

“Tell the truth and run.”- Floyd Gibbons

December, 2024
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Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

Season’s Greetings From Parma Heights

by Marie Gallo

Happy Holidays! On December 1, the City of Parma Heights hosted the Annual Tree Lighting at the Gazebo in Greenbriar Commons. With close to 10,000 lights and decorations, the holiday décor will be up through the middle of January.

The Parma Heights Recreation Department is hosting Stories with Santa on Saturday, December 14 at Cassidy Theatre with a sitting at 10am and 11:30am. The event features holiday tunes, photos with Santa, hot cocoa and



cookies, plus a special gift from Santa! Registration is limited and required, for details

visit <https://parmaheightsoh.myrec.com/info/activities/default.aspx?type=activities>

With 2025 around the corner, the Parma Heights Recreation Department will begin taking spring and summer sports registrations the first week of January.

Registration is required for spring and summer sports and activities will open on January 3:

- Spring Soccer space is limited.
- Pickleball space is limited.

Seven Hills Christmas Holiday Parade

by Kathy Holland

Holiday Cheer in Seven Hills is just around the corner! Help us kick start the holiday season with friends and neighbors Saturday, December 7, 2024. The fun begins at 10:30 a.m. when the parade travels from the Moose Lodge 7010 Broadview Road, south down Broadview Road, turns east on Hillside Road, and ends at 7325 Summitview Drive, City Hall.

Along with Santa in his sleigh, the parade will include; The Grinch, elves, Mayor

Anthony D. Biasiotta, elected officials and community organizations.

At the conclusion of the parade, all friends are invited to Seven Hills City Hall to enjoy a North Pole Adventure between 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM!

Stop by and enjoy indoor activities featuring photos with Santa and The Grinch. Santa’s workshop will be up and running with make-and-take crafts. There will be an Elf playground, lots of games, plus a North Pole Express mailbox

cotnued on page 6



for letters to Santa.

This free family event is provided by the City of Seven Hills.

GM Parma Metal Center Drives Local Impact With \$75,000 Grant

by Kevin Nadrowski

November 12th, General Motors Parma Metal Center presented the latest installment of its Community Impact Grants (CIG) to four nonprofits in the greater Cleveland region. The \$75,000 in grants this year target local nonprofits aimed at supporting STEAM education and road safety throughout the community.

Through the CIG program, GM facility leaders select local nonprofits working to address issues facing their community. Representatives of each nonprofit came to Parma Metal Center today for a roundtable discussion

on each program’s grant mission and how GM can continue to collaborate with them to impact the local community.

“We believe in the power of community,” said Amy Carrier, plant director at Parma Metal Center. “Our Community Impact Grants provide vital support to nonprofit organizations that are making a real difference in the lives of individuals and families in our communities. We are honored to partner with these organizations to create a brighter future for all.”

The 2024 Parma Metal Center nonprofit recipients include:

- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. of Greater

Cleveland

- United Way of Greater Cleveland
- Big Creek Connects
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Cleveland

This year’s \$75,000 in grants add to the more than \$215,000 that GM has donated to Parma area nonprofits since 2019. In the 14th year of the CIG program, GM will award more than \$3 million to more than 140 nonprofits across its U.S. manufacturing communities.

As an organization, GM is committed to investing in the future of American manufacturing, in our workforce and in our communities.



Script Parma Picture Of The Month

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! If you have a creative photo with the script Parma 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 Parma prize if yours is selected.



PSO Holiday Concert Sunday 12/8

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a LIVE Holiday Music Concert on Sunday, December 8 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights featuring

Dr. Randolph P Laycock conducting; Rossini’s William Tell Overture John Rutter’s Five pieces for orchestra.O Magnum Mysterium arranged by Dr. James Feiszli and a Selection of Holiday favorites

The orchestra, in its 55th season, consists of 80 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM or from any member of the orchestra. Tickets paid with cash are \$10 for adults and

“These nonprofits and grants will work toward creating an impact – both locally and beyond – that will drive innovation and our world forward,” added Carrier.

GM Parma Metal Center employs more than 900 team members, running three shifts to press more than 550 tons of steel to support multiple GM vehicle models and platforms.

About General Motors

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lac, Chevrolet, and GMC brands offer a broad portfolio of innovative gasoline-powered vehicles and the industry’s widest range of EVs, as we move to an all-electric future. Learn more at GM.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

If you are a reader of my monthly column, which I take pride in writing myself each month, you are well-aware of my legislative achievements in just my first 23 months as your state law-maker.

This month I would like to talk about my other priority as your state representative: constituent services. Constituent services means that when a resident whom I represent contacts my office about state-related issues, my office is happy to assist with seeking a solution.

I learned customer service skills working at Ponderosa as a teenager, as a bartender, at Blockbuster Video, and the Cuyahoga County Public Library as a college student, and as a flight attendant right after college.

Some of things folks contact me about most include state benefits such as Medicaid, Job and Family Services and Bureau of Unemployment issues, and state law questions, among a myriad of other things.

My staff and I take our work very seriously and always strive to exhibit empathy for those who contact us. In



State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan meeting with Vikki McNeeley and Cindy Lang at Café Blanc in Parma Heights. The ladies are constituents of his who reached out to his office and were very pleased with the level of service they received.

fact, that is the number one quality I look for when seeking someone to work in the office.

Here are a couple of recent testimonials from residents who contacted my office:

“I’ve known Sean as a councilman in Parma for years, but got to work with

him as my state representative while facing Ohio’s unemployment system. Compassion, respect, and diligence are words that come to mind to describe Sean and his whole staff.” - Cindy Lang (Parma)

“Sean not only champions in Columbus the issues his constituents

care about, he also connects to them on a personal level. He helped my mother with some property issues she had when nobody else would listen. After she passed, Sean personally came to my home to offer his condolences. He, McKenna, and his entire staff have been invaluable to me.” - Vikki McNeeley (Parma Heights)

As always, if my office may ever be of service, please contact us at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov. I also invite you to visit my website to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for this monthly newsletter at www.ohiohouse.gov/members/sean-p-brennan. You can also read all of my past newsletters going back to January, 2023, at my website. I am continually honored to serve you!

PPD Memorial Garden Brick Fundraiser

by Scott Traxler

In 1925, the township of Parma moved to a village form of government, at which time the Parma Police Department was founded and moved into 7510 Snow Road with the Parma Fire Department. The first chief law enforcement officer was Marshal Tesar, along with two deputy marshals. In 1954, the Parma police moved into their new location at 5750 West 54th Street, along with the Parma municipal court.

In 2000, the Parma Police and the Parma Municipal Court moved into their current location at 5555 Powers Blvd. Currently, the Parma police department has 113 brave men and women sworn to protect the citizens of Parma. The department is structured with a full command staff and patrol officers and several specialized units, such as detectives, K-9, SWAT, Motor unit, Bicycle unit, Crime Scene, Honor Guard, and Corrections, just to mention a few.

In the summer of 1926, the Parma Police Department lost two officers in the line of duty. Officer Michael Beuerlien and Officer Clinton Wolf were killed while on duty performing their



Society was formed and established as a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 to preserve the history of the Parma Police Department, which eventually transformed into the Parma Police Association in 2007. The Parma Police Association established a new mission: to preserve the past, support the present, and nurture the future. With the 1 Oath anniversary swiftly approaching, Chief Blair commissioned a design and planning committee in 2024 to establish a Police officer memorial for fallen officers.

The Parma Police have resided at their current location for almost 25 years, and many changes have occurred



since moving into the building. Over the past several years, the original landscaping had become overgrown and unsightly and needed to be removed, leaving the public entrance bleak and barren. The Parma Police Association is spearheading a donation drive to complete this endeavor to beautify and memorialize the fallen officers. The goal of the Parma Police Association is to improve the public entrance to the Parma Police station and incorporate a fallen officer memorial for those officers killed in the line of duty, along with a memorial garden for those officers who passed while on duty. The memorials will honor the brave men and women committed to protecting and serving the City of Parma.

We hope you will help achieve our goal of the envisioned project by purchasing a brick paver that will be laid in the main area of the memorial, with your name or company name, to create a forever lasting memory of your support of the Parma Police Department and the officers who died committed to protecting the city of Parma.

Please help us preserve the past, support the present, and nurture the future with your donation.

Brick/Tile Size	Price Text Only	Price with text & Clip Art
4" x 8" Red	\$150	\$150
8" x 8" Red	\$300	\$300
4" x 4" Replica Tile \$50, same text as your larger brick. This keepsake is available for purchase only in conjunction with your engraved brick.		

Parma
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Paying Doctors Less?

The Ever-Changing Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

by Max Miller

Medicare is critical to caring for America’s seniors—nearly 1 in 5 Americans rely on it for health coverage! Ensuring that doctors are paid fairly for the important work they do for Medicare beneficiaries is no easy task, but failing to do so could lead to worse care for millions of retirees.

Medicare uses a fee schedule to determine how much it pays doctors who serve its patients. Each year, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updates this fee schedule, and this year CMS proposed its fifth straight cut. Doctors and patients are worried.

This proposal would cut reimbursements by 2.8%. At the same time, CMS

estimates that the cost of running a medical practice will increase by 3%. That means the cost of running a medical practice is increasing while doctor pay decreases. At a time when costs are up almost 20% since 2021, this is a big problem for doctors as they try to keep up.

One of the main concerns is that doctors feel like they don’t have any control or input over these changes. The government decides the fee schedule, and doctors just have to accept it. Understandably, this can be frustrating and discouraging.

Further cuts could make it harder to keep smaller clinics open and would reduce services offered by larger clinics and hospitals. Another major

concern is that these pay cuts might make it harder to keep rural clinics open. In many small towns, there is already a shortage of doctors, so when a clinic closes, it can leave patients with nowhere to go for care. With more than 60 million Americans living in rural areas, this is a big issue.

Many doctors work long hours and do their best to take care of their patients, but lower pay might make it harder for doctors to spend enough time with each patient to provide the highest quality care. Physicians may feel pressured to see more patients in

less time just to make ends meet. Some fear that the lost revenue could push providers to opt out of the Medicare program altogether, further reducing access for Medicare beneficiaries.

The Medicare fee schedule changes may seem like numbers on paper, but they can have real-life effects. In the end, we need to make sure that doctors are paid fairly and responsibly for the important work they do for Medicare beneficiaries. There’s no easy solution, but I can tell you this: Congress needs to act before this problem spells more significant trouble for seniors and providers.



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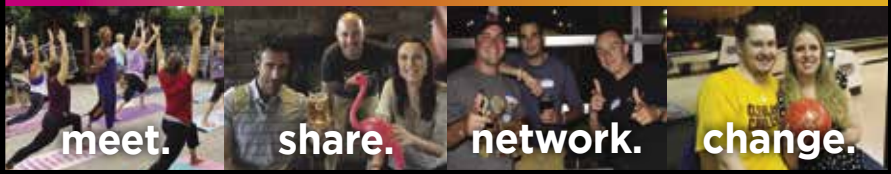


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CITY OF

SEVENHILLS

CHRISTMAS PARADE

DECEMBER 7, 2024

STARTS AT 10:30 AM

Get your spot along Broadview Road to see Santa Claus coming to town! Kicking off from the Moose Lodge, the parade will travel south on Broadview Road and east on Hillside Road, ending at Seven Hills City Hall.

See you there!

SANTA'S WORKSHOP:
(MAKE & TAKE)
ELF PLAYGROUND

NORTH POLE ADVENTURE! 11:00AM - 1:00 PM

@ Seven Hills City Hall

Free treats and photo with Santa!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM:

Mayor Anthony Biasiotta

Eric Moore, Law Director

Phillip Kiriazis, Council President

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Stacey Kelley, Council-At-Large

Norman Martin, Ward 2 Council

Thomas Snitzky, Ward 3 Council

Michael Morrow, Ward 4 Council

PARMA HEIGHTS

Friends Of PH 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 this month 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.

Picasso & Paper

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host a virtual program Picasso & Paper on Thursday, December 19th, 2024 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Learn about artist Pablo Picasso who created engaging works of art with a paper medium for a prolonged period of time. The virtual program highlights this exciting new exhibition at the Cleveland Museum of Art. This Picasso Paper exhibition was organized by the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in partnership with the Musee Nationale Picasso-Paris.

This event will be held virtually on Zoom. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org.

Blanton & the Browns: How The 1964 Team Won A World Title—With Author Vince Guerrieri

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Blanton & the Browns: How the 1964 Team Won a World Title—with Author Vince Guerrieri on Thursday, December 5th, 2024 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Author Vince Guerrieri will talk about Blanton Collier, Head Coach of Cleveland Browns from 1963-1970, and how Blanton's 1964 Browns team won the NFL Championship. Blanton Collier, a Kentucky native who was hired by Paul Brown, led the 1964 Browns to win a professional sports title with his team of assistant coaches, including Don Shula, and standout players. Mr. Guerrieri, an award-winning journalist for the Elyria Chronicle-Telegram and Medina Gazette. Guerrieri is the author of Weird Moments in Cleveland Sports: Bottlegate, Bedbugs and Burying the Pennant – and More! Book sale and signing following this author event. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

org or contact a librarian at the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

A meeting link will be emailed to registered participants approximately one hour prior to the start of the program. Staff will be available for help with connecting to Zoom and technical issues beginning 15 minutes prior to the program. You will need a device with audio and/or video and an internet connection to join. If you have questions about this program, please contact a librarian at the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

This event will be broadcast live on Zoom. Registration and an email address are required to receive the link to participate.



Parma Observer Publisher Daniel P. McCarthy with the legendary Mike Byrne at one of his last Cuyahoga County Council meetings on 11-26-24.

Thank You Mike Byrne

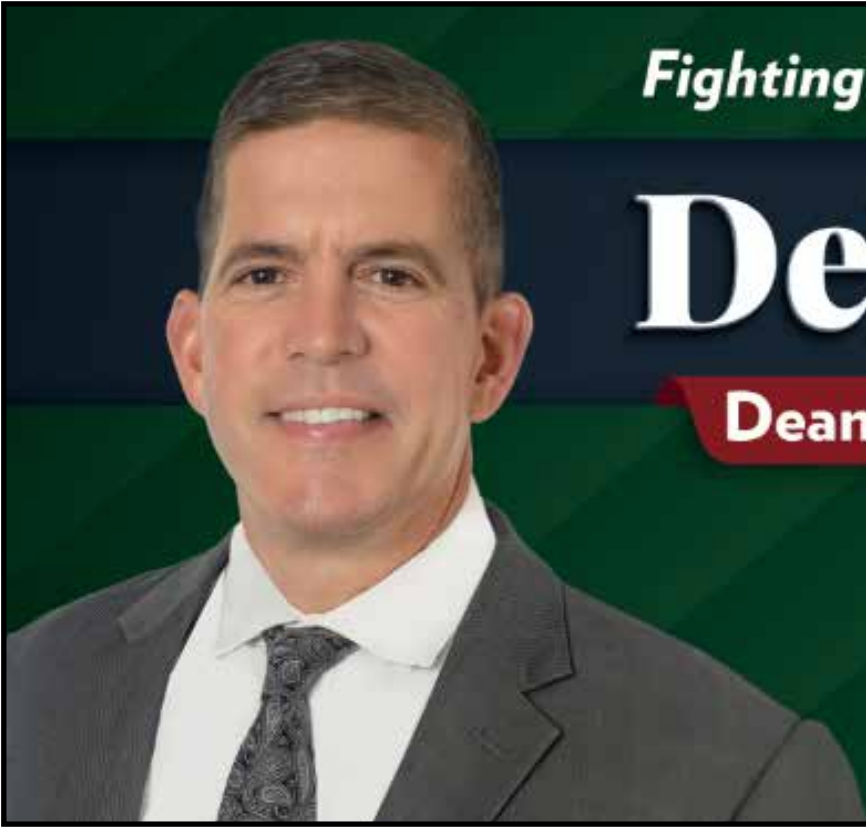
by Daniel P. McCarthy

Throughout his career, Mike Byrne has performed public service in a variety of ways. Besides working for Cuyahoga County for decades, he also served as Council President of Parma Heights, then long time Mayor after that. So a combined 22 years of elected office would be enough for most, but when the unexpired term of Cuyahoga County Representative Scott Tuma needed to be filled, Mike answered the call and was appointed to serve out the term. with his broad administrative experience and intricate knowledge of the functions of county government, there was no better choice. He is Chair of the Public Works, Procurement & Contracting Committee. Also a member of the Financing & Budgeting Committee, Economic Development & Planning Committee, and Public Safety and Justice Affairs Committee. Mike Byrne has accomplished much in the amount of time spent on Cuyahoga county Council, and the citizens here have benefited greatly from his experi-

ence and steady leadership. He will be succeeded by mark Casselberry, Parma Ward 3 Councilman, who indeed has some very large shoes to fill.

Though not quite sure what is next, Mike is certain to spend much deserved time enjoying regular life abundantly, with his family, and especially his 5 grandchildren. We wish him all the very best in these endeavors, and hope that his example of public service and leadership has mad a lasting impression on the new generation of public servants entering the arena. Steadfast cooperation, and always listening to the people he served were what made Mike Byrne the success he has been all of these years.

Once again, thank you Mike Byrne for being an outstanding leader and delivering on so many promises over the years in the different roles that citizens chose you to perform. As the history of the Tri-City area is being written, you are an indelible component and a person who has made a lasting, positive impact on our community.



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CRAIN'S CLEVELAND BUSINESS 2022

NOTABLES

IN LAW

INSPIRATION

I Went Back To Parma

by Anthony Prusak

Went back to Parma, but my city's not the same, No more Parmatown, no Super Cream to claim. High school's a memory, now a demolition zone, Yards in disrepair, a place I once called home.

The theaters are gone, friends have moved away, Childhood memories fading, like echoes in the fray. I ponder to myself, what happened to the pride? A city once so vibrant is now a changing tide.

My city was gone, remnants of the past, In the shifting sands of time, it couldn't always last. Demographic whispers, a silent, shifting song, I mourn for Parma, my city that's gone.

Pictures of Senior High, a demolition scene, and Bricks scattered like echoes of what once had been. It's as

if a bomb exploded, memories in the debris, A landscape transformed, a city no longer free.

I reminisce on friends, both lost and found, In the corridors of time, where echoes resound. John Muir Elementary, Royal Doughnut's sweet delight, State Road Park whispers, "Remember me in the night."

My city was gone, a relic in the dust, growth, and change, a reality we must trust. Times have shifted, the echoes carry on, In the heart of Parma, where memories are drawn.

A chapter closed, but new ones begin, In the evolution of cities, where do we fit in? The landscape may change, but the spirit lives on, In the tales we tell, of the city that's gone.



Parma Senior High School Demolition

I see the yards, once so well-kept, Now tangled and worn, like dreams unwept. Homes that stood proud, now weathered by time, Yet, in the remnants, traces of a once vibrant climb.

State Meats lingers, a nostalgic scent, Royal Doughnut's sweetness, a moment well-spent. John Muir Elementary, where lessons were taught, State Road Park's echo, a memory

sought.

My city was gone, but I hold it in my soul, In the stories told, in the memories that enroll. Demographic shifts, like a river moves along, In the heart of Parma, where echoes are strong.

Times may change, cities transform, Yet, in the essence of memories, we weather the storm. Parma, my city, a chapter now done, But in my heart, the echoes forever run.

70 Years Of Veterans Day

by Robert Stilwell

Nov. 11, 2024 was the 70th Anniversary of the official change from Armistiice Day to veterans Day. The American Legion, which had fought for an official recognition of the end of World War I since 1920, later in the aftermath of World War II and as the Korean War was underway, argued in favor of expanding the observance to include all who served in the US Military. Following more than three years of American Legion support for a change in the Federal Holiday name, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation Oct 8, 1954, making it official.

Season's Greetings From Parma Heights

cotnined from page 1

Parma Heights Recreation plays in the Suburban Recreational Ball League. Practices will begin in May and the season is June through July.

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

Parma Heights Pool

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

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

Pool Memberships

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

Join us for a fun-filled Winter Craft event for kids on Saturday, January 11, from 2 to

4pm at the Cassidy Theatre, hosted by Lisa Masotti Zarembo. This creative afternoon will allow children to make winter-themed crafts, with all necessary supplies provided. It's a wonderful opportunity for kids to explore their creativity in a hands-on, festive environment. Registration is required to attend. To sign up, simply visit <http://parmaheightsoh.gov/en-us/recreation.aspx> and reserve your spot.

<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>
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Faith Community Directory

All Faiths Pantry

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allfaithspantry.org

All Saints Episcopal Church

8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055
parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
www.blc7500.com

Divinity Lutheran Church

11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
www.divinitylutheran.com

The Islamic Center of Cleveland

6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
www.iccleveland.org

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360
www.ridgewoodumc.org

St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434
www.Stbridgetparma.com

Holy Family Catholic Church

7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533
www.holyfamparma.org

Parma Christian Church

7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614
www.parmachristianchurch.org

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NEIGHBORHOODS

Early Parma Settlers

by Kevin Kelly

=For the first time, a documentary about the early Parma Settlers will air through December 2024. The documentary begins with the first settlers that arrived in the Parma area in the early 1800s and the development of Parma is followed all the way through the Civil War. These early pilgrims purchased their plots of land in Parma from a Connecticut Land Company before setting out on their long journey to take possession of them. After arriving in the Cuyahoga County area the settlers followed an Indian trail on the eastern side of the Cuyahoga River. They did so until crossing over the river to where Rockside Road is now located. They then continued westward, to where the Pearl and Ridge Road intersection is now.

You will understand and experienced what the early Parma residents first encountered when they arrived in the area. The new settlers were shocked at first by the gloomy appearance of the uninhabited land due to the crowns of trees interlace, effectively blocking most sunlight from reaching the ground below. Although, once they discovered how rich the soil was for farming they were very encouraged.

Before the white man arrived in Parma, the area was only inhabited by bears, wolves, and timber rattlers. As



City of Parma's original name

far as the different Indian tribes are concerned, they did not inhabit the area and mainly used Parma as neutral ground for such things as hunting and a meeting destination. Because of the dangerous wildlife all around them they had to keep a constant eye out for dangerous wildlife predators to protect their families and livestock. Many nights, settlers would be suddenly awoken to horrible screams of their livestock being attacked and torn apart by bears and wolves that had gotten into the pens. Timber rattle snakes were another major threat to the settlers. Being there was no such thing as an anti-snake venom at that time, one would have to have their limb amputated immediately if bitten by one of these serpents to survive.

Parma was originally covered with

dense trees and a thorny bush, with green flowers which are called green-briers. These prickly bushes caused many travelers to take out of the way alternative routes just to avoid having to hack through these bushes. This area was originally named after this bush before subsequently being changed to Parma. The new name was derived from the city of Parma in Italy after a local resident, by the name of Dr. David Long, who returned from a trip to that Italian city.

As far as the Civil War is concerned, not only did Parma provide its share of soldiers for the war effort, but it also had

an underground railroad for helping slaves escape from the south. This secret railroad extended from the Ohio River all the way to Ridge and Pearl Road before continuing on to the north-west.

The documentary will air on Fridays at 8 p.m. on Cox Cable, Channel 45, through the month of December. For more information, you can email Kevin Kelly at Kevin@ShockerEnterprises.com or call 216-230-1840. Please check out ShockerEnterprises.com for more videos from Shocker Enterprises. We'd like to extend a special thanks to all our faithful viewers.



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PERSPECTIVE

A Dark Day In Our Nation's History

by Lee Kamps

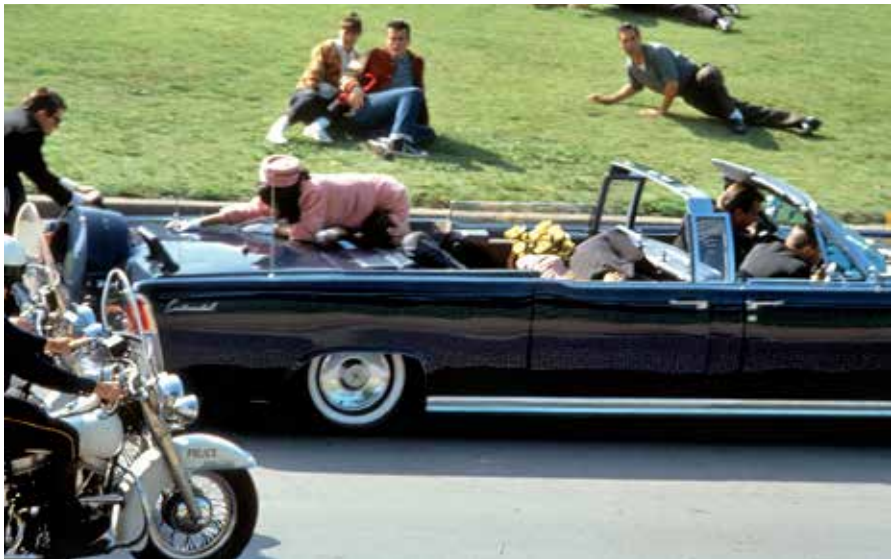
Friday November 22, 1963, began like any other morning that year. For me, I was in the 10th grade at Valley Forge High School in Parma Ohio. There was a story on the news the day before that President John F Kennedy was in Texas with Vice President Lyndon Johnson to shore up support for a second term as President in 1964

The day was unusually mild for late November. The predicted temperature that afternoon was expected to be around 65 degrees. As I went to school that day, it seemed like any other day at school. That afternoon the class periods were shortened so there could be a pep rally for the basketball team. The first varsity basketball game was scheduled for that evening.

Also, in the news that month was a story of the government of South Vietnam being overthrown a few weeks earlier. The United States was supporting the South Vietnamese government fighting insurgents from communist North Vietnam. There were protests that summer in Vietnam with monks dousing themselves with gasoline and setting themselves on fire.

There were some troops serving in Vietnam, mostly as "advisors" to the South Vietnamese army. But that was on the other side of the world in November 1963.

The day proceeded like any other school day until around 200 PM. I was in world history class taking a quiz or something at the desk when there was a knock on the door. The teacher, a young woman who was also my French teacher answered the door. She was



handed a note and called the class to attention as she read the note. She had said that President Kennedy had been shot while in Dallas Texas. She was visibly shaken.

Then the school's PA system came on as they were playing the news coming over the radio. Not long after the radio came on over the school's PA system, the reporter announced that President John F Kennedy was dead. Shortly after that announcement, the bell rang at the end of the class period.

What followed was perhaps the strangest I had seen in high school. Valley Forge High School was a large high school with 3000 students in three grades. The 9th grade was at junior high school. The hallways were crowded as students made their way to their next class, which was the last class of the day.

Normally the halls of the school were busy and buzzing with noise as the students were mingling in the halls. But on that day, it was eerily quiet. Many

girls were crying in the hallways, and no one was talking. Everyone seemed to be in shock. Since I had a study hall during the last period, I could leave school early. I decided to skip that pep rally and walk home, taking advantage of the unusually warm weather that day. Besides, i wasn't in any mood to cheer on the basketball team.

That basketball game scheduled that evening was postponed. When i got home that evening we all watched the news of what had happened that day.

However, much went on as normal that weekend. The NFL played a full schedule that Sunday. The Cleveland Browns hosted the Dallas Cowboys that Sunday November 24. The Browns won that game. But the big game scheduled on Saturday November 23 between Ohio State University and the University of Michigan was postponed until the following Saturday, November 30. Ohio State won that game at Ann Arbor.

At the time, my mother was work-

ing as a nurse at Lutheran Hospital in Cleveland. She was scheduled to work on Sunday November 24. Like any Sunday, my father took us to church on Sunday morning, then we drove to the hospital to meet our mother for lunch in the hospital cafeteria. There was a television set in the cafeteria, and it was turned on to the news.

We weren't paying much attention until there seemed to be a commotion on the television news. They had been broadcasting the accused assassin of President Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald was being transferred from the city jail to the county jail when a man emerged from the crowd and shot Lee Harvey Oswald in front of all those television cameras.

It seemed like we were watching a movie, not the news. The man was taken into custody and identified as Jack Ruby, who owned some nightclubs in Dallas. Lee Harvey Oswald died later at the hospital.

John F Kennedy's funeral was scheduled for Monday November 25. The day was declared a National Day of Mourning and schools, public buildings and government offices were closed. The nation watched JFK's funeral procession in Washington DC as his casket was taken to Arlington National Cemetery where he was buried with full military honors as a veteran of the Second World War.

That week was a short week at school as Thanksgiving was on Thursday November 28. Things began getting back to normal again. But it was a rather subdued holiday season that year.

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VIEWPOINTS

Stand Against Bullying

by Deborah White

Some students are excited to be back at school and some are not. The reason for this just might be that bullies are back too! Bullies are a roadblock that interferes with the goal of learning. To help kids deal with bullies they have to build their self-confidence. First, a child must understand a few things. For instance why do bullies torment others? This is an ongoing question because there are many answers. Bullies might have a bad home life or they might be jealous of what another student has, or they might be trying to impress someone else. Whatever the case, a child must understand that they are not to blame and there is nothing wrong with them. The answer is to stand up to the bully but, don't bully back. This is one rule that my students must follow. Violence begets violence, which is to say we must throw some water onto the fire to put it out. When you respond to the bully, you must respond in a way that he does not expect. Your reaction to his bullying should not add bullets to his gun. For instance, if he says words that anger you then you must not show your emotion. When you show him that you are upset, mad, or fearful he will use it against you. But, if you respond by simply saying something like, "Okay, see ya", then he will not understand why you are not angry or afraid. Also, when you become angry you can lose control and say or do things that you regret later. Using calming words first, before fists, is always best, which is the second rule.

The next rule in our list is, "don't be aggressive—be assertive and confident". Bullies are normally aggressive, in that, they like to use physical force to

control their victims. But your response must be assertive. You can redirect his own movements against him, or even step out of the way of a punch thrown toward your face. One thing to remember is you should not put your hands on him unless it is absolutely necessary. "Necessary", in this case means that there's no way out.

Part of being assertive when confronted with a bully is to use your hands in a non-defensive way. Fists represent violence, not strength. So, we use a non-defensive stance to reflect our power and assertiveness, with our hands up. We use our palm hands instead of fists. You can think of palm hands as two stop signs, if it will make it easier to remember. It is important to know that when you move into a non-defensive stance you should say out loud, "Stop, get back", or something similar. Remember, it takes about one second to change your palm hands to fists, if necessary. Which would change the situation completely to an aggressive stance. But, since we want to deter violence we need to keep the flat palm hands up. Also, others around you will see that you are not the aggressor, but the victim.

Tell someone if you are bullied at school or home. Please understand that bullying is never right! No one deserves to be bullied, and everyone deserves the right to an education free from harassment and embarrassment. Think before you bully!

Deborah White, 2nd degree black belt (karate/self-defense Instructor/Prevention Specialist)
theselfdefenseguru@yahoo.com

State Rep. Brennan Congratulates Honey Hut On 50 Years



Recently, State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan stopped by Parma Honey Hut to present a resolution of congratulations on behalf of the Ohio House of Representatives for 50 years of serving great treats to owner Bruce Page.



Lucky the Parma Observer Dog had a busy year in 2024, and is seen taking a much deserved rest in her favorite chair.



Ukrainian Village hosted a spectacular celebration in August marking Ukrainian Independence. Parma continues to stand by Ukraine in their fight to stay free and independent.



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PARMA OBSERVER

Parma SWAT

by Scott Traxler

The Parma SWAT Team would like to thank the Parma residents, city employees, friends and family, and both local and neighboring businesses in making the annual golf-outing held on October 4th, the most successful to date. The Parma SWAT Team is comprised of 26 total members and represents the Central Region of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau. Included in the total are 19 SWAT operators and 4 Tactical EMS members. We also have 3 auxiliary members on the team. The goal of our fundraising efforts is to educate and interact with the community and raise awareness of the Parma SWAT Team. We also strive to further fund the purchase of updated tactical equipment and training with the donations we receive.

A special thanks to the following sponsors:

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Thanks to Parma Rib-N-Rock, St. Charles Borromeo, Holy Family Catholic Church, and St. Josephat Ukrainian Catholic Church for allowing us to setup a tent at their summer festivals. Their graciousness increased our outreach to the Parma community, its visitors, and helped in selling a record number of raffle tickets this year.

If you would like more informa-



tion about the annual golf-outing, future events, to make a donation, or to become a Parma SWAT sponsor, feel free to contact Officer Jim Mack #527 at james.mack@parmajustice.net or Detective Scott Traxler #729 at scott.traxler@parmajustice.net

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Sean Mabin, owner operator of Prama Artspace & Gallery, is showing at Valley Art Center, 155 Bell St., in Chagrin Falls, for the 53rd Annual Juried Art Exhibition through December 16.. He won the “completely different” Maxine Agger Kopecky Award, and a cash award. Sean & his wife Angie Reali-Mabin are showing at Pinwheel Gallery, 2019 Broadview Rd., in The Snow Show, which runs through January 3.

Sue Holick-Bade has an ink and water color on display in the Cuyahoga Valley Art Centers’ Student & Faculty Exhibition through Dec 6th. CVAC is located at 2131 Front St in Cuyahoga Falls. 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 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 instal-

lation 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 Gallery, 856 Jefferson Ave., show is titled The Art of the Nude opening December 13th.

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. December 9th and the 23rd. 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.

FREE Needlework Network at

Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd, ongoing every Monday, 11 am to 2 pm. Began as a needlework gathering and has expanded to any tabletop type project. Bring your idea, supplies, projects, and share with others. Knit, crochet,

embroidery, beading, sewing, quilting, doll making, ribbon work, jewelry or any tabletop medium. Great way to socialize, meet new friends and share ideas with other creatives. Bring your lunch, coffee, tea, and water provided.



Krampus on a Snowy Day Photo by Sean Mabin

Frosty’s Fest is Sunday, December 8, 2024



by Kathryn Mabin

Frosty’s Fest is Sunday, December 8, 2024. It begins when Santa, his Sleigh, and his Elves arrive at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr. It follows the annual Parma Christmas Parade, which begins at 1:00 pm. This family focused event has a lot to offer, FREE admission and it’s is open to the public, no residency is required. As in past years, you’ll have free photos with Santa, kids crafts, activities, lots of extras too, like face painters, Disney Princesses, Sparky and The Grinch will be attending. Bakeries will be on hand with their mouth watering holiday goodies for you to purchase. Food and beverages, for sale,

indoors and out. Choirs will be singing to enhance the holiday mood. You’ll also be able to watch live, a demonstration of ice sculpting.

STROLLERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED INSIDE. There’s no space due to of all the activities inside and the volume of attendees. There will be a parking lot and attendant available for the for the strollers.

Frosty’s Fest is brought to you by the nonprofit We Are Parma Proud. Follow We Are Parma Proud on Facebook for updates.

The event ends at 4:00 pm. So bring your family and friends! See you on December 8th!

PSO Holiday Concert Sunday 12/8

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\$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. Advance Sale tickets are available online at Home | PARMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (square.

site) Credit card purchases available include \$2 per ticket handling fee.

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