

“The more I learn about people the more I like my dog.” - Mark Twain

February, 2025
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ParmaObserver

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Celebrate Valentine’s Day At Parma Heights Newest Restaurant

by Marie Gallo

Opening late in December, Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi restaurant has quickly become a Parma Heights community favorite. The new Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi located at 6405 Pearl Rd. is locally-owned and operated and offers a dining experience that combines incredible flavors with a fun, vibrant atmosphere.

Ichiban Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi features a

massive menu. Kitchen appetizers with edamame, fried cheese wonton, coconut shrimp fried soft shell crab, fried steam buns and more. They also offer soups and salads, fried rice and fried sobas.

Sushi! Ichiban hosts a wide variety of sushi rolls and dinners. A few of the sushi rolls are: California roll, yellowtail roll, shrimp tempura roll, volcano roll, Ohio roll, big boy roll, and of course the Chef’s Special Rolls include ocean roll, spider

roll, Hawaii roll , Fuji roll and many others. With some of the dinners, Ichiban includes dry ice which really elevates the presentation.

The real fun begins with the hibachi dinners and the chef cooking in front of you with flames, steam, slicing and dicing great food. Hibachi dinners are chicken, steak, swordfish, scallops, filet mignon, lobster and more. Ichiban has the newest hibachi grills and they are self-venting – this allows for better views as the chef cooks in front of everyone.

Since opening, Ichiban has had many repeat cus-

continued on page 8



Great food, thrilling experience.

Coffee With A Cop



Parma Ward 8 Councilwoman Amanda Boyd recently hosted Coffee with a Cop at Love Coffee (5842 Ridge Road) with members of the Parma Police Department. Here she is pictured with Sergeants Burkhart and Mowry. State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan joined them.

Your Attention Please



by Kathryn Mabin

Calling out to all bands, clubs, businesses and organizations! We are looking to add more participants to the annual Parma 4th of July Parade. It’s a fun way to promote your band, club, business or organization and it’s free. Hey, all you creative individuals, think about competitive floats. Start your creating now. Oh what fun! Show your Parma pride! Start YOUR MARCH into the 2026 Parma Bicentennial in 2025. For more information email parmaparades@gmail.com.



Grocery Outlet Opens Doors In Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

In the times we are living through now, lower grocery prices are music to peoples ears. So on the coldest day in January, it was no surprise that a huge crowd gathered to take advantage of the opening of Grocery Outlet at 5721 Broadview Rd. in Parma. Located in the 30,000 square foot former Pat Catan's location, the store is easy to find and has plenty of parking. Founded by the Read Family in 1946 in California, one of the unique features of this company is that the vast majority of their stores are independently operated by local married couple. The store in Parma is managed by Tate Halsey and Sydney Busa, who moved to Parma from South-

ern California. Now that's commitment!

Grocery Outlet offers a full array of products that people want and need in their daily lives that are nutritious and affordable. There are discounted groceries, bran items, fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, prepackaged meals, deli items, organic products, health and beauty aids, and so much more. well it, easily accessible layout, and I didn't notice any self-checkouts. The staff all were very friendly and helpful, as I observed interactions with customers, even while the store was filled to capacity on this opening day. This store seems

continued on page 2

Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month's picture was taken by Tia Began in October, 2024. She noted the beautiful sunset that evening and felt it would be a nice submission during the doldrums of winter. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

Late last year I was re-elected to represent Ohio House District 14 by an overwhelming vote of Democratic, Republican, and Independent voters. Let me just say how honored and humbled I am to have been selected to serve another term in the Ohio General Assembly. Anyone who knows me knows how seriously I take my role and that I strive to represent ALL of my constituents regardless of political party. In fact, I am very proud of my perfect attendance and 96% bipartisan voting record.

Due to redistricting, the configuration of District 14 has changed. While I continue to serve all of Parma and Parma Heights, I now also represent the residents of Cleveland's Old Brooklyn, Brooklyn Centre, South Hills, and Clark-Fulton neighborhoods. Know that I will be a strong voice for all of the communities I serve at the Ohio Statehouse.

What an honor it was to take my solemn oath of office on January 6. Please be confident in knowing that, although my district only includes the areas I mentioned, the decisions I make impact the lives of all 11.8 million Ohioans. This service is the biggest honor of my life and proves that in America even the product of a broken home can grow up to make a difference in their community.

I pledge to work my hardest in what



As State Representative, one of my top priorities is advocating for more affordable and accessible health care for all Ohioans. Recently, I was privileged to meet with Metro-Health President and CEO Christine Alexander-Rager, MD at my Statehouse office. I look forward to working with her to further our shared goal.

I view are the most important areas of focus of a state legislator: (1) constituents services, (2) supporting policies to improve the quality of life for all Ohioans, and (3) supporting bringing back home from Columbus as much of our taxpayer treasure as possible to address the needs of our local communities and residents. With the experience and know-how I gained during my first

term, my plan is to be even more effective for you and our communities in my second term!

Recently, I was assigned by the Speaker of the House to serve as Ranking Member of the Ohio House of Representatives Standing Committee on Public Insurance and Pensions, a member of the Education, Energy, and Local Government committees, and

the Joint Committee on Administrative Rule Review. Serving on five committees that are among the most important and busiest of the Ohio General Assembly is going to be a lot of work, but I am up to the task.

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 at ohio-house.gov/members/sean-p-brennan to learn more about how I am serving you and to sign up for my monthly newsletter, which I write myself. You can also read all of my past newsletters going back to January, 2023.

I pray that we are all blessed with the best year of our lives and that northeast Ohio, the state of Ohio, and our great nation will thrive in 2025. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you!

Grocery Outlet Opens Doors In Parma

continued from page 1

to embrace a traditional philosophy of persona customer service, and I find that to be comforting in these times of automated everything. There seems to be a sense that they really want to earn your business, and it's hard to argue with that.

As part of community outreach, Grocery Outlet donated \$1000 to Old Brook High School in Parma for stu-

dent meals, and announced that they will continue to support this school, as well as other sections of the community as time moves forward. They stood with students and administrators on this day in the bitter cold as they presented the symbolic giant check. Grocery Outlet has opened a second store in the area, on Ridge Rd. in Brooklyn.

After the Grand Opening ceremony was complete, I decided to do some shopping. The selection was

impressive, and the prices were quite reasonable. Imagine my surprise and to some extent dismay when I discovered the line to proceed through the checkouts was so long that it wrapped completely around the inside of the store, literally well over 150 people! They can only dream of having business like that every day. In the end I decided that I didn't have time to wait so long, so I returned my items to the shelves and resolved to come back when it was not quite so busy, Welcome to Parma Grocey Outlet. I shall return.



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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Foster Closer Collaboration Between Schools And Families For Children's Success

by Heather Ekechi

In the social fabric of education, one thread stands out as indispensable yet often overlooked: the bond between families and schools. This alliance forms the foundation upon which a child's educational journey rests, yet it is too frequently undervalued in our desire for educational reform. It's time to recognize the impact of family-school partnerships and enhance their integration into the very heart of our educational system.

At the center of any child's educational experience lies the family unit, with parents and guardians serving as the primary educators of their child's early learning. From the moment a child enters this world, their family becomes their first teacher, imparting values, nurturing curiosity, and laying the groundwork for future academic pursuits. However, the transition from home to a school can be daunting, fraught with uncertainties and anxieties for both child and parent alike.

This is where the bond between families and schools becomes paramount. A strong partnership between these two entities creates a strong support for the child, bridging the gap between home and school life. When

families are actively engaged in their child's education, the benefits are seen throughout the entire learning system.

First and foremost, family involvement fosters a sense of belonging and ownership within the school community. When parents are welcomed as genuine partners in their child's educational journey, they feel empowered to contribute their unique insights and perspectives. This collaborative approach not only enriches the educational experience but also cultivates a culture of trust and mutual respect between families and educators.

In all my years of being involved in my children's education I have experienced that when parents are actively engaged in their child's learning, students are more likely to exhibit higher attendance rates, improved behavior, and enhanced academic performance. This correlation holds true across all socioeconomic backgrounds, underscoring the universal significance of family-school partnerships in promoting student success.

Moreover, family involvement extends beyond the confines of the classroom, encompassing countless extracurricular activities and community initiatives. Whether it's

volunteering at school events, participating in parent-teacher associations, or advocating for educational policies, parents play a key role in shaping the broader educational environment.

However, despite the overwhelming evidence supporting the effectiveness of family-school partnerships, systemic barriers persist, hindering their full realization. Socioeconomic disparities, cultural differences, and language barriers often impede meaningful engagement between families and schools, intensifying the existing inequalities in

education.

To overcome these obstacles, we must adopt a diverse approach that prioritizes inclusivity, accessibility, and cultural understanding. Schools must actively reach out to families and the community, leveraging various communication channels and providing ample opportunities for involvement. Moreover, educators must undergo training to effectively engage with families from different backgrounds and communities must take an active

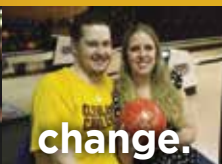
continued on page 5



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PARMA OBSERVER

Tradesman Tavern Reopens With A New Look, New Menu, And Renewed Commitment To Parma

by Frank Wasinski

Tradesman Tavern, a beloved cornerstone of the Parma community, has officially reopened this past December with exciting changes and a heartfelt mission to honor the memory of its late owner, David Martina. Known for its warm, welcoming atmosphere, the tavern has undergone a transformation that preserves its legacy while embracing new beginnings.

A Tribute to David's Legacy

For years, Tradesman Tavern was a second home for many—thanks to David's dedication and genuine care for his community. His passing left a void not just for his family but for the countless friends and customers who loved him. Today, the new owner, Nancy—David's sister—is committed to carrying his legacy forward.

"David built more than a tavern; he built a family," shared Nancy. "Every decision we've made during this reopening process was guided by the question: 'What would David have wanted for his community?'"

A Fresh and Inviting Menu

Tradesman Tavern's reopening includes a thoughtfully upgraded menu designed to cater to a variety of tastes. Whether you're craving comfort food, lighter options, or something in



5746 State Road

between, the menu strikes a balance that ensures every guest finds something to enjoy.

"We wanted to create a menu that had something for everyone," explained Vicente. "It's about blending tradition

with creativity while ensuring every bite brings people back for more."

A Community-Focused Mission

Tradesman Tavern is doubling down on its commitment to Parma. From hosting local events to supporting area businesses and charities, Nancy aims to make the tavern a hub for connection and community. Fundraisers for causes David cared about, such as youth programs and first responders, are already in the works.

The reopening of Tradesman Tavern is not just a celebration of the tavern itself, but also a reflection of the incredible people who make Parma special.

"This tavern isn't just ours—it belongs to Parma," said Nancy. "We're here to serve the community, not just with great food and drinks, but with



a place where everyone feels at home. This city has a spirit like no other," Nancy remarked. "The people of Parma are what keep us going. Their loyalty inspires us to give back and create a space that we can all be proud of."

A Place to Make New Memories

The renovated space blends modern touches with the charm that longtime patrons will appreciate. With updated décor, a comfortable seating layout, and an enhanced bar area, it's a place designed to bring people together for years to come.

Tradesman Tavern's reopening is more than just a fresh start; it's a celebration of resilience, community, and the enduring legacy of David. Nancy invites Parma residents to stop by and experience this new chapter. One thing is certain: Tradesman Tavern is back, and it's better than ever.

Visit Tradesman Tavern Today

Tradesman Tavern is located at 5746 State Road in Parma. Whether you're coming in for a meal, a drink, or simply to connect with your neighbors, Nancy and the team are ready to welcome you with open arms. Stop by and raise a glass to David and the community he loved.



6th Annual Leprechaun Chase
Saturday March 8, 2025!

by Christin Sorensen

Want to help a local charity PLUS have a great time? The Leprechaun Chase at Gunselman's Tavern on Saturday March 8, 2025 is the answer to both questions! Race starts and ends at Fairview High School track, 4507 W 213th St, Fairview Park, OH 44126. Two race options available: 1 mile or 5k. All ages and skill levels are welcome to join the festivities with proceeds benefiting Empowering Epilepsy. Race starts at 9 am with after party to be held right across the street at Gunselman's Tavern, 21490 Lorain Rd, Fairview Park, OH 44126. Live Irish Music all day long, plus great food and drinks.

What if you are not a runner? Walking is fine too! Registration is open NOW!

Tickets available at <https://www.empoweringepilepsy.org/leprechaunchase>. All participants will receive a custom t-shirt, plus awards to top finishers in each age group.

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



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PARMA HEIGHTS

Sip And Savor Your Way Through Parma Heights

by Emery Pinter

For coffee connoisseurs, Parma Heights Coffee Trail is a dream come true. Whether ordering that all-important first cup of the morning, grabbing an afternoon pick-me-up while taking advantage of an hour of free WiFi, or meeting a friend for lattes, coffee shops play a vital role in the daily lives of busy Parma Heights residents. Here are the cafes and shops to grab an espresso, a cappuccino, or a soul-soothing cup of black coffee.

Kick off your coffee expedition in Parma Heights where you can visit Arabica Coffee House, 6285 Pearl Rd. It's a casual hookah place to enjoy a cup of coffee alongside pastries, and they take great pride in being part of a loyal community of java aficionados.

Then don't forget to explore Cafe Blanc, 6500 Pearl Road. The menu here

includes everything from drip coffee and cappuccino, to cold brew and mocha lattes. Order a crepe or tart, pastries, pizza, sandwiches and even soups. Set up the laptop, and sip coffee while doing a little work at this charming coffee shop. Some of the best bites are the Avocado toast, BLTS, and the Bacon Ham & Swiss!

Savor a cup of coffee at Bazar Market & Grill, 6619 Pearl Road, while trying the Eggs Benedict or its popular Pierogis Breakfast. The pierogi dumplings have long been a staple on the menu and they're not just good, they're great! The exterior resembles fried gyoza, while the potato-and-cheddar filling is pure pierogi. The trail will also lead you to 7 Brew Coffee, 6675 Pearl Rd, where its goal is to cultivate kindness while delivering speedy service. One fantastic coffee beverage is the

German-Chocolate Coconut Caramel Mocha. The German Chocolate drink was a sweet and rich beverage that paired well with the espresso blend. With a rotation of seasonal coffees and a solid, streamlined menu of coffee drinks, this is a drive-thru haven in

Parma Heights!

No matter what corner of Parma Heights you're in, you're usually just a short walk away from delicious coffee in a welcoming space.

Naming The Roads To Riverside

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Naming the Roads to Riverside on Thursday, February 6th, 2025 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. What is the connection between Riverside Cemetery and the names of roads on Cleveland's West Side? Who were the prominent people with significant ties to Riverside Cemetery? Learn about this topic of local history with Jamie Lynne Owens, author of Cleveland's Riverside Cemetery, and Maria P. Moldovan who will present a fascinating "armchair" tour. Book sale & signing following the presentation. Registration required. To register, please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Help Wanted!

Join The Friends of Parma Heights Library!

by Bridget Lavelle

Love your Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library? Do you have an interest in working in a team, collaborating with library staff and numbers, inventory & used book sales?

Please consider joining Friends of the Parma Heights Library and volunteer in an Officer role!

Openings for the Friends Officer leadership roles include:President; Vice President; Treasurer; and Secretary.

For additional information about volunteering for the Friends of Parma Heights Library, please call the Parma Heights Branch Manager Krista Tokarz at 440-884-2313.

To learn more about the role of the Friends at Cuyahoga County Public Library Branches visit <https://cuyahogalibrary.org/friends-of-the-library/the-friends-of-parma-heights-library-inc>

Save the date for an upcoming Meet & Greet in Spring 2025 at the Parma Heights Branch.

Computer Basics

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will present Computer Basics on Monday, February 17th, 2025 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Learn the basics about computing devices—hardware, mouse, keyboard and navigating—with hands-on practice following the library staff demonstration. Computer settings, file management and mobile devices will also be discussed. This Computer Basics class will be taught using library laptops. Class starts promptly. Registration required. Attendees must be Adults aged 18 years and older. To register, please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Foster Closer Collaboration Between Schools And Families For Children's Success

continued from page 3

role in fostering a culture of inclusion and equity.

In conclusion, the importance of family-school partnerships cannot be overstated. By fostering meaningful collaboration between families and schools, we can create a community where every child has the opportunity to thrive. Let us recognize the pivotal role of families as partners in education and work tirelessly to strengthen this foundational bond for the betterment of our children and society as a whole. National PTA identifies standards that can help improve the family-school partnerships. Welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power and collaborating with the community. By implementing

these standards in any school district there is a better opportunity that students can succeed.

We ask three things from you.

Encourage your school to implement these standards in your child's school.

Share with all stakeholders the importance of building a strong family-school partnership.

Sign this petition so we can share with the schools how important we believe in strong family-school partnerships.

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INSPIRATION

Times That Kept A-Changin

by Robert Stilwell

After WWII, the economy roared back to life and young Americans shared in the wealth. By 1956 the average American teenager had \$10.55 a week to spend. That was about the same amount an entire American family had to spend after bills were paid at the end of the Great Depression. And spend it they did on Music, clothes, movies, and cars. Whole industries sprang up to relieve teens of their spending money. In 1959 teenagers bought ten million record players and countless transistor radios, machines that gave them the freedom to listen to their own music. Most of it was rock 'n' roll, a new music that often separated them from their parents. Not everyone was invited to party. Many young blacks were still



stuck in poverty, and in the South they were still humiliated by segregation laws. But their times were changing too. In 1951, a Farmville, Virginia High School junior named Barbara Johns led her classmates out of their school to protest their overcrowded building,

broken down desks, and inferior supplies. The students stayed out for two weeks, and strike developed into a lawsuit against the town. Such behavior was shocking, but it was only the beginning. In the years to follow, young people, white and black, powered the Civil Rights movement, sometimes sacrificing their lives to overthrow segregation laws. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., put it, "The blanket of fear was lifted by Negro youth." Their example inspired other young Americans to step forward in the following years.

They challenged America's involvement in the Vietnam War and fought to expand opportunities for women and girls. Young environmentalists insisted on the importance of a safe and beautiful planet. In 1963, songwriter Bob Dylan wrote "THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHAHGIN". The song became an anthem of the day, and with good reason. Times changed like lightning in the second half of the twentieth century, and young people had never been more at the center of the action.

AARP Tax Aide - Free Tax Preparation

by Stephen Donovan

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program will be getting underway again this year starting the first full week in February and ending the 12th of April 2024. This IRS-supported FREE tax service is offered on a non-discriminatory basis without consideration of race, religion, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. We give special attention to those with low or moderate incomes and/or aged 60 and older. Taxpayers do NOT have to be retired or a member of AARP.

Tax-Aide sites in southwest Cuyahoga County are located at:

Parma Powers Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6996 Powers Blvd., Parma, OH 44129. Appointments on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Parma Powers Library and complete sign-up book or call 440-885-5362.

Brook Park United Methodist Church, 6220 Smith Road, Brook Park, OH 44142. Appointments on Thursdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Call 216-676-4738 Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM for an appointment.

Middleburg Heights Branch, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 16699 Bagley Road, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. Appointments on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. To make an appointment, go to the Middleburg Heights Library and complete sign-up book or call 440-234-3600.

Broadview Heights Community and Recreation Center (re-opened site), 9543 Broadview Road,

Broadview Heights, OH 44147. Appointments on Fridays from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. To make an appointment, call 440-526-4074.

Strongsville Methodist Church, 13500 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, OH 44136. Appointments on Mondays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. To make an appointment go to the Church and complete sign-up book or call (440) 238-6135.

Appointments will be taken starting the first week of January 2024. Availability of appointments is subject to the status of the Covid-19 pandemic. We anticipate using both in-person and drop-off (necessitating a return visit to the site to finalize return) processes to prepare returns.

Please bring to your appointments copies of your Federal and Ohio 2022 returns; 2023 forms W-2, 1099, and 1098; social security cards or statements for all persons on your tax return; a picture ID (i.e., a valid driver's license) for you and your spouse, and any IRS or Ohio Tax correspondence.

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
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Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

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Parma Christian Church

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Calvary Lutheran Church

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PERSPECTIVE

A Disgrace To The American Presidency

by Lee Kamps

I have a DVD from PBS that is a brief biography of the men who served as President of the United States. The most recent President featured in this series is Barack Obama. The introduction to this series states “the office of the President of the United States was created by the constitution to allow the people to choose the person to be the Chief Executive and head of state for the nation.” It goes on to say, “the Presidents of the United States have reflected the people’s desires and wishes for the nation with the times.

So far there have been forty-five men (we have yet to elect a woman as President) who have occupied that office since George Washington became President in 1789. At that time, George Washington was the unanimous choice to lead the new nation. He fulfilled that office with dignity and in 1796, he decided to step down after serving two four-year terms as President. Since then, we have elected forty-four men to that office as the role of the President has changed considerably since the time of George Washington.

So, I ask; what does the election of Donald Trump mean for the nation and how does that election reflect the values and beliefs of the people of the United States? Donald Trump is only the second President elected to a second nonconsecutive term as President. The first was Grover Cleveland who became the 24th President after being elected to that second term in 1892. His second term was a disaster as the economy collapsed with the “Panic of 1893” that was the worst economic crisis since the “Panic of 1837 and the Great Depression of the 1930s.

His second term was marked by riots from workers and labor unions began to organize workers and there

were strikes. He became very unpopular. His Democratic party lost control of congress in the 1894 mid-term elections, and he became a pariah in his own party.

One of the most comprehensive rankings of the Presidents is the quadrennial CSPAN ranking of the Presidents that was last done in 2021. The latest one should be released later this year and will include Joe Biden as well as Donald Trump. This presidential ranking uses several metrics such as foreign relations, managing the economy, public persuasion, relations with congress, moral authority, ensuring equal justice for all, crisis management, vision or setting an agenda and performance in the context of the times. This ranking is done by a panel of presidential historians, men and women who have dedicated years to the study of the American presidency.

Donald Trump was ranked at #41, or fourth from the bottom. He was just above Franklin Pierce, Andrew Johnson and James Buchanan at the bottom. James Buchanan served from 1857 until 1861 and when he left office, the nation was on the brink of a bloody four-year Civil War.

At the top of the rankings, there is no surprise. Ranked in the “top ten” are (in order) are Abraham Lincoln (who succeeded James Buchanan and was succeeded by Andrew Johnson), George Washington, Franklin D Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman, Thomas Jefferson, John F Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama.

A preview of the 2025 version shows Donald Trump solidly ranked as dead last as the worst President of all at #45. It shows Joe Biden raked at #14. In the 2025 ranking,

No doubt Donald Trump’s ranking at the bottom in the preview of the



2025 survey has to do with his conviction in the New York trial. He is the only former President to be convicted of a felony after leaving office. In addition, he was facing criminal charges (since delayed) of inciting a riot by his supporters that stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, with the intention of preventing the constitutional certification of his electoral loss in the 2020

presidential election. It is my belief that those two actions, a felony conviction and his attempt to prevent the peaceful transfer of power following his electoral defeat should have permanently disqualified him from ever holding a public office, especially the Presidency.

The presidency should not be a “get out of jail free” Monopoly card. Any person who could not obtain or keep a license to sell insurance or securities or pass a background check to become an adult advisor to a youth group should not be allowed to become President of the United States. I am wondering just what those men who wrote the constitution, the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence might be thinking if they can look down on the nation that they founded right now.

Donald Trump is a disgrace to the office of the President of the United States. Does his election really reflect on the people of the nation? What does the election of Donald Trump say about what the American people think and believe?

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VIEWPOINTS

Parma Heights Library Is An Important Landmark On Route 42

by Emery Pinter

The Parma Heights Library might be one of the most important historic buildings in Parma Heights. While Route 42 is more often thought of as a major thoroughfare connecting various smaller towns, these areas offer a variety of experiences that highlight the cultural, historical, and natural beauty of the regions it passes through. The old library would be the perfect place to host the Parma Heights Historical Society, and a teen/senior center. A museum can increase our sense of well-being, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and become a destination spot for locals and visitors.

OK, is this idea too far-fetched? Could the considerable talents of both the historical society and Parma Heights residents be lashed together to finally bring this important project to reality? There are millions of dollars in grants available and community residents that want to donate.

U.S. Route 42 (US 42) is a significant east-west highway in the eastern United States, spanning approximately 350 miles. It begins in Louisville, Kentucky, and ends in Cleveland, Ohio. Unlike many U.S. highways, US 42 does not extend across the country and serves as a regional connector. Entering Ohio, the highway moves through cities like Cincinnati, where you will encounter Fountain Square with historic fountains and a great spot to experience local events and food. U.S. Route 42 also passes through historic downtown Lebanon, a charming town with preserved 19th-century buildings and shops. Yellow Springs, a quirky town known for its artistic vibe, and eco-conscious community with the nearby Glen Helen Nature Preserve. Cedarville is a beautiful small town originally settled by Irish and Scottish immigrants in 1799, and is the home to Cedarville University, which has a nice campus and lake that are open to public visits. And one can't forget about Mansfield, Ashland, and Medina. Then there is the Parma Heights Library on US 42 where Parma Heights was the first municipality in Ohio to pass a bond issue specifically for the construction of a library, and the library is the perfect example of the architectural style known as Google (pronounced ghoo-gee, with two hard G's).

It might be a history that maybe is not as important as the bigger



histories that are taught, but nonetheless, it is important to many who live here. It's time for the city to conduct a full survey of its historic resources to understand where to dedicate resources and attention. To my knowl-

edge, it has never been done. Every city has a different attitude about saving historic structures. The community's interest is shown with 400 signatures to re-purpose the library. Among preservationists, some of whom use social

media to ping others there's much optimism. Parma Heights needs a city preservation plan. It would be a community endeavor to look at priorities in Parma Heights so that we're being very thoughtful and energetic about preservation, not just admiring old photos on Facebook. Politicians and the public have to make preservation a priority. Everyone should learn about how historic preservation ordinances should change. Developers could also learn more about the incentives that can make rehabbing historic buildings more attractive financially.

Buildings renewed and reused keep Parma Heights unique character alive! Preservation isn't always about grand landmarks. Many not-so-glamorous buildings have been saved around Cuyahoga County, preserving not only our structures but our sense of place. In saving older buildings, we preserve much more than bricks and mortar. We preserve our collective memory of the places that add meaning to our lives.

Always In The Spotlight:

Lessons In Leadership For Athletes On And Off The Field

by Anthony Prusak

In today's world of smartphones and social media, athletes at every level are under constant scrutiny. Whether it's in public, on video, or through social media posts, your actions and words are always being watched. This reality has prompted me to teach my 18-year-old twin sons an essential lesson: when you're out in public, never do anything to embarrass yourself, your family, or the institution you represent.

A recent incident during a wildcard game highlighted the risks of poor judgment. A Philadelphia Eagles fan was caught on video verbally abusing a female Packers fan. The video went viral, leading to public outrage and costing the individual his job. It's a stark reminder that one moment of misconduct can have lasting consequences.

As athletes, my sons understand they represent not just themselves but their school, their team, and their family. They are also role models for the next generation. At every wrestling tournament, basketball game, or football match, younger kids look up to high school athletes as heroes. They



cheer for their victories, copy their behavior, and eagerly line up for photos with their idols.

One shining example is Bo Bassett from Bishop McCort, a premier high school wrestler who carries himself with respect and humility. Fans flock to him for photos, and he consistently demonstrates the kind of character that inspires those around him.

Athletes must remember that everyone is watching—and that includes their presence on social media. A careless post, offensive comment, or inappropriate video can tarnish your reputation in an instant. Social media

is a powerful tool, but it's also a permanent record of who you are.

The message is clear: always maintain composure, avoid foul language, show respect, and think before you post. Being a great athlete is about more than just winning; it's about leadership, character, and setting a positive example.

For students and professionals alike, the challenge is to rise above the noise, embody excellence, and inspire those who look up to you. In today's world, how you conduct yourself—on the field, in public, and online—defines your legacy.

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PARMA OBSERVER

A Clinical Trial Gave Me Hope Again:
One Patient's Perspective

by Ruth Sensale

Cleveland Joe Jones was just in second grade when he first developed the painful, scaly lesions of plaque psoriasis. Mild in the beginning, the skin condition grew more severe each year, and Joe’s discomfort and self-consciousness skyrocketed. “My hands, scalp, elbows, toes, and knees were the worst. I could hide some of my psoriasis with clothes and hats, but my hands were harder to conceal. People would stare at them, making me feel uncomfortable and embarrassed, and ask if it was poison ivy or contagious,” Jones shared.

A never-ending series of failed treatments and doctors’ appointments made Joe pessimistic and feel like a psoriasis prisoner throughout adulthood and into his early 40s. Until he learned about a new clinical trial at Apex Dermatology and Skin Surgery Center and decided to make a call. “I tried everything to control my psoriasis over the years, but nothing worked. It was discouraging, and I lost hope. I saw an ad for a plaque psoriasis clinical trial at Apex and felt like I had nothing to lose, so I signed up,” Jones said. “I finally started to see and feel relief for the first time in over 30 years.”

From the beginning, Jones said his experience at Apex Dermatology was

different from other clinical studies he participated in prior. The staff seemed genuinely concerned about his health and took extended time to review his history and get to know him personally. His first appointment with CEO and founder Dr. Jorge Garcia-Zuazaga renewed his hope for relief. “Dr. Garcia spent time learning about me and my past battles with psoriasis. He also wanted to know me as a person – not just my skin condition. I was encouraged by this difference,” Jones added.

Over the past five months, Jones



Painful, itchy plaque psoriasis

completed the study and has seen a dramatic change in his skin. He no longer suffers from pain or embarrassment. He also said that Dr. Garcia are working to see if Jones’ time in the trial can be extended since he is doing so well with his treatments. Jones appreciates the extra effort and commitment to him and others suffering with psoriasis.

Dr. Garcia explains that clinical trials can be especially impactful for participants who are not responding to current treatments, do not have health insurance, or cannot afford prescribed medications

“Apex clinical trial participants receive free treatment, extremely attentive healthcare from our entire clinical research team, a stipend for their involvement, and often, complimentary care after the trial for a period of time. More importantly, they are contributing to the bigger picture by helping others suffering from the same disease to have access to newer, more effective treatments,” Dr. Garcia added.

Jones agrees and says this is why he joined the trial. He also encourages others with unresponsive health conditions to be part of the solutions.

“Of course, you feel hesitant of the unknown at first, but the personal reward and greater good can be life changing. I think about other 8-year-olds suffering

from psoriasis and remember that pain. If I can help even one child not have to experience that, I can handle any obstacles from a clinical study,” Jones stated.

If you are interested in participating in the plaque psoriasis or other Apex Dermatology clinical trials, visit research@apexskin.com or call 440-443-0440, Ext 10015. You can also sign up for future studies by filling out a form on the website.

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

Thank you to Cuyahoga Arts & Culture for awarding a matching grant to Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Inc. for 2025. This grant helps to finance the Art For The Fun Of It, their low cost or free beginner classes and workshops throughout the year. February kicks off 2025 with two 4 week classes. Intro to Knitting with Jane Zampedro, offered on Mondays 1 to 3pm, starting February

17. Students will explore casting on, different stitches, blocking and joining. The second is Embellished Embroidery with Jan McAndrew, offered on Thursdays from noon to 3pm starting February 20. Learn basic colorful embroidery stitches while creating a fabric needle holder and a fabric book of embroidery stitches. Embellish with sequins, beads and other materials. Both are offered at The Parma Art Center, 7335 Ridge Rd (inside City

of Parma Parks & Recreation Center). Both cost \$10 per person for 4 weeks of instruction, plus supplies are included. Class size is limited to offer individualized attention. Classes fill up fast, register now by emailing kathrynmabin@att.net. A real bargain!

Robert Pohm (Bob), member of Parma Arts & Greenbriar Art League is in Paris France at Chateau d’Orquevaux happily painting for two weeks. Watch for a feature story when he returns from this fabulous, once in a lifetime adventure.

in Pepper Pike through February 14th. Sue’s assemblage Any Landing, is on exhibit at Valley’s Art Center’s Student & Faculty Show through March 6th.

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. February 10th and the 24th. 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.

Coming March 2 at CCPL Powers Branch Spring Show will feature abstract artist Gary Nass, photography portraits by Ukranian artist Katerina Lapyhina, and fiber artists Joanna Ellis with her quilt portraits. All three are local artists.

Valley Forge Craft Show Returns

by Jodi Moriarty

Saturday March 15th marks the 26th Spring Craft Fair at Valley Forge High School.

Each spring the Cross Country and Swim teams host this annual event; the primary fundraiser for both teams. All proceeds are then funneled to support the athletes in their conditioning and training endeavors.

For Cross Country runners, the biggest investment is shoes. A cheap pair of shoes will wear down quickly and can result in injury, including hip, knee, back, and foot problems. These athletes run well over 350 miles each season; any injury that takes them off the course affects their ability to compete.

Every August, a shoe fitting is coordinated at a local running store. There, athletes are measured and fitted for a proper running shoe. Funds raised at this Craft Fair are used to offset the cost by giving each runner a stipend to apply towards the purchase of new shoes. This allows the athletes to affordably obtain the high quality shoes required for their rigorous training regime.

The Swim Team is typically composed of athletes fairly new to the sport. Of these, many have never swam competitively, making training a more

complicated and challenging task, but it is a challenge they willingly take head on!

Every day school is open, these swimmers are in the pool, but swimming is a much more technical sport and utilizing specialized equipment greatly benefits their ability to effectively train. Funds raised will go directly towards the purchase of fins, cords, and paddles which are necessary to help our swimmers improve their technical skills.

Wearing fins while training can improve a swimmers' kick and stroke technique, ankle flexibility, and endurance. Stretch cord training enhances swim-specific strength, conditions specific muscle groups, and mimics swim movements while paddles develop power, speed, efficiency, and build muscle.

Due to constant use and exposure to harsh chemicals, these items must be replaced on a regular schedule. Funds raised will allow proper maintenance and replacement of training equipment.

The student athletes will be manning concessions, helping vendors set up, assisting in take down, and moving equipment, as well as taking food orders and making deliveries to tables. These tasks help the students gain interpersonal communication and social skills that will benefit them now

Sean Mabin, Parma Art member, has three pieces in the Flora: 3rd Anniversary Juried Exhibition at White Rabbit Gallery, 571 Tuscarawas Ave in Barberton, Ohio through February 24th.

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

Sue Holick-Bade, Parma Art member, had three photographs accepted into the 9th Annual Black & White Show at Stella’s Art Gallery. She was awarded 3rd place in this juried exhibition. Her pencil drawing, Looking Through The Keyhole is on display at the Orange Art Center’s Student Show

Laurel Garden Club To Dissolve After 71 Years

continued from page ?

of Brooklyn and its surroundings. A museum features eleven rooms filled with furniture and artifacts dating from the 1830s to the mid-1900s, including memorabilia related to the Elvis Presley performance at Brooklyn High School in 1955, as well as a library dedicated

and in their future endeavors.

If you are interested in reserving a table, or for more information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyForgeSpringCraftShow/> or email vfspringcraftshow@gmail.com

to local and state history. The Society also offers quilting and rag rug loom demonstrations, and sells crafts, gifts, and herb products in its gift shop. The Society is a non-profit organization supported by membership fees, donations, and fundraising events. <http://www.brooklynhistoricalsociety.org>

For more information on the Laurel Garden Club, please visit LaurelGardenClub.org. For more information, or to share comments or questions regarding the dissolution process, the distribution of funds, or the club’s legacy, please contact Andris Celcherts, 216-548-7644.

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