce training programs that are designed by employers and taught by validated trade associations, community colleges, high schools, non-profits, or labor unions.

The goal here is two-fold: give a fair shake to those who have been overlooked and give our businesses what they need to thrive. Collaboration between educators and industry professionals ensures that our students and workers have the practical expertise to excel.

While many factors contribute to the skills gap in America, our educational approach has focused almost exclusively on higher education rather than providing students the practical skills required to productively contribute to our society without attending college. In a situation where 21% of borrowers see their total student loan

balance increase within 5 years of graduating, an affordable technical education is a great idea. Training in the skilled trades equips students for in-demand jobs without big loans. This legislation will invest in our nation's future to keep the United States at the forefront of innovation, productivity, and prosperity.

In Congress, I am urging my colleagues to come together and address the skills gap. We cannot afford to wait. A strong workforce makes strong businesses, strong businesses make strong communities, and strong communities make a more prosperous United States of America.

The Representative's Corner

continued from page 2

through 2023. It is estimated that Ohio is home to over 45,000 residents of Ukrainian ancestry, with about a tenth or more living in the city of Parma. In fact, this and the fact that Parma is home to Ukrainian Village and many Ukrainian Churches, places of business, schools,

and cultural centers makes Parma the Ukrainian Capital of Ohio. As such, I was honored earlier this year when Rep. Bill Seitz and I successfully passed H.B. 360 in the Ohio House of Representatives in a very bipartisan vote. This bill will recognize Ukrainian Independence Day, August 24, as an officially recognized holiday in Ohio.

Scan Me For More Info!

Cuyahoga Reads

Readers Win

CuyahogaReads.org

**A Message from County Executive Chris Ronayne**

Over the past 17 months, our nine local public library systems, Cleveland Public Library, Cuyahoga County Public Library, East Cleveland Public Library, Euclid Public Library, Heights Libraries, Lakewood Public Library, Rocky River Public Library, Shaker Heights Public Library and Westlake Porter Public Library successfully completed a county-wide reading initiative.

Through generous funding provided by the Ohio Department of Education, our public libraries provided 431 literacy programs to 18,493 participants. In addition to these important literacy programs, they also issued 17,039 Digital Library Cards, and connected just about 19,000 Cuyahoga residents to free literacy resources available at our public library systems. As we officially conclude Cuyahoga Reads, I encourage you to continue reading and supporting the wonderful libraries that we have in our county. Thank you for your participation and for making this such a successful campaign!

Students learn about reading recipes and food safety with RRPL Director Jessica Breslin at Rocky River Public Library.

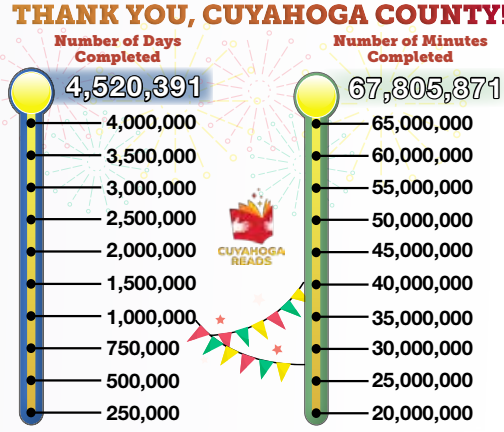
EPL Director Kacie Armstrong hands out free books at the Children's Museum of Cleveland midway event.

Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Charles A. Mooney students gather for a memorable photo.

Young readers at East Cleveland School District's Caledonia Elementary read along with the County Executive.

Cuyahoga Reads Literacy Tips

Thank you for participating in the Cuyahoga Reads Challenge! As we conclude this initiative, we encourage families to visit your local public library to check out a book and read. In addition, November is **National Writing Month**, which offers a special challenge to budding authors to write at least 1,667 words per day from November 1 – 30. The goal is to have 50,000 words written by the end of the challenge. To register for writing programs, visit your local public library!



PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

When Birds Attack

by Kevin Kelly

It is believed that there are over 10,000 species of birds ranging in size from 2 inches to 9 feet. Over the centuries, many different species of birds have managed to adapt to human residences. This relationship between birds and man can be mutually profitable, with each benefiting from the other.

Many bring attention to the menacing dangers that society produces against birds. Unfortunately, this can easily overlook threats birds pose to humans. Besides the “West Nile Virus,” the common city bird is also known to carry as many as 60 different diseases just in their droppings.

Birds are generally not scary. It seems to most that the only thing to fear of birds beside the “Bird Flu” is

parking your car under a tree. Unless one has seen the interring Alfred Hitchcock motion picture “The Birds,” it would be difficult to convince someone to be fearful of our flying feather friends. Watching birds has been known to comfort the soul. They chatter and sing as they seek out their food. They can remind people of living a simpler life instead of subscribing to unhealthy pursuits.



The cute little sparrows that nest in our neighborhood trees were introduced into the United States in 1851. We have become accustomed to thinking of these birds as harmless and not something to be wary of. However, these less threatening birds are known to carry bed bugs, salmonellae, and other parasites. Many of these diseases are airborne, which can be transmit-



ted to humans just by being in close vicinity of the bird droppings. Our local pigeons carry candidiasis which can cause yeast infections in a woman’s mouth and urogenital tract, while diseases carried by starlings can affect the human central nervous system.

Did you realize that blue jays, magpies, and ravens all belong to the crow family? Or how about that crows can mimic the voices and sounds of other

animals in the forests? In addition, these birds not only have the ability to remember humans by facial recognition for over two years, but they also use this information to communicate with other crows on how to deal with the individual.

To learn more about these things of our feathered neighbor and more, watch “When Birds Attack”, Fridays at 8 pm, on Cox Cable Channel 45 (Shocker Enterprises on the TV guide) and Cleveland Spectrum Channel 1025 at 9pm. For additional information, you can call: 216-534-7968 or email: Kevin@ShockerEnterprises.com



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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Sue Holick-Bade has an ink and water color on display in the Cuyahoga Valley Art Centers' Student & Faculty Exhibition running Oct 29th through Dec 6th. CVAC is located at 2131 Front St in Cuyahoga Falls. Exhibition hours are M-T & R-F 10-3, W 1-6, Sat 10-2. Artist reception on Dec 6th, 5:30-7:00pm and is open to the public. She has two works, a water color and a faux stained-glass, on display at Laurel Lake Gallery in the Women's Art League "3 Media Plus Exhibition" running Nov 2nd through Dec 5th. The gallery is located at 200 Laurel Lake Dr in Hudson.

Gary Nass, Parma resident and Parma Arts member is on display at Frontdoor Gallery, 3838 Brecksville Rd in Richfield.

Anthony DeMarco – A flock of bird sculptures has migrated from Hudson, to Cuyahoga Falls, and now to Akron. Birdsong is a unique art installation of over 150 bird sculptures hand painted by local artists, one of which is Anthony DeMarco. The flock has been making the rounds to various communities. This installation will be on view through the end of 2024 at the Akron Art Museum located at 1 South Main Street.

Lynn Shayko – Is on exhibit in Tremont at Doubting Thomas's show titled The Art of the Nude opening December 13th.

Sean and Angie Mabin are showing at Pinwheel Gallery, 2019 Broadview Rd., in The Snow Show, which runs November 22 through January 3. Sean



Frosty's Fest Is Back!

continued from page 1

to give back to the community and promote their name simultaneously. Interested in being a sponsor? Email [parmaproud1@gmail.com](mailto:parmaproud1@gmail.com).

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

is also at the Valley Art Center in Chagrin Falls, for the 53rd Annual Juried Art Exhibition November 8 through December 16.

**FREE Collage Techniques** 4 week Workshop, with \$10 supply fee. Taught by Jan McAndrew, a certified instructor. Class runs on Thursday, November 14, 21, skip Thanksgiving week, December 5 and 12. Class runs 3 hours, noon to 3 PM. \$10 supply fee payable by cash or check first day of class. Class size is limited, so if you're interested, please register by emailing [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net).

**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. November 11th and the 25th. 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:LynneShayko@kent.edu).

**FREE Needlework Network** at Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd, beginning Monday, October 14th, 11 am to 2 pm and ongoing weekly throughout the year. Bring your idea, supplies, projects, and share with other needleworkers. Knit, crochet, embroidery, beading, sewing, quilting, doll making, ribbon work, or any medium not necessarily needlework etc. Great way to socialize, meet new friends and share ideas with other creatives. Bring your lunch, coffee, tea, and water provided.

Handmade For The Holidays

by Kathryn Mabin

The holidays are fast approaching. Now is the time to start your holiday shopping for Christmas. Parma Arts is holding an arts and crafts event on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at 7335 Ridge Rd. FREE admission, open to the public. All the items for sale are handmade by local artisans and crafters. Each piece is original, unique, one of a kind items that you won't find at that big box store. All are affordably priced, handmade by your talented friends and neighbors.

At this event you'll find accessories, such as, handmade purses, knit hats, fashion jewelry, decorative lanterns, wreaths, note cards, bookmarks, ornaments, magnets, acrylic, watercolor and photo prints, framed and unframed, and so much more. Browse at your leisure, meet and talk to the creators, and relax with free refreshments. Some items will be sale priced just for this event. It's a great way to cross off those names on your shopping list, buy unique gifts and stocking stuffers too.

Shop local, support your local arts and crafters, they really appreciate your support. For a sample of items you'll find at this event go to their Facebook page, Parma Area Fine Arts Council.



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**Handmade for the Holidays!**

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