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City Of Parma Continues To Tackle **Major Water Infrastructure Projects**

by Carolyn Kovach

The City is repairing catch basins, improving large stormwater detention areas and rebuilding water mains as it continues to upgrade the city's infrastructure. This year, the city will invest about \$500,000 to replace around 150 catch basins throughout neighborhoods after restoring 117 of them along its major thoroughfares last year. "These are important improvements that will rebuild our infrastructure and help with our stormwater management and flooding issues within the city," Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "This is a major priority for us."

Parma has more than 5,000 catch basins. "We have taken a fiscally responsible

approach to rebuilding our catch basins. Every year, we work on these projects as our infrastructure ages," Parma Service Director Brian Higgins said. In addition, the city is improving the capacity of large basins. For example, the city partnered with Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District to maintain the Bonnie Banks Detention Basin near Stormes Drive. After taking over management of the basin, the sewer district last fall began a \$634,000 excavation project to improve Bonnie Banks. "By systematically attacking infrastructure projects such as this – or the \$2 million Chevrolet Detention Basin project - we are confronting long-term challenges and turning them

into successes," DeGeeter said.

In addition, the city will receive \$2.8 million from the Cleveland Water Department to replace water mains, some more than 100 years old, on Grantwood, Fortune and Brookdale avenues. The projects could start as early as next year. As part of Cleveland's Suburban Main Renewal Program, Parma will apply for funding twice a year for additional investment in the city's water mains, DeGeeter explained. "While we have put an emphasis on fixing our roads, it is also essential that we rebuild

May 5, with much of it taking place in Parma's Polish Village! Since its founding in 1948,

the Ohio Division of the PAC

official celebration of the sign-

ing of Poland's Constitution of

events highlighted on the PAC

will be an informal meet and

greet event at the Ridge Road

website is as follows:

The calendar of scheduled

On Friday, May 3, there

May 3, 1791.

has annually sponsored Ohio's 를



The City of Parma will invest about \$500,000 to replace around 150 catch basins throughout neighborhoods this year.

our aging water infrastructure upon which our residents and businesses rely," DeGeeter said. "This is a proactive approach.

We need to fix problems now before they become larger challenges later."

Polish Constitution Weekend 2019 in Parma's Polish Village

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk **Seven Hills Spring News** Once again, the Ohio

Project / Year	Partner	Est. Savings
E Sprague Resurfacing 2020	Cuy. County & Broadview Hts.	\$1,170,000
McCreary Resurfacing 2019	Cuyahoga County	\$250,000
W. 9th Resurfacing 2019	Parma	\$216,791
Catch Basin Program 2018	Northeast Ohio Sewer District	\$47,850
Total Saving to Seven Hills (if we had to go it alone)		\$1,684,641

by Tony Biasiotta

Hard to believe we are already in the month of April! The Cleveland Indians are playing ball and flowers are starting to bloom. The same can be said for several projects in Seven Hills. Our EPA mandated Hemlock Project is already at full steam and will be completed this year. The 305 homes that are part of this project are the last in Seven Hills to move from septic tanks to City sanitary sewers. The long-awaited water main replacement on Mapleview Dr.and East Hill Circle will be getting started soon. Upon completion, we plan to resurface both streets in their entirety.

We closed the books on 2018 and passed the 2019 budget. For 2018 came in several hundred thousand dollars under budget. Further, we increased our cash reserves from \$3 million at the end of 2017 to finish 2018 at \$5.5 million. Due in part to the strong fiscal results of 2018 the City will be able to take on an ambitious road program this

for bid all the worst-rated roads. Another factor that helped position the City to achieve a large 2019 roads program was our success in building a partnership. Listed below is an itemization of some of those partnerships and the savings achieved,

With the professional baseball season upon us, we know

continued on page 5

year. Currently, we have placed

Tavern (5587 Ridge Rd, Parma) **Parma Business Of The Month**



Ripeppi Funeral Home in Parma was honored as Business of the Month for their many decades serving the needs of people in the Parma Area. Here, Lou Ripeppi stands with Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter and Parma Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro as he accepts the awards on behalf of this long-time family business.



The Cleveland Polka Association is always easy to spot during the parade, whether by sight or by sound.

starting at 6 p.m. Pizza, wings, salad, wine, and beer will be served at the venue. Tickets are

On Saturday, May 4, the Miss Polonia Contest will be held at 6 p.m. at the Holy Spirit

Party Center (5500 W. 54th St, Parma) where Miss Polonia and Junior Miss Polonia will be crowned. The venue will feature buffet dining and an open

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Parma Citizen Of The Month



Parma's own John Visnauskas was honored as the Citizen of the Month for his numerous accomplishments in the service of others, especially for his long and well know efforts providing food for hungry people.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President

Help Keep Big Creek Clean (Saturday, June 1) A collaboration between many environmental organizations for several years, volunteers are needed once again to help clean up one of Parma's most important watersheds. All individuals and organizations interested are asked to meet at 9:00 am at the Cleveland Metroparks' Snow Road Picnic Area along Big Creek Parkway. Bags and gloves will be provided, but it is suggested you wear long pants and boots. The event will go until noon when a light lunch and drinks will be provided. For more information contact Amy Roskilly at the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District at 216-524-6580 (x1005).

Catch a Game at Veterans Memorial and/or Mayor James Day Park (Various Dates/Times)

When was the last time you strolled through State Road Park or Nike Park? Have you seen the beautiful memorials in honor of our veterans, the monument of the Parma Amateur Athletic Federation, the smooth walking/jogging path and the many other amenities these parks have to offer? Even better, before or after your stroll, catch one of the many exciting baseball or softball games that go on pretty consistently throughout the summer. It's free!

29th Annual Parma Rib n' Rock



Contact me today!

Lynda Parker

Insurance Agent - Bankers Life and Casualty Company 330-625-7029 Lynda.Parker@BankersLife.com



(Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9)

Parma's premier summer event will take place once again at Cuyahoga Community College's western campus (CCC-West), 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road. Admission is \$3 per person, while children under 12 are free. Check out Facebook or the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce's website for more information. Full of fun, rides for the kids, live music, great drinks, excellent ribs, and vendors - it is a family favorite!

Independence Day Parade (Wednesday, July 4)

Parma's famous July 4 parade always begins near Snow Road and proceeds south on Ridge to The Shoppes at Parma. The parade commences at 10:00 am and hosts several local veterans and fraternal organizations, Parma's safety forces, local high schools bands, Boy and Girl Scout troops, several elected officials, among many other groups.

9th Annual Parma Area Run-Walk for Pierogies (Saturday, July 6)

Sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center and Perla Pierogies at 5380 State Road, the Run-Walk has become a Parma area summer staple. Consistently hosting over 800 runners and walkers, participants are treated with the signature t-shirt, drinks, plenty of surprises and, of course, Perla's famous pierogies! Cost is \$25 in



advance, \$30 on the day of the event, while children 11 and under are \$10. The charity event will take place once again on the campus of CCC-West. For more information check out www.hermescleveland.com or on Facebook.

87th Annual St. Charles Borromeo Parish Carnival (Wednesday, July 10 through Sunday, July 14)

The carnival kicks off on Wednesday with a parade on Ridge Road at 5:30 that proceeds from the famous Parma Circle to the St. Charles campus at 5891 Ridge Road. Attendees can enjoy nightly entertainment, excellent ethnic food, a car raffle, lots of games for kids and adults, air-conditioned bingo, a beer and wine garden and much, much more. Grounds open at 6:30 pm daily.

Stearns' Homestead (Saturdays and Sundays)

Come out and enjoy Parma's only working farm located at 6975 Ridge Road from noon to 4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays from May through mid-October. Take the family back in time and feed the animals, tour the homestead, check out the vendors for fresh eggs, baked goods, locally grown produce and honey, and more at this forty-eight-acre farm. Find out about their many other activities at http://www.stearnshomestead.com/.

St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Church Summer Festival (Saturday, July 20)

Located at 5913 State Road, St. Vladimir's is one of Parma's many beautiful places of worship. My wife and I love this event. Doreen Jogan and her kitchen crew always serve up excellent homemade Ukrainian fare that can be washed down with a fine selection of very good beverages. Great entertainment, tours of the cathedral and interesting vendors will also be a part of the celebration. Stop by noon to 11:00 pm.

Cleveland Metroparks' West Creek Reservation and Watershed Stewardship Center (Open Daily)

I am still surprised at how many Parma residents still have not visited the newest jewel in our Emerald Necklace right here in Parma on West Ridgewood Drive near Broadview Road. The Watershed Stewardship Center is nationally famous for being the first of its kind to teach park-goers about the impor-

tance of being good stewards of our waterways. The many trails, bridges, and overlooks are simply stunning. You have to see it for yourself and I guarantee you will be proud of what we have. To find out more visit www. clevelandmetroparks.com.



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THANK YOU FOR VOTING ON MAY 7



Allan Divis Parma Councilman Ward 5

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Hyperbaric Chambers Deliver Pure Oxygen For Advanced Healing At UH Parma's Wound Center

by CJ Sheppard

Of the 30 million Americans suffering from diabetes, an estimated 25 percent of diabetics will develop a foot ulcer in their lifetime. For those with chronic non-healing wounds and ulcers, the outpatient Wound Care Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center now has new hyperbaric oxygen chambers as another alternative treatment.

The advanced treatments available at the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center at UH Parma Medical Center can safely treat wounds to prevent amputations, which nationally occur in 15 percent of diabetic wound cases. Once amputation occurs, 50 per-

cent of patients suffer an ulcer in the opposite limb within five years, and the mortality rate is 50 percent.

"While these numbers show the tremendous need for wound care, there is hope," says Nicole Milligan, LPN, Program Director. "We specialize in advanced wound care, using a variety of clinical treatments, therapies and support services to treat chronic wounds. Our physician-driven, multidisciplinary approach to outpatient wound care has a superior success rate in facilitating the healing process.

"We are confident that the hospital's investment in these state-ofthe-art hyperbaric oxygen chambers will further enhance care for our Wound Care Center patients."

In a clear, pressurized hyperbaric oxygen chamber, the patient breathes 100 percent pure oxygen. Extra oxygen is transported by the patient's blood to help heal their wounds. The Center now has two monoplace chambers.

"Studies have shown that hyperbaric medicine is an effective treatment for non-healing wounds," says Wound Care Center Medical Director Ara Kallibjian, DPM. "Hyperbaric medicine can be used as an adjunct to diligent wound care in obtaining optimal wound closure."

Medicare has approved coverage

for hyperbaric oxygen therapy for many types of chronic, non-healing wounds, including diabetic ulcers of the lower extremities, soft tissue radionecrosis and osteoradionecrosis, chronic refractory osteomyelitis, compromised skin grafts, actinomycosis, crush injury/acute peripheral traumatic peripheral ischemia, progressive necrotizing infections (necrotizing fasciitis).

The Hyperbaric Medicine suite is located across the hall from the Wound Care Center in Medical Arts Center 2, Suite 105. To make an appointment or learn more, call 440-743-4774. A physician referral is not required.

Ice Rink And Splash Pad Win 'Best Of Parma'



State Rep. Jeff Crossman (right) recognized Parma Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi (left) and his staff for winning two Best of Parma categories. The Micheal A. Ries Ice Rink won "Best Winter Recreation," and the Splash Pad won "Best Summer Recreation."



The staff of the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Center at UH Parma Medical Center, pictured from left: Lisa Martinis, RN, Kim Banks, RN, and Christine Bernhardt, RN.

Welcome to five-star healthcare.



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When you receive the right care at the right time from the right caregiver, you know you've come to UH Parma Medical Center. We've earned the five-star rating, the highest possible, from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for our work to bring the science of health and the art of compassion to the patients we serve.

Call (440) 459-0200 or visit uhhospitals.org/parma to book your appointment.

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OBSERVER

Young Professionals Of Parma Urges Businesses And Patrons To Skip The Straw In Earth Day Campaign

by Kathie Zipp

"It's only one straw," said 8 billion people. Did you know that Americans use 500 million plastic straws a day? It's no wonder that straws are one of the top items that end up in our waterways such as Lake Erie harming wildlife and impacting the health of humans and communities.

Fortunately, this is also an issue that's easily addressed. In honor of Earth Day, The Young Professionals of Parma, in conjunction with the City of Parma and West Creek Conservancy, have launched a campaign to urge business and their patrons to join the Skip the Straw campaign. As part of the campaign, Skip the Straw simply requests that patrons refrain from using a straw or bring a reusable metal or plastic one to use if necessary. In turn, Skip the Straw asks that businesses refrain from automatically putting a plastic disposable straw in each beverage, but rather allow customers to request a straw if they so desire. Often, customers are content



without one.

"I've personally tried to give up straws but find it's difficult when restaurants and bars often automatically put them on the table or in drinks. That's why we decided we needed to educate both consumers and business owners as part of our Earth Day campaign. We're thankful to have the support of the city and West Creek Conservancy as part of this initiative.

Many Cleveland businesses have already pledged to Skip the Straw, including Melt Bar and Grilled owned by successful restaurateur and Parmanative Matt Fish.

"Fresh water is so vitally important for our survival on Earth," Fish said. "We are blessed with an abundant supply living in NE Ohio. The Great Lakes, rivers, streams and creeks all need to be preserved to keep this fresh water supply clean and in abundance. I love living and owning a business in NE Ohio. Because of this, I feel responsible to take small and large steps to preserve the incredibly valuable fresh water resource we have."

As part of the campaign, Young Professionals of Parma is posting on social media and sending letters and flyers to local bar and restaurant owners. For more information on Skip the Straw, visit sustainablecleveland.org/skip_the_straw.

Free Comic Book Day 2019 In Parma

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

This year, Free Comic Book Day is celebrating its 18th year introducing readers to the wonders of comics and falls on Saturday, May 4th.

There will be up to 51 titles that may be available at each participating location. DC, Image, Tokyopop, Dark Horse, and Marvel will be among the many publishers offering titles that will include Spider-Man, Avengers, Pokémon, Stranger Things, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Riverdale, The Tick, Star Wars, Street Fighter, Robotech, and Doctor Who!

Fortunately for Parma area residents, there are two incredible comic book shops participating in this annual event: B & L Comics and North Coast Nostalgia, both of which are conveniently located along Ridge Road in Parma's Polish Village. Special highlights often include the Joker at B & L Comics and North Coast Nostalgia will be featuring Cleveland area residents dressed in superhero costumes along with a web show titled "The Not So Much But Us Show" that can be streamed on YouTube.

As is often the case on Free Comic Book Day, lines of colorfully costumed characters will likely already be forming as shops are about to open and each shop usually offers a different mix of



comics.

Consider visiting both of Parma's fantastic comic book shops to find just what you're looking for on Free Comic Book Day!

B & L Comics Cards & Nostalgia

5591 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH 44129 Tel. (440) 886-3077

Sat. Hours 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

North Coast Nostalgia

5853 Ridge Rd, Parma, OH 44129 Tel. (440) 845-7040

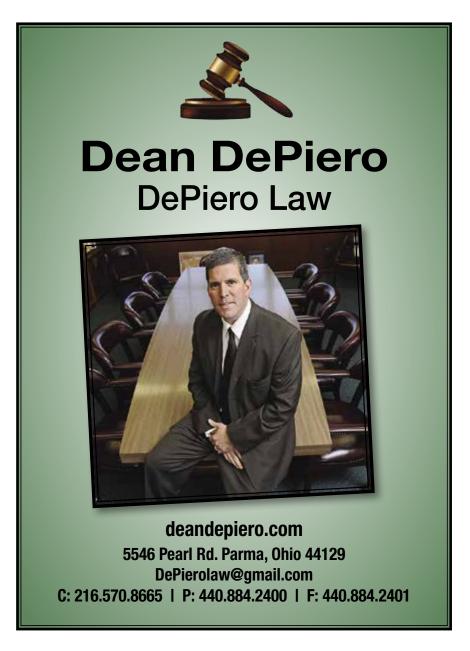
Sat. Hours 10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Check out FreeComicBookDay. com for more information.

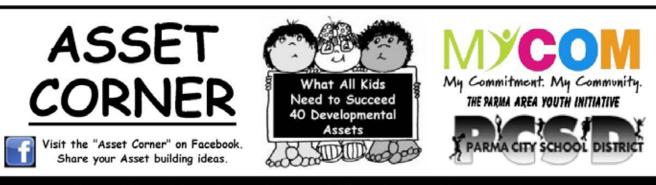


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EDUCATION



Show Kids You Care: Learn What They Have to Teach.

Asset Corner #113

by Gene Lovasy

May's Asset Category: COM-MITMENT TO LEARNING

These five assets have dual power: they are crucial in the long run for vocational success and engaged citizenship and they also play a prevention role, inhibiting some forms of healthcompromising behavior. Commitment to learning has a number of sources in the journey through childhood and adolescents. Parental attitudes, encouragements, involvement, and modeling are all important. The quality of schooling - through its formal and informal curricula - also matters. Norms that encourage high attention to educational tasks, on the part of the peer group and community, are

also instrumental and important. This column's focus will be on ... Asset #22 – School Engagement

Academics are important, but there's more to an education

Each day is a new beginning, a new day to learn. For some young people, this prospect is exciting and exhilarating. For others, it's scary. Sometimes learning is difficult, but it doesn't have to be scary. Help young people understand that academics are just part of the education they must complete to successfully attain goals. Find creative ways to show young people learning means more than studying for or worrying about tests. Opportunities for learning are everywhere, and they're fun!

Here are the facts

Cuyahoga County And City Of Parma Invite You To Learn About Going Solar



by Carolyn Kovach

The Cuyahoga County Department of Sustainability and nonprofit Solar United Neighbors are co-sponsoring a free informational meeting for residents interested in going solar. The meeting is 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, May 23 in the Council Chamber at Parma City Hall, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma. Residents can learn about an emerging green technology without sitting through a high-pressure sales pitch.

Presenters will explain the history of solar panels and how buying solar panels in bulk through a buyer's co-op will save participants money. Topics will include: The 30 percent Federal Solar Tax Credit

Financing options, including the county's low-interest HELP Loan

Cost of adding a battery backup or an electric car charging port

Durability and industry warranties

When the co-op reaches a sufficient size, bids will be solicited from dozens of installers. Members will then choose democratically from among the proposals. There is no obligation, and members can quit the co-op at any time.

Research shows that young people who are actively engaged in learning exhibit more positive than negative behaviors. About 55 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they are actively involved in their learning. It's time to help even more young people discover—and achieve—personal success in and out of the classroom.

Tips for building this asset

The best way to keep young people engaged in school is to focus on their individual interests and goals. Listen to young people and pay attention to the activities they most enjoy. Once you're aware of what they want (or need), help them tie their interests and goals to what they learn in and out of school. Since learning doesn't just happen within the four walls of the school, look for—or design—additional learning activities that complement school curricula. Acknowledge and celebrate school successes. Help young people

address any challenges they may face.

Also, try this

In your home and family: Help your child stay interested and involved at school by ensuring he or she is getting enough sleep, eating well, and managing difficulties. Show your child that learning is more than just the classes they take at school. Talk to your child about things he or she is interested in, and help your child find new ways of experiencing and learning about those interests—outside the classroom.

In your neighborhood and community: Look for ways to address the curiosity of young people through books, plays, artwork, or hobbies. At the local library or community center, post notices about fun community events or activities, such as author signings, school debates, or museum classes.

In your school or youth program: Help young people focus on their personal ideas of success. Have them create goals that encompass academics, hobbies, and values. After several weeks, evaluate students and participants based on their goals. Celebrate successes and talk about steps to take to improve where needed.

Visit www.search-institute.org/ assets for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go to http://www.parentfurther.com for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities, and ideas.

Seven Hills Spring News

continued from page 1

the youth baseball is not far behind. As such we are getting the parks and fields ready. I want to thank Operating Engineers IUOE Local 18 for donating the heavy equipment and labor (as part of their training program). Local 18 is currently installing a subsurface drainage system on all three fields at Calvin Park. Local 18's contribution will help make and maintain drier playing conditions. In addition, new infield sand will be installed and properly graded.

Construction is on schedule for the Vitalia Senior Residence development on Rockside Rd. As previously reported this project will bring in over \$6 million in new revenue for City over the next 15 years with \$4 million of that new revenue dedicated exclusively for infrastructure projects such as roads.

In regard to the 50-acre mixed-use development planned for Rockside, the City and Fairmount Properties have entered into an integral stage; we are negotiating a binding developers agreement. Leasing and financing will follow this stage. The final stage is when a final development plan is submitted for approval.

As we anticipated, KMART in Seven Hills closed last month. The City and Meijer continue to work closely to ensure everything stays on schedule. Recently we signed an agreement with Meijer for the installation of a new traffic light. 100% of the cost of the light and related infrastructure improvements will be borne by Meijer. Also, I can share with you that Meijer has reached purchase agreements for all the property it needs to move forward. However, it is important to note that while KMART has closed, they have not at this time relinquished their lease rights to the property. What does that mean? Worst case, we may need to wait until the KMART lease expires before we can see construction on this site.

Wrapping up, I want to share with you a couple of recent events. It was a real pleasure to attend the Normandy High School 50th Anniversary event. The sense of pride and strength of the community on display was truly touching. Lastly, on behalf of all Council, I was honored to present a resolution of commendation to the St. Columbkille 8th grade boys for winning CYO D3 Championship.

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INSPIRATION

A Subtle Golden Hue

by William Subjoc

Many property lots in Parma are of a small size which creates difficulties in choosing appropriate sized trees. While most lot sizes in northern Parma are in the 40-foot wide range, those in the more southern area of Parma may have a little more room to work with. Colorado Blue Spruces (Picea pungens) and Norway Spruce (Picea abies) are two evergreens that are easy to obtain but can grow extremely large in both height and diameter. As a matter of fact, in the wild both of these trees can grow over 100 -150 feet tall, although that height will most likely not be reached in an urban area.

However, there are many cultivars that will not grow quite as large plus will also have enjoyable characteristics. One such cultivar is the Golden Norway Spruce (Picea abies Aurea). Each year the new growth will be a golden yellow hue, particularly in the summer months. In maybe 40-50 years it may top out at a full height of about 35 feet and a diameter of maybe 15 feet. These characteristics may make this cultivar a great focal point for a well thought out landscape arrangement. This cultivar is an old one and was first mentioned in writing in 1855.

At 23 years old the Golden Norway Spruce shown in the photo is



Once the new growth and summer arrive, this Spruce will have a tantalizing golden hue. | Photo courtesy of West Holmes Arboretum.

about 24 feet tall and the spread of the lowest branches is about 12 feet. As this photo is taken in early Spring the color is darker but rest assured once the new growth and Summer arrives it will have a much more golden hue. Additional accent shrubs or trees with different color hues can create a smorgasbord of colors.

There are many cultivars of all tree species available. Just a little research and you can find that perfect focal point for your own personal landscape.



I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

According to recent studies, physical and mental activities help reduce weight, high blood pressure, heart disease, depression, sadness, stress, and more; plus, people's outlooks on life become more positive. All of us are faced with a second birth. The first one is physical which we have nothing to do with. The second birth is spiritual which we have everything to do with because it is a choice we make. It is a gradual unfolding process that continues throughout life as we become more God-centered and less self-centered.

Many people are guilty of pulling the Bible down to their level of understanding instead of bringing their level of understanding up to meet the requirements of the Word. Society does us a big disservice when we go along with prioritizing people from most important to least important. This is not Biblical. The Bible gives us a simple, clear, and fool-

proof, three-step plan for salvation. We must admit that we are sinners, believe Jesus died to save us from our sins, and commit our lives to trust in Jesus as our Savior. (ABC)

There are three major influences that impact our lives: circumstances, people, and God's Word (or its absence). Whatever the influence, anything contrary to God's Word should be rejected. Those who believe in Jesus as their personal Savior will inherit eternal life in Heaven (present with God), and those who do not believe will inherit eternal life in Hell (absent from God). Without love, law-abidingness might become mechanical, miserable, and discouraging, but with love, every commandment inspires joy, delight, and peace of mind.

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?

FAITH COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Christ the Saviour American Orthodox Church

10000 State Road N. Royalton, OH 440-237-9196 christsaviour.weebly.com

All Faiths Pantry

P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329 allfaithspantry.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Divinity Lutheran Church

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

The Islamic Center of Cleveland

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

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

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

St. Bridget's of Kildare Church

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

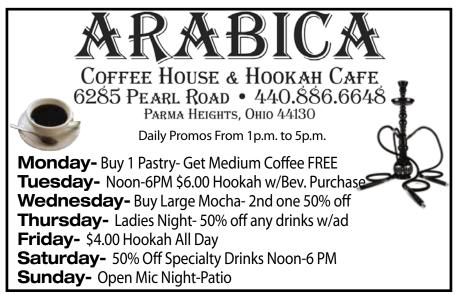
Holy Family Catholic Church

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

Parma Christian Church

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





NEIGHBORHOODS

50 Years And Going Strong:

The Parma Symphony Orchestra

by Rick Haase

Here is something for all of you classical music lovers out there. The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform their final spring concert for this season at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 5, in the auditorium of Valley Forge High School, 9999 Independence Boulevard. Our local symphony orchestra, in its 50th season, will present a program including "Concerto for Bassoon" by Carl Maria Von Webber, featuring Andrew Machamer of the faculty of the prestigious Baldwin-Wallace University Conservatory of Music. Machamer is a lecturer of Music Harmony at B-W, and is an active performer and teacher in Northeast Ohio. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree, as well as a Master of Music Degree in Bassoon Performance from the University of Minnesota. He has also completed a separate Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. A dedicated teacher and pedagogue, Machamer has taught students of all ages across the country from elementary school to college level. The orchestra's program will also include the Firebird Suite by Stravinsky, and selections from The Planets by Gustav Holst. The orchestra consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the Greater Cleveland

area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 p.m. Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra. More information can be found on Facebook, on the orchestra website -- www.parmasymphony.org -- or by calling Business Manager Joe Germana at 440-882-2012.

MORE MUSICAL FUN – Come to the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library to hear "Brilliante Clarinets," including instruments of every shape and size from the piccolo to the contra-bass at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16. The free event will be an evening of light jazz, as the Brilliante Clarinets play familiar tunes along with a recorded accompaniment featuring piano, bass and drums. For additional information, call 440-884-2313

GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SALE – Members of the Parma Heights Garden Club will host their annual flower sale from 9 a.m. to Noon on Saturday, May 11 at the Gazebo in the Greenbrier Commons complex on Pearl Road.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION – Will take place from 9 a.m. to Noon Saturday, May 11, at the Parma Heights Service Garage, also in the Greenbrier Commons complex.

ALWAYS REMEMBER – The 152nd Memorial Day service will take place beginning at 9:30 a.m. Monday, May 27, on the front lawn of Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 6155 Pearl Road.

The service will be immediately followed by the city-sponsored Memorial Day parade, which will travel north to the Parma Heights Cemetery, where there will be the ceremonial playing of "Taps," a wreath-laying and another brief service of remembrance.]

LOVE TO TRAVEL AND TAKE PHOTOS? -- If so, you won't want to miss a special program entitled, "Travel Photography," from 7-8 p.m. Monday, May 20, in Meeting Room A of the Parma Heights branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Published photographer Judith Khaner will share the five key steps to capturing images from your travels using your personal camera.

YOUTH THEATRE CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS – Enrollment is now open for the Summer 2019 Cassidy Theatre Youth Theatre program, which runs from June 17-August 3.

Summer Youth Theatre Classes include acting, singing, and dance instruction, with all levels of ability welcome.

There will be a showcase performance on Saturday, August 3.

For more information, call the Cassidy Theatre at 440-842-4600, or e-mail cassidyyouththeatre@gmail.com.

ON THE CASSIDY MAIN STAGE

– Our local community theatre's next production will be Mama Mia, running June 7-23, with the book by Catherine Johnson and Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus.

You probably know the story, but if not, here's a brief summary:

On a small Greek island, Sophie dreams of a perfect wedding — one which includes her father giving her away. The problem? Sophie doesn't know who he is. Her mother Donna, the former lead singer of the 1970s pop group Donna and the Dynamos, refuses to talk about the past, so Sophie decides to take matters into her own hands. Sneaking a peek in her mother's old diaries, she discovers three possible fathers: Sam, Bill, and Harry. She



PERSPECTIVE

A Closed Mouth **Gathers No Feet**

by Lee Kamps

I am old enough to remember some great speeches by national and world leaders. I remember President John F Kennedy's inaugural address on January 20, 1961, when he began "Let the word go forth that the torch has been passed to a new generation" and concluded with "Ask not what your country could do for you, but what you could do for your country." His strong words inspired a genera-

A few years later, I remember Martin Luther King Jr giving his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of a crowd estimated at 250,000 people gathered at the mall in Washington DC. He outlined a vision for the country where a person would be judged "by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin."

Practically every high school student learns Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address that he gave on November 19, 1863, dedicating a cemetery for those killed a few months earlier at the battle of Gettysburg. In his speech, he pledged that the war would result in a "new birth of freedom" and that "the government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Last year there was a movie about British Prime Minister Winston Churchill when Great Britain stood alone against the armies of Nazi Germany in its "darkest hour." He rallied the British people pledging to fight against Nazi Germany and saying that Great Britain would never surrender.

Words can inspire, but the wrong words can hurt or incite violence. A wise man long ago said, "It is better to keep one's mouth closed and have people think you are a fool than to open mouth and remove all doubt." Sometimes silence is the best answer. Every married man knows that silence is the best option when their wife asks, "Do you think that this makes me look fat?" No matter what he says, he is doomed. In this instance keeping one's mouth closed

People in the public eye and especially our elected officials including the President should realize that anything they say will be reported and that every mic is live. Sometimes

the President can comfort a grieving nation. Who can forget President Raegan's speech after the Challenger disaster in 1986? After a white supremacist murdered nine members of a black church in Charleston South Carolina in 2015, President Obama comforted the people there by singing "Amazing Grace."

But recently the level of public discourse has hit rock bottom with Donald Trump's tweets and insults. Insulting foreign heads of state like calling the leader of North Korea "little rocket man" certainly won't win one over. Nor does insulting political opponents and lying with impunity to the people. It seems like every day there is a new outlandish tweet or public insult by Donald Trump directed at someone who doesn't agree with his policies. In these instances, perhaps silence is best. Again, why open one's mouth and remove all doubt that you are a fool? Why embarrass not only yourself but the nation you are supposed to be leading?

Insulting someone like a 12-yearold middle school bully only serves to reinforce the belief that the person is of lesser intelligence and immature. It is bad enough when one is a 12-year-old in the seventh grade, but it becomes inexcusable when one is an adult and especially when that adult happens to be the President of the United States.

The same could be said about boasting and making promises that they cannot keep. We don't trust salespeople who make big promises. Politicians are well known for making promises. But the current President has set a record for wild promises. Did anyone really believe that Mexico would pay for a wall on the southern border? Could any President actually bring back all those lost manufacturing and coal mining jobs that have been lost? Ask an auto worker in Trumbull County where the Lordstown GM plant closed down

A good thing to remember is something that my mother told me long ago that a "closed mouth gathers no feet." Or that it is much better to keep one's mouth closed and have people think you are a fool.



Senator Antonio providing tesimony to committee.

Antonio Applauds Ohio's Transportation Budget

by Nickie Antonio

In early April, the Ohio legislature passed the state's two-year transportation budget, House Bill 62.

I was honored to serve as the highest ranking Democrat on the Transportation, Commerce and Workforce committee where the transportation budget was deliberated. Once the budget passed the Senate, it then moved to Conference Committee, a committee made up of three House members and three Senate members. I was honored to represent as the appointed conferee, the only Senate Democrat, on the committee. The job of the committee was to sort out the differences between the Governor's-introduced budget and the passed budgets in both the House and the Senate and come up with compromises through various amendments. In the end, we forged a compromise bill that the majority of Democrats could vote for.

HB 62 includes \$70 million per year for public transportation, a 10.5cent increase in the gas tax and a 19-cent increase in the diesel fuel tax as well as an increase in the state's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low- and moderate-income Ohioans amongst

I supported this budget because it will bring more dollars to public transportation, provide an increased tax credit for low-income Ohioans, and bring needed funds to our local communities to fix our roads and bridges-core principles we fought to include.

Certainly, no one prefers tax increases; however, in order to keep our roads and bridges safe and increase public transportation, this was the only option. I was especially proud of the collaboration between the Ohio House and Senate Democrats as we worked together for the best way forward for all Ohioans.

Later tis month, the Ohio Senate will begin deliberations on Ohio's operating budget, and I look forward to taking up that process.

For those of you who contacted our office during the transportation budget process, your input was much appreciated. Going forward to contact our office, our phone number is 614-466-5123 and our email is Antonio@ ohiosenate.gov. My Legislative Aides, Taylor Phillips and Sarah Taylor, would be happy to assist you.

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IMPRESSIONS

Leading Animal Law Expert: Repeal Parma's Breed-Specific Pit Bull Ban, Adopt Breed-Neutral Dog Control Law Instead

by Lucy McKernan

Cities are trending towards humane, more effective solutions dealing with aggressive dogs. The purpose of this article outlines reasons to repeal Parma's existing pit bull ban at the polls on May 7. It's also a rebuttal to the article "Your Neighbor Was Attacked" in last month's edition of Parma Observer. Rather than denying the pain and suffering described in the dog attack from last month's article, residents should consider that repealing the existing pit bull ban would actually make way for a safer, more comprehensive ordinance.

According to attorney/animal law expert Dana Pannella of Holland & Muirden, "Breed bans are ineffective, and the city should vote to repeal the

ban in favor of adopting strong breedneutral dog control laws." Pannella, who crafted Avon Lake's breed-neutral dog control law, knows pit bulls are here, regardless of being banned. She says, "It's virtually impossible to identify a dog by breed, but it is possible to identify one by behavior, sometimes long before a bite ever happens." Referring to an article in the International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology (2019), which Pannella says is one of the most comprehensive studies she has seen, she says, "It examines head/ neck dog bites and the prevalence by breed. The authors basically conclude you can't make the analysis by breed. Instead, they use the dog's head-shape and weight. This is why breed bans are ineffective." In simpler terms, if the breed can't be identified, the bite can't be prevented, making breed-specific bans like Parma's pit bull one useless. Also, Pannella adds, "You can identify the behavior." That would make a breed-neutral law smarter.

And that's where a breed-neutral dog control law comes in. These are comprehensive, including definitions for "nuisance," "dangerous" and "vicious" dogs, and outline processes for their classification. They outline specific responsibilities for owners, including signage, restraint on and off property, age restrictions and obedience/behavior modification requirements. Pannella says the author of the article in last month's Parma Observer "didn't know there was a dangerous dog in his backyard

because the state's dangerous dog law is ineffective." She adds, "It doesn't require 'warnings' or 'signs' that read: 'BEWARE DANGEROUS DOG.' Common sense dog laws do this, and more."

Parma's existing pit bull ban is ineffective, discriminatory, and actually decreases public safety compared to a breed-neutral model.

Vote to repeal the pit bull ban in Parma.

Avon Lake's behavior-based dog control law, known as the "Post-Bite" ordinance, written by attorney Dana Pannella: https://www.avonlake.org/ residents/dog-legislation

Summer Band Concert Series

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma and Parma Heights recreation departments have partnered again this season to host the Summer Band Concert Series. Residents from both communities are invited to attend all the concerts, which start at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday.

Parma

Anthony Zielinski Park June 16 – Mike Jacobs & The Highighters

June 23 – Ronnie Fiorentino June 30 – Brian Dorr July 7 – Northcoast Mix July 14 – Paradise Sunset

Parma Heights

Greenbriar Commons Gazebo July 28 – Akron Symphonic Winds

Aug. 4 – Don Disantis

Aug. 11 – The Polka Pirates

Aug. 18 – It's Time for a Song

Aug. 25 – Logan Wells

Capturing Clouds In A Glass...

by Davidione Pearl

When I was a boy, I would sit on the back porch with a little glass jar in my hand observing the movement of gray skies when storm clouds would usher in. I would try and jump as high as I could to catch and save the clouds in my jar because they were closer to the earth when rains would build. In Haiti, my motorbike driver referred to me as a missionary the very first day we met. I immediately rejected the notion in my mind, as missionaries to me often brought more harm than good. To him, however, simply being there present and aware for journalistic purposes, was mission enough.

After more than a week together venturing the northern capital and hinterlands, my mind eventually slowed, taking pause of him continually referring to me as a missionary to anyone we encountered. It had begun to land

in my heart as an accurate portrayal - paved in dust, debris, transition, purpose, and renewal. My spirit changed; his words then felt like a large stone dropped into the sea of my chest.

I am that I am. At that moment it became very real.

This week I was invited to a church in Slavic Village to be a guest speaker and share my work. Over time they seek to have me speak before other congregations in their network, that they too may find a call to international action.

I agreed to speak before their assembly tomorrow. There were once clouds I would endeavor to leap high enough to capture in a little glass jar. Little did I know, it would be clouds of dirt and dust on the back of a decaying motorbike in a faraway land that would instead capture me.

Polish Constitution Weekend 2019 In Parma's Polish Village

continued from page 1

bar. A \$50.00 donation is requested.

On Sunday, May 5, there will be a Mass, Grand Parade, Presentation, and Party. The Mass will be held at St. Charles Church (5891 Ridge Rd, Parma) at 10:00 a.m.

The Grand Parade will begin at 2 p.m. at Parma Circle (Ridge Rd, just

north of The Shoppes at Parma) and will proceed north toward intersection of Ridge and Snow Roads. Those participating will include Parma City Officials, Parma area high school bands, US military color guard units, veteran posts in northeast Ohio, and many more.

A formal program after the parade

will be held under the big tent behind Unity Catholic Credit Union (5839 Ridge Rd, Parma) with food and drinks available from a number of local vendors.

For additional information, please call Mark Relovsky, General Chairman at (216) 970-0507. You can also e-mail him at mjrmotu@cox. net, or pac_ohiodivision@yahoo.com.

You can also visit PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio. com to learn more. A weekend event flyer can be viewed at PolishAmericanCongress-Ohio.





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AREA WIDE EVENTS

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

Did you know that there are close to 50 different local organizations working in concert to address issues related to human trafficking and the needs of its victims? Efforts by the Greater Cleveland Coordinated Response to Human Trafficking, are lead by the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking in Greater Cleveland . Learn more about both these groups by visiting:

https://www.happensheretoo.org/about-us.html

https://www.collabtoendht.org/about-us.html

One of those 50 organizations is the Imagine Foundation, a small but growing human trafficking focused non-profit located in Parma Hts. Visit our table at the Safety Fair on May 11th and watch for more information coming soon.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS: From Center for Community Solutions:

If you're covered by Medicaid, working closely w/clients eligible for or currently covered by Medicaid, or just interested in the impact recent changes may have on the state's budget, you may find this recent post from Community Solutions to be of interest: http://tinyurl.com/CCS-Medicaid-Waiver

Two mobile food pantries have recently opened. Baba's Yard a new 501(C)(3), in partnership with the

Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will be hosting distribution events of fresh fruit and vegetables, at no charge to low-income families, from now through November come rain or shine.

Parma: Time/Day/Location: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. / First (1st) Tuesday of each month / the parking lot of the old State Rd Elementary, 6121 State Rd (State Rd and Grantwood).

Brooklyn: Time/Day/Location: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. / Fourth (4th) Tuesday of each month / behind Brooklyn City Hall, 1719 Memphis Ave.

Plan now to attend the always popular Parma Safety Fair at the Parma Justice Center, 5555 Powers Blvd. and Shredding Day (shredding svcs limited to Parma residents) and Canned Food Drive at Parma Sr. H.S., 6285 W. 54th St, scheduled for Saturday, May 11th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. If your organization would like to reserve a table call Linda Cross at 440-885-8093. Questions regarding the event can be directed to City Council's Safety Chair at limeward2@gmail.com

From the Ohio Dept of Education

– Just announced...

This month, the departments of Education and Job and Family Services are looking for participants for a stakeholder committee under the Preschool Development Grant recently awarded to Ohio. Here's your opportunity to influence the direction of

early childhood care and education in Ohio. Go here for details and to apply: https://tinyurl.com/ode-early-childhood-vol

The Parma Heights PACT (Police and Community Together) Youth Group:

A serious, facilitated group discussion about relationships and dating in the age of Social Media and an opportunity to practice their soccer skills were agenda items during April's well-attended meetings. Kids between the ages of 12 - 17 attending school in the area are welcome.

For announcements and detailed information visit their Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/parmaheights. police; email: pactunit@gmail.com; ph: 440-884-1235.

From Parma City Schools:

The Phase Three - High Schools Strategic Consolidation meeting schedule is as follows: 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 13th at Valley Forge H.S. - 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 18th, Parma-Snow Library

Go here: https://www.parmacityschools.org/page/7883 to view the schedule of meetings, their minutes and other related documents.

Don't forget, that you can learn about more community events by visiting PCSD Flyer Central at https://www.parmacityschools.org/flyers.

>> The Valley Forge H.S. on-

site Vietnam Memorial honoring and remembering alumni that gave the ultimate sacrifice during that conflict will have its dedication ceremony on Friday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. starting in the school's Auditorium. A reception w/light refreshments will follow in the cafeteria.

From the Parma Area Family Collab:

As a reminder, for those providing care for someone else's child, consider stopping by the Collab from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the 2nd Monday of each month for KINSHIP KOF-FEE. Share your concerns, issues, learn about available support and resources, receive encouragement...light refreshments are served and free childcare is available. Call 440-887-4873 for more information.

At last week's BOE meeting the decision was made to relocate the Family Collaborative from the Hanna building to share space with the Head Start program at Parkview, located on the corner of Loya and W.54th, next to Parma Sr.H.S. The move is scheduled to take place the week of June 10th. Due to the building's age and needed repair, Hanna will be demolished within the year.

Read more of this story online at: parmaobserver.com

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Parma's Art Scene

Parma Art Scene

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma's May Show Saturday, May 18, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Parma Area Fine Arts Council will host their annual Medley of Arts Show & Sale, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, located at 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. This year in addition to the show, which features the work of local artists and craftsmen in seven different categories, the show will feature ongoing demonstrations in doll making by High On Dolls, and wood carving by Great Lakes Wood Carvers, as well as watercolor painting and wood burning. Refreshments are available, as well as some great Chinese Auction items. Attendees will also be able to vote the People's Choice Award for the most popular item. Meet the artists and craftsmen, and watch them create unique one-of-a-kind items. Best of all, admission is free.

Enamel Jewelry Class

Anthony DeMarco, a retired Parma High School art teacher who taught for 31 years, will be teaching beginning enamel jewelry making in a 4-week course, starting Wednesday, June 5. 2019, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr. Cost for the

4-week class is \$80.00, payable the first day of class or in advance. Supplies are included. Students will make 3 or 4 pieces. To register or for more information, email KathrynMabin@att.net. **Prama Artspace Gallery**

"For Moms Everywhere" Art Show at Prama Artspace Gallery, 5411 Pearl Rd, has items suitable for a wonderful Mothers Day gift for your Mom. Besides the artwork on the walls, the gallery has a boutique with handmade items suitable for gift giving and reasonably priced. Artists included in this show are as follows: Janet R. Century, Laura D'Alessandro, Joyce Morrow Jones, Jacci Hammer, Nico Pico Train, Jim Szudy, Mary Ford, June Hund, and Sean Mabin. Also featured is Polish artist Susan Banks-Yurik with her Iconographic style drawings. The gallery is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 2 to 7 p.m. This show opened on April 26th and closes on Mother's Day. View a preview on Prama Artspace Gallery Facebook page, prior to your visit.

Clevelandartevents.com

ClevelandArtEvents.com is a web page run by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is an organization that collects the tax monies from the county's cigarette tax. This

Buy Tickets For Parma Night At Progressive Field And First Pitch Raffle

by Carolyn Kovach

Parma residents are invited to watch the Cleveland Indians take on the Detroit Tigers at 7:05 p.m., Tuesday, July 16 for Parma Night at Progressive Field. There will be a pre-game parade on the Indians' field, open to all Parma children and coaches involved in Parma recreation sports who attend the game. Perhaps the most exciting opportunity for those attending is the Mayor's First Pitch Raffle. Following his own tradition, Mayor Tim DeGeeter is forfeiting his opportunity to throw out the first pitch. Instead, he holds a yearly raffle for a child to throw out his pitch. This oncein-a-lifetime opportunity is open to children who are Parma residents ages 17 or younger and who have purchased tickets in advance. The drawing occurs after tickets are sold out or returned to the Indians, which is typically about a



Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter gives away his first pitch at Parma Night. Anthony was the lucky raffle winner last year

week before the game. Tickets will soon be available for purchase from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Parma Recreation Department, 7335 Ridge Road. Tickets are \$26 each in the family deck section.



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site lists cultural events in our area. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture has made 2,169 grants to 404 nonprofits, for a total of \$182,408,455.00 since 2007. The site is easy to use. There are tabs for Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, History, Festivals, Film, Radio & Television. Literary Arts, Museums, Science & Nature. In addition, you can search for Family-Friendly and Free

Events. It's a great resource for locating interesting and educational events for you and your family to attend. It also has a listing of artists and includes several of the Parma Area Fine Arts Council's members. The classified section lists opportunities for artists such as jobs, and call for artist/entries for various shows.

Crashed:

Pieces Of A Dream..

by Davidione Pearl

There is a well-known saying in the art world, "L'art pour l'art." A phrase first coined by 19th-century French Philosopher Victor Cousin that translates to "art for art's sake" in Modern English. Cleveland native and driftwood sculpture artist Linda Dempsey sees the world in very much the same way. A long journey from photography school in California has brought her current expressions to life along the shores of Lake Erie and twisting environs of nearby rivers and streams. This is where she often calls home, creating exotic pieces of leftover earth and arbor she then animates and anthropomorphically brings to life.

Earlier this year, Dempsey was approached by Lakeland Community College in Kirtland Ohio to share her work in their gallery for a monthlong winter exhibit. Per the policy of the school, all artists must submit insurance values of their work prior to shows. She submitted the value of \$3,000 for her selected pieces to show, pieces that were from her private collection and would not be set for sales. LCC then moved forward with the exhibit and began the curating process.

The show opened in February, and for Dempsey, it began the same as any other; that would, however, change in the distant hours to follow. A few days into the show an incident occurred in the gallery - a guest in attendance accidentally backed into Dempsey's sculptures while taking photos of other art in the room. Three of the sculptures crashed to the floor rendering one severely damaged and two destroyed. When this was brought to the artist's attention, LCC immediately went to work by aligning it as an insurance claim that would soon be resolved. The nature of that dialogue changed over time, as the claim then became one that was below their insurance deductible and had to be treated as a departmental payout.

After multiple communiques from both parties attempting resolve yet reaching a continued impasse, Dempsey countered with a reduced



value of \$1,900 in hopes of expediting an equitable conclusion.

LCC countered with \$1,500.

Dempsey declined.

LCC then countered with \$1,200 Dempsey declined.

LCC VP Marketing - Dawn Plants, when reached for comment expressed that the school has proceeded with securing an appraiser to determine the value of Dempsey's work, in hopes that the issue may soon be resolved.





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