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# PARMA Observer

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## Parma, Parma Heights Police Train To Administer Overdose-Reversing Drug

by CJ Sheppard

The latest lifesaving weapon in the arsenal of area police departments is deployed with a small atomizer, courtesy of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. UH Parma Medical Center's EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute is training police officers from Parma and Parma Heights to administer Nasal Narcan, a powerful pharmaceutical drug that reverses the effects of heroin and other opioids in minutes. Each officer and sergeant who patrols in these cities will be armed with Narcan, following passage of Ohio House Bill 170 last year that permits police officers and lay people to administer the opioid-reversing drug naloxone (commonly known as Narcan).

"Police, by nature, are spread out over the city and we can oftentimes get to the victim first," said Parma Police Chief Robert Miller. "We are always called for overdoses, yet we have never had the ability to save a life like this, so I expect it to be very beneficial for our communities."

Heroin and prescription opioids like Vicodin and oxycodone pose the gravest drug threat, both in Ohio and across the country, according to Joseph M. Pinjuh of the Heroin Action Committee, comprised of federal and local law enforcement officials and health care professionals throughout the U.S. Department of Justice, Northern District of Ohio. In both 2013 and 2014, more people died from heroin overdoses in Cuyahoga County than in Los Angeles County, the most populous county in the nation at 9.8 million people. Over the past eight years, 55 heroin deaths occurred in Parma and 14 took place in Parma Hts. Without efforts to allow administration of Narcan more widely, it is expected that these already high overdose numbers throughout the county could be 50 percent higher, Mr. Pinjuh said.

"The Heroin Action Committee is committed to making Narcan more available

to police throughout the state to help stem the tide of the heroin overdose crisis facing our community," said Mr. Pinjuh, an Assistant U.S. Attorney who focuses on narcotics cases.

"I can't stress how impor-

tant it is for the police, as first responders, to have access to Narcan. Oftentimes, the police are on the scene of an overdose well before EMS and sometimes to the exclusion

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Joe Stefanko, an instructor with UH Parma Medical Center's EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute, shows Parma Police Chief Robert Miller, right, how to administer an overdose-reversing drug to a suspected overdose victim.

## Parma Citizen Of The Month Gets A Surprise



Nick Poghen is surprised by his cousin Luke.

by Jeannie Roberts

Nicholas Poghen was selected to be the Parma Mayor's Citizen of the Month for April because his quick thinking during a traffic incident saved a fellow citizen's life. But Nick couldn't make it to a City Council meeting to be honored for his award until May, so the presentation itself was delayed.

Good thing, because Nick's cousin Luke was home on leave from Fort Benning,



Paratrooper Luke Poghen and his cousin Nick, the April Citizen of the Month.

GA, where he is a paratrooper with the US Army's 82nd Airborne. While Nick was being honored for his part in taking action to help a woman who was in medical distress, Luke was waiting behind a closed door until his moment to come out and surprise his cousin.

Nick was being honored because after the driver in the lane next to him had a seizure

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Adorable Baby Contest.



Seven Hills Has Talent!

## City Of Seven Hills 2015 Home Days Festival July 24-26

by Kathy Holland

Welcome to the 2015 City of Seven Hills Home Days! The City of Seven Hills is ready to host the 42st annual Home Days Festival, July 24th, 25th, and 26th. Held behind City Hall, 7325 Summitview Drive. Seven Hills Home Days always has fabulous food, riveting rides, and magnificent musical entertainment. This year promises to be equally entertaining! The area surrounding City Hall will be packed with food, games, rides, vendors and various musical performances over the three day event. Fireworks, sponsored by Saber Healthcare Group are scheduled for Friday night at 9:45PM. Opening ceremonies with Mayor Dell'Aquila and VFW Post 7609, are Friday July 24th at 6PM. Home Days hours are Friday 6-11PM, Saturday Noon-11PM, Sunday Noon-6PM.

All are welcome to participate in the many activities at Home Days including the Adorable Baby Contest, Classic Car Show, Dog Show, Garden Club Flower Show, Historical Society Display, the Kid Zone for Make & Take crafts, the traditional Senior Drawing on Sunday afternoon, the Seven Hills Has Talent! Talent



Show, the SHFD Beer Garden and more! Seven Hills Home Days is indeed the place to be the last weekend in July.

Broadview Animal and Bird Hospital, Diamond Dance Center, O'Reilly Auto Parts and VII Hills Early Childhood PTA, have generously provided sponsorships as well as their time and talents. All in all, there is truly something for everyone! Home Days is special because Seven Hills, a community of close families and friends, is willing to work together to create a fun festival weekend for every person to enjoy. City Hall supports this effort as well as applauds the countless volunteer efforts of many individuals, organizations and local business

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Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

Recently, the founding members of the Parma Youth Commission completed their first year of service and leadership in our community. I was honored to serve as their advisor and felt that an update to the community was in order. Therefore, this month’s column is dedicated to reporting on and commending the members of the Commission for their fine service to Parma and its residents.

The Parma Youth Commission

was proposed to me by Mayor Timothy DeGeeter. When he asked me to lead it up, I immediately agreed and I am very happy that I did. In fact, I believe I got out of the experience as much as the teens involved did. They spent the last year visiting leaders throughout the community, raising funds, serving residents and in a philanthropic endeavor.

The hardest part about being advisor for the Commission was trying to get all of the members together for meetings. Ranging from 9th through 12 graders, I found that these young men and

women were already very engaged in their schools and community before joining the Commission. From sports to clubs to community service involvement, I continue to be impressed with how busy they keep themselves and how much they do to prepare themselves for success and serve others. They are incredible role models to their peers and many adults.

Many of our meetings were spent visiting local businesses and talking with local leaders. For instance, the members met with Mayor DeGeeter, Law Director Timothy Dobeck and his staff and other leaders at City Hall, including their ward council representatives. The members also toured University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, the Shoppes at Parma and the General Motors Plant. Much time was spent with the management of these organizations teaching the students about what they do and plans for the future, as well as answering their many in-depth questions.

We are especially thankful to the Shoppes at Parma for donating bricks from the former May Company building to the Commission. The members sold the bricks to raise funds for Commission expenses. In fact, there are still a few bricks available. If you are interested they are \$20 and include a small commemorative plaque. Please call me at 440-884-0489 or e-mail me at councilmanbrennan@msn.com if you have questions about the bricks. You may stop by the Parma City Council office at City Hall to purchase a brick during regular business hours.

I am most proud of the members of the Commission for their philanthropic work. The members took part in the Magnified Giving program in which the Magnified Giving organization donates \$1,250 to groups of students in order to enhance their understand of and the importance of philanthropy. The students spent several meetings learning about philanthropy. Next, they identified needs in the community. They then discussed and agreed upon their priority areas of need in the community, including youth and families, literacy, animals and hunger. As a result, they selected charities based in Parma that meet these needs and invited them to complete their grant application. Once the applications were completed, the students invited in John Visnauskas from All Faiths Pantry and Kira Karabanovs from the Parma Area Family Collaborative for interviews.

During the interviews the members of the Commission asked very pertinent questions of John and Kira. Following the interviews came the hard part – the members had to decide who to award their grant to. They struggled for a short time to make a decision. I was thoroughly impressed with the depth of their discussion. They debated the importance of each group, the impact each has on the community, their budgets, etc. I was brought to tears when one member suggested that they donate \$1,000 to both groups, adding that they could take \$750 from the funds they raised selling bricks to make up the difference. All agreed immediately that this was the right thing to do. I am happy to report that John and Kira were invited to a recent Parma City Council meeting where each was presented with a “big” check for \$1,000 from the members

of the Commission. The members of the Commission were also recognized by the Mayor and City Council at the meeting.

Parma Youth Commission enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year is now underway. If you or someone you know is interested, please visit the City of Parma website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) to find out more and to download an application. In closing, I want to commend the members of the inaugural Parma Youth Commission for making it a successful first year! All of you make Parma proud!



Parma Youth Commission presenting checks to the Parma Area Family Collaborative and All Faiths Pantry in Parma City Council Chambers on May 18.

Farmers’ Market is Coming to Seven Hills!

by Kathy Holland

Make The City of Seven Hills Farmers’ Market your Thursday destination. A fresh air market featuring neighborhood farmers, producers, artisans & vendors who grow and/or produce their own goods. Happy, Healthy, Homegrown; the Seven Hills Farmers’ Market is a convenient stop to get all your fresh, seasonal produce and more. Each growing season will be represented by a variety of farmers with locally grown fruits and vegetables, annuals, perennials, herbs, meats, eggs, baked goods, handmade and unique artisan gifts. The focus of the City of Seven Hills Farmers’ Market is to provide a place for farmers,

backyard gardeners and home food producers a place to connect with the wider community. The City of Seven Hills Farmers’ Market will also feature health education, cooking demonstrations, and other activities. Please join us, rain or shine, on Thursdays beginning June 18th through October 8th from 4-7PM on the Recreation Center Patio. 7777 Summitview Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio 44131. Please contact Jen Burger [jburger@sevenhillsohio.org](mailto:jburger@sevenhillsohio.org) (216) 524-6262 with questions or if you wish to apply for a stand. The City of Seven Hills Farmers’ Market; Growing community by inspiring healthy, sustainable, abundant living!

Parma Dog Park Fundraiser At Flyers Bar & Grill

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

The Parma Area Dog Park Association (PADPA) is hosting a fundraiser on June 20 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Flyers Bar & Grill, 6298 Pearl Road, Parma Heights, OH, 44130. All-you-can-eat pizza, wings, salad, wine and beer, plus a DJ. (Sorry, no dogs at this event.) Tickets \$25 at the door or contact Katie at (440) 746-5362. Check out our website at [ParmaDogPark.wix.com/main](http://ParmaDogPark.wix.com/main) to learn more and follow us on [Facebook.com/ParmaDogPark](https://www.facebook.com/ParmaDogPark) and [Twitter.com/ParmaDogPark](https://twitter.com/ParmaDogPark) to keep up with the latest developments.

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**Publisher**  
Daniel P. McCarthy

**Editor**  
Patty Knox  
[editorparmaobserver@yahoo.com](mailto:editorparmaobserver@yahoo.com)

**Design and Production**  
AGS Design

**Advertising Sales**  
440-884-7625

**Writers**

Sean Brennan  
Melanie Clink  
Mark Delaney  
Kathy Holland  
Lee Kamps  
Tricia Kuvinen  
Leo Lampeter  
Kenneth Lavelle  
Gene Lovasy  
Kathryn Mabin  
Jim Renacci  
Jeannie Roberts  
CJ Sheppard  
Stefan P. Stefaniuk  
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Daniel Taddeo

**Photography**  
Sean Brennan  
Tricia Kuvinen  
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# Health/Culture

## Hospital Auxiliary Holds Garage Sale On June 19

by CJ Sheppard

The Parma Hospital Auxiliary will hold a garage sale on June 19 to benefit patient care. The sale, held in the covered patio area outside the main entrance of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, will take place from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Members of the public can reserve tables for \$30 each and keep their own profits. Call the Auxiliary Office at 440-743-2372 for more information. Participants are responsible for set-up, pricing, take-down and staffing their tables.

## Full-time, Live-In Positions Available At Maggie’s Place



The Zechariah House in Parma

by Tricia Kuivinen

Maggie’s Place Ohio/The Zechariah House is seeking women who are willing to sacrifice a year of their lives to the service of our mothers and their infants. Full-time, live-in volunteers called MissionCorps members provide non-professional case management to the moms by helping them set personal goals, providing emotional support, accountability, helping them learn about life skills such as budgeting, job searching, how to utilize community resources, locating permanent housing and selecting a child care program. MissionCorps members receive a compensation package including room and board, health insurance and monthly stipend. Maggie’s Place homes provide safe housing, nourishing food, cloth-

ing, counseling, parenting preparation, employment readiness and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted, and may stay up to six months after their child’s birth. Maggie’s Place operates three homes in the Greater Phoenix, AZ area, as well as one in Cleveland, OH. We are seeking female applicants 21+ years who are interested in a July or August 2015 start date. For more information or if you would like to apply, please contact Amanda Ayala, Director of MissionCorps at missioncorps@maggiesplace.org. To learn more, visit our website at maggiesplace.org.



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter with leaders of the Shiva Vishnu Temple at their Free Health Clinic Event on May 17.

## Parma Mayor At Shiva Vishnu Temple

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter came to the Shiva Vishnu Temple to help kick off a Free Health Clinic Event there on May 17. Members of the temple organize an event in which medical professionals volunteer their time and expertise in an effort to diagnose and treat those with medical ailments of one kind or another. This involves setting up an effective triage


area, separate sections for screening and examination, and counseling patients on recommendations for further steps in the health process. The mayor seemed quite impressed at the level of commitment, organization and professionalism on display by all of those involved in this most worthwhile service. Go to the Parma Observer Facebook Page to see a video of this event.

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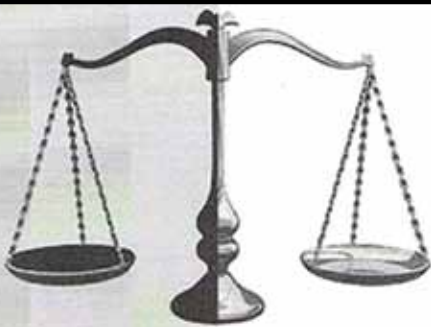
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## Perspective

# The Charter School Con Game

by Lee Kamps

Last month, my column focused on how some for-profit colleges are abusing the system by enrolling marginal students, then getting them government guaranteed student loans to finance their tuition and often few of those students complete the program. Then, those young adults are saddled with student loan debt to repay, but without any hope of a good job that could give them the money to repay those loans.

Since then, the California-based Corinthian Colleges have filed for bankruptcy and have closed their doors, leaving more than 16,000 students in the lurch. Most of those students have student loans that eventually will have to be repaid, but their college is closed and for many of those students, their credits may not transfer to other colleges or universities. One irony of this is that the executives and managers of the Corinthian Colleges can have the company's debts erased in bankruptcy; those students affected by the closure cannot have their student

loans discharged in bankruptcy.

But there are many independently operated charter schools that have sprung up recently in the state of Ohio. Many are operated as nonprofits. Some are operated by the public school district as an alternative. But some others are operated as for-profit organizations.

One such for-profit charter school organization is White Hat Management, a company that manages several charter schools throughout the nation. In Ohio, White Hat Management manages the Life Skills and Hope Academies. White Hat Management is headed by David Brennan from Akron, who is a tax attorney by trade. He has no background in education other than being head of White Hat Management. Yet he operates a large for-profit organization that is one of the largest charter school management companies in the nation.

The charter schools managed by White Hat Management are most often located in inner city neighborhoods and often in abandoned school buildings that were closed by the public schools either in cost cutting moves

or because the buildings were just plain old and needed a lot of maintenance. Many of the buildings housing White Hat's charter schools have been cited by the state for serious deficiencies including faulty heating and electrical systems and leaky windows and roofs.

Many of the charter schools have also been cited by the Ohio Department of Education for not having enough qualified teachers in the classrooms. The major fault is teachers not being fully certified in the subjects that they are teaching and many teachers lacking the required educational qualifications. Perhaps this explains why many of White Hat's charter schools rank in the lowest academic rankings in the state. Many of the charter schools score below the inner city public schools in academic rankings.

Perhaps one reason for this bad academic ranking and citations by the state for low teacher qualification is the fact that the charter schools operated by White Hat Management pay their teachers about 60% of what teachers in the public schools are paid. Many

"teachers" are also hired on a part-time basis so they are not eligible for health insurance and retirement plans. The charter schools do not participate in the state teacher's retirement or health insurance plan.

But perhaps the most insidious practice of White Hat Management is how they make use of generous political donations to get favorable legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly. For years, David Brennan has been one of the largest individual donors to the Ohio Republican party. During the 12 year period from 1995 until 2007, David Brennan and White Hat Management donated more than two million dollars to the Ohio Republican party. In return for those donations, White Hat Management received state voucher payments amounting to more than 290 million dollars for students attending their charter schools. That gravy train ended in 2007 when a Democrat, Ted Strickland was elected governor and the Democratic Party took control of the Ohio House of Representatives.

But now that the Republican Party controls practically the entire state government, White Hat Management lobbyists and donors have contributed mightily to the campaigns of key Republican officials. In return for those donations and as a result of their lobbyists, White Hat Management was able to receive additional state money for their "dropout prevention" charter schools when most of the students of those schools eventually drop out. Here is a post about this "gift" from the General Assembly to White Hat Management: <https://janresseger.wordpress.com/2014/06/20/in-ohio-political-contributions-yield-budget-gift-for-white-hats-david-brennan/>

White Hat Management is a closely held corporation so its financial records are not made public like those corporations that are publicly traded. Therefore, does anyone in the Ohio government actually inspect the books of White Hat Management to see how that state money is used? Since White Hat Management is a for-profit corporation, just how much profits are being generated and who is receiving those profits?

For-profit organizations in the educational business are not wrong per se, but if a for-profit (and even nonprofit organizations) are receiving our public money that we paid as taxes; then their financial documents and information should be made available to the public. Privately operated charter schools should be held to the same or even higher standards than the public school systems where they operate their schools. In addition, the Ohio Department of Education should be more aggressive in making sure that non-performing charter schools are closed. Students attending many of those charter schools are receiving some of your tax dollars that could be going to the public schools. If they have a better idea for education, then they should be required to prove it or close up.

## It's Time To Tackle The Debt

by Jim Renacci

At a time when our national debt is more than \$18 trillion, it is more important now than ever that Congress makes the tough but necessary decisions to get our country back on a path to fiscal sustainability.

That is why this past week, my friend, Rep. John Carney (D-DE), and I introduced the Budget Integrity Act. Several members of our Bipartisan Working Group joined us in putting forth this legislation. Our group has 26 members, half Democrats and half Republicans, and we meet once a week over breakfast to work on legislative solutions that both parties can agree on. Getting our country's fiscal house in order is one of them. We know we are headed down the wrong path, and most Republicans and Democrats agree that something must be done to get us to a place where we aren't spending more than we're taking in.

The Budget Integrity Act makes a series of changes to improve the federal budget process by requiring Congress to take into account the long-term conse-



quences of its spending decisions. This bill ties the budget to the debt limit, so that if Congress passes a budget that adds to the debt, the debt limit will be automatically raised by a corresponding amount. This will ensure that Congress' spending decisions are more closely tied to financial realities. Specifically,

it requires long-term cost estimates for legislation with a significant fiscal impact and requires the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to provide reports on revenue, deficits, and debt over 40 years. Additionally, it requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the effect of off-balance sheet liabilities.

The federal government has never produced a clean balance sheet. As a CPA and former businessman, it shocks me that the federal government operates year after year without knowing its true assets and liabilities. If a business operated the same way the federal government does, it would be forced to quickly close its doors. That is why last Congress, I introduced the Federal Financial Statement Transparency Act, bipartisan legislation that would lead to a more honest depiction of our nation's finances. If Members of Congress are provided with a true financial statement, we can more effectively and strategically tackle our country's growing debt.

The Budget Integrity Act, which is supported by many members of our Bipartisan Working Group, is simply commonsense. Each day, our country accrues more debt and if we don't act now to address it, our children and grandchildren will be forced to pay for it. Now is the time to tackle our debt.

If you need any additional information or need help with a federal agency, please visit my website at [renacci.house.gov](http://renacci.house.gov) or call my Washington office: (202) 225-3876, Wadsworth office: (330) 334-0040, or Parma office: (440) 882-6779. I also encourage you to subscribe to my Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages to get updates on my work in Washington and the 16th District.

## Parma Citizen Of The Month Gets A Surprise

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and swerved off the road, he called 911 and parked his car to help stabilize the situation until emergency help arrived. This wasn't as simple as it sounds, because the woman's car crashed, then before Nick could reach in and turn off the ignition, the woman came to, accidentally pressed the accelerator, drove across the street and crashed again. Nick followed and stayed with the

woman until help arrived.

Upon receiving his award, Nick said simply, "I just did what anyone would do. I wasn't the only one there. There were other people helping, and they deserve this just as much as I do." Congratulations, Nick. Go to the Parma Observer Facebook Page and see a video of this event, complete with the surprise entrance of cousin Luke.



# Parma Observer

## Democracy

by Leo Lampeter

What a wonderful concept, Democracy. You get everyone’s input on a particular issue and the majority decides the route to be taken. When a society gets to the point of being too large for all to have input, they select a representative to express their desires. This allows for less confusion and a streamlined approach for decision making. These representatives are elected by the majority and represent that section of society. Should there be opposing points of view, there can be another group to select a representative and oppose others of conflicting views. Now a peculiar thing occurs. In order to get people familiar with a message there is a need to communicate the point of view to as many voters as possible. This requires funds usually from those who support a particular point of view. Often the ones who provide the funding for a candidate will expect consideration beyond the concept of the vote, for the donation of whatever funds provided. This is how the democratic process starts to wobble a little. The favor may not be within the proper realm of decision making. Here is where the candidate feels obligated to appease the donor.

Can’t live with him can’t live without him. Some donors contribute to both sides so as to get favor from whomever is selected for a position, thus having all involved feeling obligated to the donor.

Another situation is that someone who has the best interest of the people at heart, and may be the most qualified, can’t hold office because he doesn’t have the financial backing necessary. Usually the party has input to determine who and how much money a candidate will receive. There may be a candidate who can’t even spell potato(e) who falls in line with a party philosophy and will get the support of the powers that be, and one who is of

the utmost intelligence and integrity is left out because he is to serve the public at large not just a portion of the public.

The larger the population gets, the less the individual input and the greater the power of those with financial strength have to control the political process. This is because the donor has the ear of the politician to favor his agenda. The politician needs the financial support and tries to appease the donor to keep his political career alive. The trap has sprung. The wealthy have input over the decision making process and the individual has limited choices in the selection of officials.

Now there are a limited number of individuals who can occupy an office because of financial constraints and unless you are raised with wealth or in the system of politicos you can’t be selected for office.

The question becomes; what happened to Democracy? Do you think you live in a democracy? Is the dream alive or do we live under the control of a select few? Just look at the mid-term voter turn out.

Along with the difficulties in a Democracy is, who has the obligation to distribute the monies that the working people give, and not always willingly, to the administrators. From this point of view, the monies primarily go to the elected officials to make sure they are taken care of long after they are gone from office. The most recent is a health care bill that goes on to federal politicians deaths, and don’t forget the pay raises that they “vote” for themselves. You think their thoughts are with veterans who fought for the country and were killed or wounded. Look at the V.A. Hospital situation. Would a politician put up with waiting months for his or her health care? Certainly the care of Veterans should be a priority at the very least ahead of the politicians. This is Democracy.

## City Of Seven Hills 2015 Home Days Festival July 24-26



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partners.

Mayor Richard Dell’Aquila says, “I invite everyone to visit Home Days for a weekend of fun and celebration unique to Seven Hills.”

Parking is extremely limited at the City Hall campus. For this reason, two shuttles will be running continuously all weekend from several locations. Feel free to park your car at the corner of Hillside and Broadview or the Broadview Road Giant Eagle parking lot. Planning to park at these locations and take the shuttle will help avoid traffic issues at City Hall and make your Home Days experience that much more enjoyable.

Food Vendor and Booth Vendor space is still available. This is a fantastic opportunity to get your company name and product in front of thousands of Home Days attendees! If you are planning to rent space at Home Days to promote your enterprise, please do so as soon as possible. All



booths are first come, first serve. Vendor Application can be found on our website, [www.sevenhillsohio.org](http://www.sevenhillsohio.org) on the main web page under City Forms or contact Tony Terry, (216) 525-6230 or [tterry@sevenhillsohio.org](mailto:tterry@sevenhillsohio.org).

## Police Train To Administer Drug

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of EMS. Without Narcan, the police would simply be helpless bystanders to the overdose death. Well-trained police officers, EMS professionals and even family members armed with this powerful overdose-reversing drug will

save lives.”

Chief Dan Teel of Parma Heights noted that HB 170 moved quickly through the state legislature once it became apparent how easy it would be for non-medical personnel to administer Narcan. Chief Miller was similarly impressed with the responsiveness of UH Parma President Nancy M. Tinsley and EMS Education in making the training and supplies available. UH Parma Medical Center supplies Narcan to the police departments and replenishes their supply after the drug is used.

“How do you not take a low-cost, easy-to-use solution to increase life-saving opportunities?” said EMS instructor Joe Stefanko, adding that Narcan has no negative effects on other medications or health conditions and could potentially save children and senior citizens who may accidentally overdose.

To reach UH Parma Medical Center’s EMS Training & Disaster Preparedness Institute, call 440-743-4970.

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# The Parma Observer

## HELP Is Here For Home Repair

by Mark DeLaney

As spring blooms around us, so does the arrival of home improvement season. Projects that have been contemplated and discussed all winter long are now ready to be addressed. Most Cuyahoga County residents don't know about an extra tool that they may have in their tool belt. That tool is called the Housing Enhancement Loan Program, or HELP loan for short. All residents in communities on the west side could be eligible for this great program. I also encourage contractors and

home improvement companies to learn about this program so they can share it with their clients.

How does it work? If the funds are being used for alteration, repair, maintenance or improvements, the homeowner applies at one of the participating banks: Key Bank, First Federal of Lakewood, Huntington National Bank, US Bank or PNC Bank. Most bankers are familiar with this program and can assist the applicant with the short amount of paperwork required to apply for the program. All of the banks

above offer a home secured version of this program. Additionally, Key Bank offers an unsecured home improvement loan with rate deduction as well.

If the application is approved based on the financial institutions normal lending criteria, the resident can get a home improvement loan at 3 percentage points below the normal bank rate. If the loan is for up to \$12,500, the term is for 5 years. If the loan is \$12,500 or above, the term is 10 years. The decrease is a fixed rate decrease. For example, a loan that the financial insti-

tution approves at 5% would get a 3% reduction to qualify for a fixed 2% rate.

The requirements are quite simple as well. Any bank fees are capped at \$175. There is no limit on the borrower's income. The property taxes on the home must be paid current. Single family, two family and multi-family dwellings are eligible as are owner occupied and investment dwellings. Single family and two family dwellings must have a tax value of less than \$250,000. There is no limit of multi-family dwellings.

Leaders across Cuyahoga County see the benefit in this program. Sean P. Brennan, Parma City Council President says "I have been a proponent of this program for years. I have always felt that it is a no brainer if someone is planning to finance home improvements. In fact, my wife and I took advantage of the program soon after we purchased our own home. My advice is to shop the banks involved in the program and go with the one that has the lowest rate."

Once the loan is in place your city has the responsibility by ordinance to monitor the work on your home. You are required to do the following: Contact the building department or have

## Parma Run-Walk For Pierogies Celebrates Fifth Year



by Sean Brennan

It's time to go out to purchase a new pair of running or walking shoes to break them in for the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center's Fifth Annual Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies coming up on Sunday, July 5 at 8:30 am. My co-director, Gary Uveges, and our team of volunteers have been working hard to make this year's event even more memorable than ever. We are fortunate to have the continued support of Cuyahoga Community College's (CCC) Western Campus (11000 West Pleasant Valley Road) who will be hosting us again this year. The flat

course has been the PR of many a local 5k runners. Walkers will enjoy the 3.1 mile or 1 mile courses.

The family friendly event features something for all ages, including entertainment, visits from local sports team mascots, plenty of drinks and snacks, t-shirts, loads of door prizes and many other goodies for participants. Of course, all participants will enjoy pierogies courtesy of Parma's own Perla's Homemade Delights (5380 State Road) and the Little Polish Diner (5772 Ridge Road). Last year we hosted well over 800 and are hoping to top 1,000 for the first time this time around.

The top male and female will each receive a prize package, as well as the exclusive Golden Pierogie Award. The top three males and females in several age groupings will win golden pierogie awards.

To sign up visit [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com). The cost to participate is \$20 before July 1, \$25 on the day of the event. Ages 11 and under only pay \$10. Proceeds from this year's event will benefit several charities, including the American Cancer Society's Parma Area Relay for Life, the CCC Scholarship Foundation, the Parma Animal Shelter, All Faiths Pantry, Parma Girl Scouting and the Parma City Schools Adult Basic Literacy Education (A.B.L.E.) program. So, come on out and have fun, enjoy some Parma pierogies and feel good about helping some great causes.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 44-884-0489 or e-mail me at [councilmanbrennan@msn.com](mailto:councilmanbrennan@msn.com).

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# The Parma Art Scene

## Artist Of The Month Noah Manns

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma is home to a great many talented individuals, artists and craftsmen, both professional and amateur, who specialize in a variety of mediums. This article is the twelfth in a series which will showcase a Parma area artist and introduce you to many of your talented neighbors.

Noah Manns  
Noah Manns is a young artist with a really big smile, and he has good reason to smile. Noah is a third



Noah Manns at Art Exploration Class.

grade student at John Muir Elementary School in Parma. Ms. Szeremet, and Ms. Pavlus are his third grade teachers. They entered his poster in the Planet Aid, Earth Day Art Contest. Planet Aid collects used clothing and shoes and recycles them, which helps to reduce the emission of CO2 and other gases that contribute to global warming. Planet Aid collects over 100 million pounds of clothes and shoes a year. Their bright yellow recycling donation boxes can be seen throughout the area.

I am very happy to announce that Noah's poster won First Place for the

Third Grade Category in Northeast Ohio, in this national competition. Wow! What an accomplishment! The theme was "It's Our Turn To Lead". The artwork was judged on creativity, artistry, originality, and relevance to the theme. Planet Aid's John Kenny and Dan Deluca awarded his third grade class with a pizza party, and Noah won a gift certificate to an arts and crafts store.

Ms. Szeremet, John Muir third grade teacher, stated, "I think art is such an essential outlet for children to explore their feelings and emotions toward life in general, in and out of the classroom. Students of all levels see and embrace opportunities to explore areas of success and growth. I find students yearn for ways to express themselves, structured in a classroom, or within free time, which enables them to be themselves and enjoy." Ms. Szeremet also said that Noah finds ways in both writing and art to express himself. "His writing and art enable connections that invoke realistic and comforting feelings. We are really proud of him here at John Muir."

Noah also attends an after school art class called "Art Exploration" hosted by the Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Mr. Sean Mabin, who is certified to teach grades K through 12, is the instructor. He believes in a discipline based art education, incorporating art history and current events as they relate to the class project. Noah really loves to come to class on Wednesday's after school. He told me Mr. Mabin taught him to draw buildings in perspective, and recently he learned how to draw the bay windows you see in his poster. These classes are small in size, and very affordable, which allows for more individualized attention.



Planet Aid's representatives awarding Noah his gift certificate.

Art is an important part in our children's lives. It teaches them to respect themselves and others, to experiment with materials, to learn from their mistakes, to appreciate the beauty in every day things, to see things from a different point of view, to be innovative, observe, persevere, and most importantly to find their voice through the creative process. And

especially for Noah, it put a big smile on his face.

If you are an amateur or professional artist, living in the Parma area, or know of someone who is, and would like to be featured as an artist of the month, please contact me by email at [kathrynabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynabin@att.net).

## The Month Of May - Parma Arts



Cocktails & Canvas - May 19, 2015

by Kathryn Mabin

### May 16, 2015 Medley of Arts Show & Sale –

This year the annual Medley of Arts, hosted by Parma Area Fine Arts Council, had selected pieces from 24 local artists, in five categories, plus a display from the High On Dolls Club, which was recently on display at the IX Center's National Sewing Expo. The event was free and open to the public. Best In Show was awarded to Laurie Sak from Great Lakes Wood Carvers for her Welsh Spoons. The First Place Winners were: Painting-Emery Bogardy, water-colorist for his Covered Bridge. Photography- Anthony DeMarco for his Study in Blue. Three-Dimensional- Laurie Sak for Welsh Spoons. Graphics-Michelle Behal for wood burning of Howling Alone. Jewlery-Kathy Mabin for Summer Wedding. Parma High student, Carol Molek won the People's Choice Award for her abstract oil painting, The Heathers. Childrens art work was also on display by Tommy Sarlog, Hope & Noah Manns, and Aiden Sark. Selected pieces will be on display in the lobby at Parma City Hall in June.

### May 19, 2015 Cocktails & Canvas –

Polish Village Community Development Corporation and Parma Area Fine Arts Council have partnered with the Local Tavern to present a series of classes. The first held on May 19th at Local Tavern was definitely a success. A small group of locals met to paint an acrylic painting, have a lot of laughs, and drink a few drinks. This is a beginners class and all are welcome. Tuesday's class was taught by qualified acrylics instructor, Michelle Behal, President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council. Included in the \$25 per person fee, was supplies and two free drinks. Local Tavern, at 5513 Pearl Road, offers fresh food, quality cocktails, genuine good service, and reasonable prices. Their motto is "Tavern fresh" with a "rock-n-roll meets art gallery vibe." Participants took home their very own acrylic painting. These mini art workshops are popping up all over town. The difference here is the net proceeds benefit the community and are not operated by a franchise. Additional classes will be held June 2nd, and June 16th, from 7 to 9pm. Contact Kathy Mabin at (440)843-  
**continued on page 10**



Noah Manns, Ms. Pavlus and Planet Aid's representative at John Muir Elementary.

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Perspective

Parma Heights  
Civil War Letter

by Bob Stilwell  
Letter from Taylor E. Stroud  
notifying Asa Emerson of George's  
Condition. Date: Camp of the Provost  
Guard May 21, 1864.

Dear Uncle: I now take this opportunity to write to you a few lines to let you know how the boys are. Your son, George is dangerously wounded through the bowels. I do not think he can live very long. He has gone to Fortress Monroe this morning. Also Oscar is wounded in the right leg below the knee. Sgt. Emmons is wounded in the side and right arm, also Lieut. C.E. Minn is wounded in the head. I think you had better be on the lookout for George; he said himself he cannot live long. He wants you to settle his business at home and draw his back pay from the government. He wants his body sent back home. He says he cannot live and he feels very bad about his father and mother. I was down to see him last night and stayed as long as I could with him. I think you had better come and see him. perhaps you will get word about him before this reaches you. I hope he may live through it.

We have been fighting here for the past two weeks and are still at it yet every day and almost every night cannonading all the time. I hope you can see George before he dies. He would tell you what he wants better than I can. The rest of the boys are well. Orlando, Charley Ames and myself are well, and the Regt. is out to the best works. We have had some very hard fighting since we have been here. I feel so bad that I hardly know what to do. I would like to have went with George and the rest



of the boys to help take care of them, but I could not go. He said that they would get a chaplain to write to you and I think you will get all of the particulars. The last thing he said to me that he wanted his body sent home if it cost two thousand dollars. I hope you will try to get to him. Please give my respects to your folks and others for yourself. Please excuse my poor writing for I have written this in a hurry. Please write soon, your affectionate Nephew, Taylor E. Stroud.

That same day George's last words, before dying were. "Tell my friends that I died at my post for my Country." Captain George Emerson Company G of the 67th Regiment, Ohio Voluntary Infantry was killed at the battle of Bermuda Hundred, Virginia May 21, 1864.

Life

by Melanie Clink

a color is born today  
born into a tree  
into a leaf  
into your eyes  
and, that color is, a natural color  
it is made from the life of a creator  
and, to every color, there is life  
without the life...the color would die

Alone

by Melanie Clink  
a bird  
it is silent as it sits on the  
telephone wire  
its shape is like a  
polished stone  
one lone bird taking time out, to take  
its time  
alone  
as the orange sun sets in,  
the west.  
although all of the other birds make  
noise  
the one lone bird sits quietly and, is content  
it is an inspiration  
another bird sets itself down at a  
distance on the wire  
the original bird walks across the  
wire, sad and, lonely  
the other bird turns away  
closer and, the fearful bird flies  
off on its way  
the original bird is silent as it  
sits on the  
telephone wire, quietly,  
alone.

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Adolescents who identify their primary motives, such as helping others, are three times happier than those who lack such altruistic motivation.

For a more rewarding life, the challenge is to minimize the negative "stuff" and maximize the positive "stuff."

God's Word says the harder we work to serve others and promote the "give" way, the more we will grow and the more we will "receive in return."

If we are to use sex in the way God created us, we must restrict it to the marriage relationship and not to our thoughts, wishes, and desires.

We are all equal in Christ, Who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another, binding upon all people in every age.

Self-reflection is always a good exercise. What I believe is a work in progress, not limited to these statements and subject to change. What do YOU believe?

On March 14, 2015 this writer had a dream to create "God's Business Card". The results of that dream appear on a business card as follows:

Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:3

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Galatians 5:23

Serenity Prayer- God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference. And other inciteful, timely passages.

A limited number of free copies of this business card can be obtained from: Swift Print- 6571 Pearl Rd. Parma Heights, Ohio 44130, 440-845-1155 Fax- 440-845-1158 David M. Fackelman

Feel free to share them with friends, relatives and neighbors.

The Month Of May - Parma Arts

continued from page 8

6474, or email kathrynmabin@att.net for more information or to register. Join in on the fun, but act fast as class sizes are limited.

**Images In Bloom**

In May we featured Parma's Barb & Steve Bloom as Artist Of The Month. The Blooms had started a go-fund-me campaign to fund the purchase and registration of UPC codes for their business, in order to sell their items at Whole Foods. I am happy to announce that they have reached their goal. The Blooms wanted to thank everyone who has encouraged them, and offered emotional and financial support. Wishing you both the best of luck in this endeavor.



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Our Local History

# The Brooklyn And Parma Wooden Plank Toll Road 1876 To 1907

by Kenneth Lavelle

The B&P Plank Road began in Brooklyn, Ohio near present day State Road along Pearl Road. There were two toll gate keepers. One in Brooklyn, Ohio was Peter Wagner. The other toll gate keeper was Oscar Nickolas at York Street and Wooster Pike in Parma Twp. York Street is now York Road. Wooster Pike is now Pearl Road. Originally the Plank Road started just south of State Road near where the present Mary of Peace Catholic Church is located along Pearl Road. The plank road continued into Parma Twp. where the second toll

gate was located at York Street. Then the plank road turned south and left down York Street into southern Parma Township past Pleasant Valley Road to Sprague Road where it ended.  
In 1877, the B&P Plank Road was extended into Royalton Twp. from Sprague Road south along York Road to Keep's Corners. This is now present day Albion Road in North Royalton, Ohio. A one room school house was located at Keep's Corners. This was the District 1, Subdistrict No. 2 school house which existed there until 1920. All the small school houses were closed to have children

attend an consolidated school in Royalton Twp. Today at York Road and Albion Road there is new modern North Royalton Fire Station No. 2 to provide modern fire fighting services when needed since 2006.  
In 1907, the Cuyahoga County Commissioners decided to purchase the seven miles of plank road from the stockholders of the B&P Plank Road for \$3,000.00 per mile. The route was later bricked in 1908. When York Road was improved and partially widened more at the new industrial park entrance with a cement base to Route 82. The brick two lane road was

replaced with asphalt from Sprague Road south past Wallings Road to the industrial park entrance after 2004.

## HELP Is Here For Home Repair

continued from page 8

your contractor contact the building department within one month of your loan's closing date to secure the proper permits and to determine if any zoning, building code or other approvals are required. You have ONE YEAR from the closing date of the loan to complete all of the work.

For your protection, your contractor should be licensed, registered and/or bonded by your municipality. Contact the city for a list or your contractor can register with the city. The agreement with your contractor is a private one and not the responsibility of the lending institution, the county or your municipality.

The city will notify the county that your work is completed. Please keep copies of any receipts and cancelled checks as they may be requested by the city or county to verify compliance. If you do not cooperate with efforts to monitor the progress of your work or any requests for documentation from city or county officials, your loan subsidy (the three point reduction of the bank's normal interest rate) is subject to removal. It is your responsibility to insure that your city is kept up-to-date on the status of your work. The city and county reserve the right to request receipts to verify the cost of improvements.

Due to the savings, the HELP loan can reduce the cost of the repairs or even increase the amount you are able to afford. If you are a resident or home improvement company and would like more information please reach out to me, Mark DeLaney, Branch Manager of the Parma Key Bank, at (440) 345-7035. Don't "spring" into your projects without checking out this program first!

## Restored Velocipede

by Bob Stilwell

Fred Koch, Member of the Parma Heights Historical Society, oversaw all aspects of the restoration of a Velocipede that was acquired many years ago by past members of the original Historical Society of Parma Heights. This is the equivalent of today's tricycle. Much of the restoration was performed by Fred himself. The following is a brief history of this unusual child's antique.

The company that built this Velocipede was the Kirk-Latty Mfg. Co. in Cleveland, Ohio in 1894. Samuel D. Latty, the owner, was born in Boston in 1864. Kirk-Latty made nuts and rivets, wagons for children, and in 1903, the company experimented with making cars for adults. It is not clear when the company produced its first tricycle or velocipede. They were making pedal cars by 1913.

From 1890 to the early 1900's, the Velocipede type tricycle became more popular and more mass produced for both children and adults. During this time more and more tricycles started having wire tied rubber tires. Although there were some different designs during this period, most tricycles produced had very similar designs. I discovered a patent for the Velocipede in 1894.

From all of the research that

has been done to try and determine an exact date of production, we are approximating that it was produced in the early 1900's.  
We are looking for new members





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Register as a virtual walker! Unable to attend on June 7? You can still make a difference. Your donation honors those who have gone before us and supports all of the community-based resources we offer. And the funds you raise help improve the well-being of the patients and families currently in our care.

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