

“If the truth shall kill them, let them die.” Immanuel Kant

Young Professionals Of Parma Hosts Another Successful Pizza Bake Off!

by Jeremy Jusek

Local nonprofit Young Professionals of Parma (your favorite group of community advocates!) hosted the 2023 Pizza Bake Off, an annual tradition dating back to well before Covid. This year was a smashing success! Hundreds of Parma-area residents poured in to sample pizza from our city’s premiere pizza restaurants. In addition to the pizza, there was live music, raffles and prizes, beer provided by Schnitz Ale Brewery, games, and a whole lot more.

Donatos Pizza took home the Judges’ Best Sauce award, while Primo’s won the Judges’ Overall Best category. Not to be outdone, Napoleon’s Pizza



secured the People’s Choice award (I know they earned my vote!). The three judges were Gabe Spiegel of Fox 8 News, the current Ward 1 city council representative Monica Wilson,

Parma Chief of Police Joseph Bobak, and the Schnitz Ale Brewery owner Igor Djurin.

There was plenty for kids to do, too! The kids’ game table was swarmed with activ-

ity all night, as kids won candy and prizes playing carnival-style games and competing in a city-wide coloring contest. The free photo booth doled out scores of prop-laden photos—fine family memories for the fridge or scrapbook.

The money raised at this event helps fund Young Professionals of Parma’s events and other initiatives throughout the year—and they do more than you may realize. We host the annual Senior Yard Cleanup and Holiday Lights Contest. We’re responsible for Parma’s Halloween Trunk or Treat event. We also back a \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors through the PTA’s annual scholarship program. During Covid they helped run meals to the less fortunate and immune-compromised, and

donate thousands annually in food and clothing to local food pantries and other nonprofits. If you value these initiatives and what they add to the community, what better way to support the organization than eating pizza?

This event captures everything to love about our community. If you missed it this year, I strongly encourage you to look our for the 2024 Pizza Bake Off. And add us on Facebook! We offer events all year round, from the family-oriented to fun social initiatives. And if you want to roll up your sleeves to contribute, the philanthropy committee is always looking for help! Help us celebrate the city of Parma as we move into the future.

NEORS D Stormwater Project To Close Sprague Road In Parma And North Royalton For 60 Days

by Jennifer Elting

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District’s next Regional Stormwater Management Project, “Big Creek Flood

Reduction near Sprague Road,” will begin April 24, resulting in a road closure and detours in North Royalton and Parma.

Sprague Road will be

closed for approximately 200 feet, east of Thornhurst Drive. Thru-traffic motorists will detour to Pleasant Valley Road via State and Hoertz Roads. Residents living within the closed area will continue to have driveway access during construction.

The project will continue into the fall, but the road will be closed for approximately 60 days.

This \$1.4 million project will replace the deteriorated stream crossing beneath Sprague Road, doubling in size to increase capacity and reduce street flooding. A segment of the now-culverted stream south of Sprague Road will be daylighted and a floodplain will be reestablished to further reduce street flooding.

NEORS D’s Regional Stormwater Management Program addresses problems related to stormwater runoff from hard surfaces. Runoff contributes to regional stream flooding, erosion and water-quality issues, and the program improves NEORS D’s ability to further address stormwater problems that cross community boundaries.

Parma Heights Memorial Day Commemoration



by Marie Gallo

On Monday, May 29th, the Parma Heights Memorial Day service will take place on the front lawn of the Parma-South Presbyterian Church at 6155 Pearl Road. 2023 marks the 156th consecutive year of the Parma Heights Memorial Day commemoration. The Parma Heights service is the oldest continuous observance

in the state of Ohio.

The service at the church will begin at 9:30 a.m., followed by the ceremony at the cemetery, also on Pearl Road, scheduled to begin at about 10:45 a.m.

The Memorial Day ceremonies will include speeches at the Parma-South Presbyterian Church by: Mayor Marie Gallo,

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



This month’s picture of the month includes State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan and Nathan Tohati. Nathan is a member of St. Charles Borromeo’s Boy Scout Troop 221. He has dedicated a lot of time and hours sprucing up the script Parma sign for his Eagle Scout project. More to come on this project soon. If you would like to submit a picture for the script Parma picture of the month contest, e-mail it to staterepbrennan@gmail.com and include your name, address, and contact information.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

In last month's column I wrote about my commitment to bipartisanship in my work at the Ohio Statehouse. I am of the belief, and I believe most agree, that Democrats and Republicans working across the aisle leads to better policies that benefit all Ohioans and that it is our only hope for the future. I am happy to report this month on a piece of legislation that I recently worked on that exemplifies this spirit of cooperation and how it led to a good result for Ohio.

In December, the Ohio General Assembly – the lawmaking branch of our state government – held what is called its lame duck session. This is the period that occurs after the November election and before the newly elected members, like myself, get sworn-in in January. Needless to say, things happen very quickly, with very little discus-



You can watch our favorite State REpresentative at work on????

sion or public input during this frantic time, which leads to bad laws being passed and mistakes being made.

One bill passed during lame duck was House Bill 509 (HB 509). This bill made a multitude of changes to occu-

pational licenses in Ohio in the name of making state government more efficient. However, some last minute changes were quickly made to the bill that essentially took away a local fire department's ability to conduct in-house training by requiring that training be held at an accredited institution. As you can imagine, this would great increase the cost of training and make it very inconvenient. Note that these changes were included without asking firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) – the experts in this challenging field of work – for their opinions.

I know as a schoolteacher how frustrating it is when laws are made that affect our profession and the students we serve that do not properly include our input. All too often these laws have a negative impact on our ability to help students achieve to their potential. Relatedly, sometimes these laws require our schools and other local governments to implement unfunded or partially funded mandates, requiring our cities, schools, libraries, and other local governments to go to their local voters to seek funding to meet state mandates.

Once the problems with HB 509 were discovered, as the lead Democrat in the Ohio House of Representatives Standing Committee on State and Local Government, I joined with my Republican colleagues, Marilyn John (chair of the committee) and Sarah Fowler Arthur (vice chair of the committee), to support HB 52 to undo them. Time was of the essence, as HB 509 was set to go into effect in early

April. The three of us worked hard to seek input from state leaders of fire-fighter and EMT organizations and educate our respective members on the importance of passing the bill. I am happy to report that it subsequently passed the Ohio House and Ohio Senate unanimously and it was signed by the governor prior to the deadline.

I share this story with you because all too often the media does not report on examples like this when Democrats and Republicans come together to support good legislation. As voters we must make it known that we expect our leaders to include our input in the laws they make and that they should work in a bipartisan manner. This will ensure that good laws are passed that are in the best interests of every Ohioan. Best wishes for a blessed Memorial Day. Please join me in prayer for the heroes who gave their lives so that we might live free.

PSO Spring Concert Sunday 5/7 3:00pm



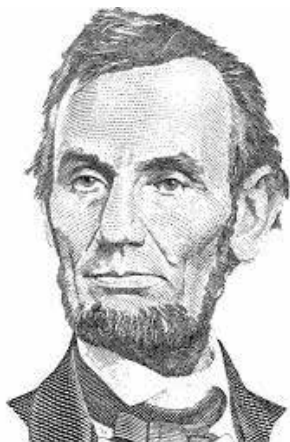
Parma City School Superintendent Charles Smialek will Narrate: "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland at upcoming Spring Concert of PSO

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a LIVE Classical Music Concert on Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights Featuring:

Parma City School Superintendent Charles Smialek Narration of "A Lincoln Portrait" by Aaron Copland Also: John Williams: Theme from "The Patriot", "Gettysburg Symphonic Suite" by Randy Edelman and "Americana, A Medley of Well Known American Melodies" by Arthur Harris

The orchestra, in its 53rd season consists of 80 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually. For more infor-



mation can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM or from any member of the orchestra. Tickets paid with cash are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. Advance Sale tickets are available online at Home | PARMA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (square. site) Credit card purchases available include \$2 per ticket handling fee.

Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools.

Young Professionals
PARMA

Facebook: ParmaYPs
Twitter: @YPParma
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

UH Parma Stroke Screening Focuses On Prevention

by CJ Sheppard

Not staying up to watch late night TV might have saved Ron Clow's life.

Usually when his wife heads to bed in the evening, Ron remains in the living room to finish a ball game or some other show. But on the night of Feb. 28, Josephine said she was going to bed, and Ron thought that sounded like a good idea.

He was right.

When Josephine came out of the bathroom after preparing for bed, Ron was speaking gibberish and having trouble moving one side of his body. At least that's what he was told, because he doesn't remember any of the next three days, from being transported by ambulance to UH Parma Medical Center for evaluation of a stroke and administration of the clot-busting Tenecteplase, to being airlifted to UH Cleveland Medical Center for a thrombectomy or mechanical removal of the clot.

"Thank God for her – she called 9-1-1 for the ambulance," said the Parma man, 73, who has been married to his wife for 54 years and known her since kindergarten. "If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here right now."

UH Parma is a Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center and among 14 UH hospitals recognized for quality stroke care. UH Cleveland Medical Center, a Comprehensive Stroke Center that can handle mechanical removal of clots in ischemic stroke cases,

is the only hospital in Ohio for the second consecutive year to receive all four of the highest awards from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Awards.

Timing is critical in stroke cases. Every 40 seconds in the United States, someone suffers a stroke, and every 3.5 minutes someone dies. It's the leading cause of long-term disability in the country. UH Parma works closely with EMS on stroke identification, and EMS can notify the hospital of a suspected stroke en route to the Emergency Department. The Stroke Team is activated to prepare for the patient.

"EMS identified his stroke symptoms, and stroke activation was initiated before he arrived," said ED physician Tom Mager, MD. "He was evaluated in the hallway and then taken directly to CT. Radiology interpreted his head CT, and I ordered thrombolytics and a CT angiogram that identified a large vessel arterial occlusion. The patient was flown to CMC (UH Cleveland Medical Center).

It was similar to care that we perform every day."

Ron spent a total of 21 days in the hospital, including three days in the Neurosciences Unit at UH Cleveland Medical Center before returning to his community hospital for intensive therapy at UH Parma's Acute Rehabilitation Center.

He has graduated from a walker to a cane and is moving around pretty well now. He starting outpatient physical therapy.

"Everybody at the hospital was just great," Ron said. Added Josephine: "He wouldn't be doing as good as he is if everybody – the paramedics, the doctors, the nurses, everybody – didn't move quick. I couldn't say enough about all of them."

The most effective treatments for stroke are only available if the stroke is identified within the first three hours after symptoms present. It's critical to BE FAST:

- BALANCE – Is it difficult for the person to walk?
- EYE – Does the person have a


sudden change in vision?

- FACE – Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?
- ARMS – Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
- SPEECH – Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence. Is the speech slurred? Can he/she repeat the sentence?
- TIME – If the person shows any of these symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately.

UH Parma has planned a stroke screening on Thursday, May 11 from 12-2 p.m. at the Parma-Powers Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 6996 Powers Blvd., Parma, across the street from the hospital. The free stroke risk assessment from the UH experts includes checks of blood pressure, blood glucose, total cholesterol and body mass index. No preregistration is required.

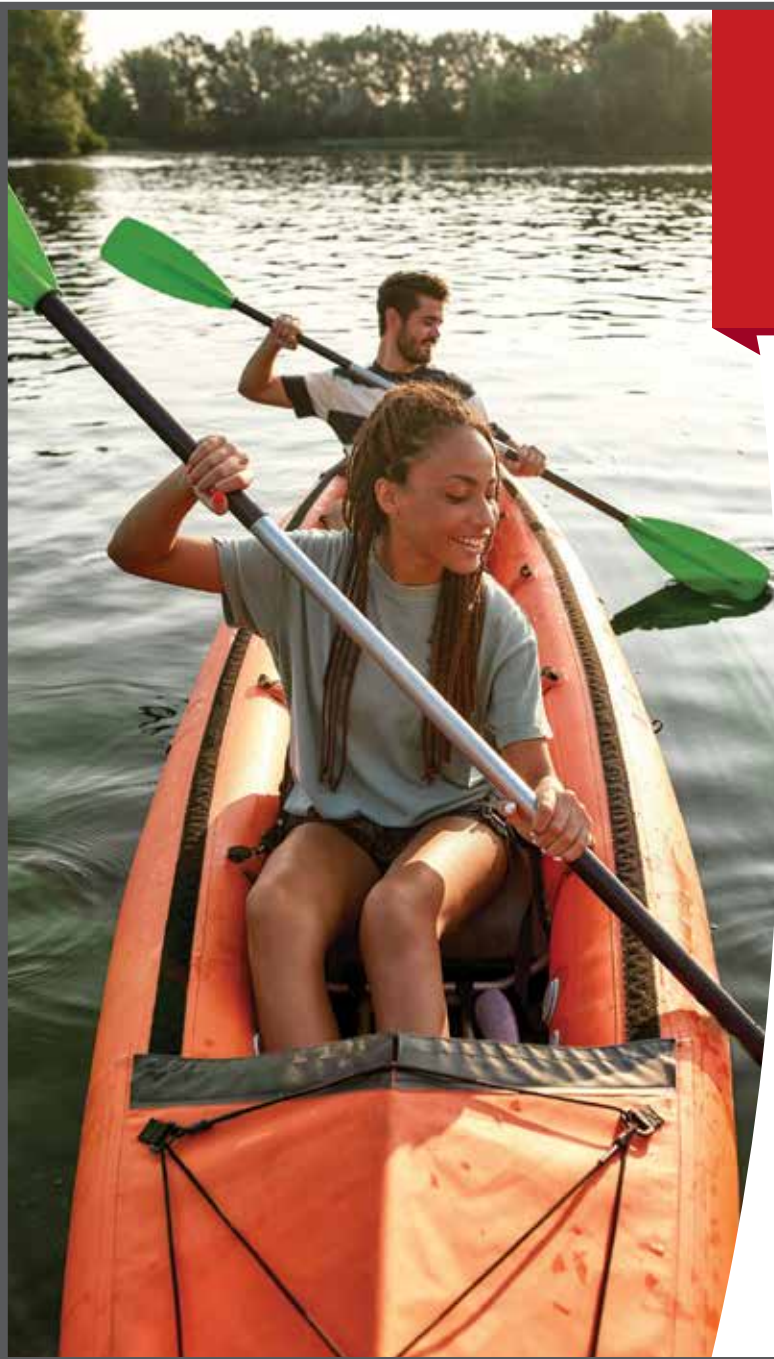
UH experts also are offering two virtual health talks during Stroke Awareness Month. Register for these talks at UHhospitals.org/StrokeRisk:

- Stroke 101 on Wednesday, May 10 from 12-1 p.m. with Cathy Sila, MD, Director of the UH System Stroke Program
- Life After Stroke on Wednesday, May 24 from 6-7 p.m. with a variety of experts including Dr. Sila speaking on stroke prevention medications and others covering driving evaluation after a stroke and smoking cessation strategies.



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UH Parma Medical Center
7007 Powers Boulevard, Parma

GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

Party And Parade
In Polish Village

by Kathryn Mabin

Who doesn't love a parade and a party? And this one is the first parade of the year! May 7th at 2:00 pm, starts the Polish Constitution Day Parade in Polish Village. It starts at the Circle on Ridge Rd. and travels north down Ridge to Alber Ave. You'll see high school bands, Polish dignitaries & organizations, local politicians, businesses and non-profits. The Grand Marshall's this year are Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and representing the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio is Marta Leszczynski. Parma and Polish Village are proud to stand with Ukraine.

The festival Sunday in the parking lot of Unity Catholic Credit Union, 5839 Ridge Rd., is a lively & colorful event, and closes at 6 pm. You can listen and dance to the music of a live Polka Band! Watch the traditional Polish dancers entertain you, dressed in their beautiful costumes. Come for the food! Food trucks will be serving pierogi, potato pancakes, cabbage & noodles, chicken papri-

kash & spaetzle, kielbasi & kraut, plus lots of other food treats will be waiting for you. The Polish Genealogical Society and the First Catholic Slovak Society will be on hand to educate you about their organizations. Also you'll find marketplace vendors like Polish Pottery, Pierogi Gifts jewelry, Joey's Rockin' Poppin' Popcorn, plus an assortment of local home-based vendors selling hand-made items, teas & herbs, wood crafted items, candles, room fresheners and more. Stop at the Polish Village Volunteers table to purchase their merchandise or buy raffle tickets for some great prizes. There will also be a balloon twister for the kids.

Friday, May 5th, come to Rookie's, 5513 Pearl Rd, for Polish Happy Hour from 6 to 8 pm for food, drinks, music and more. \$25 includes food and 2 drink tickets.

Come Celebrate the weekend in Polish Village Parma, and the Polish Constitution which was modeled after ours in the U.S.



Saving Historic Property –
Parma Heights Library

by Emery Pinter

What is the difference between structures that are unique to a city's history, and those that are simply old? The Parma Heights Library is a great candidate to be put on the National Register of Historic Places. Nonprofit historical sites define these sites as having architectural and historical value and relevance. The key word here is "relevance." The Parma Heights Library for the past 50+ years provides not just a link to the past, but in this case, artistic and architectural beauty in the present. Once a structure is razed or removed, that link is gone forever. The cost of saving and maintaining old buildings, though, cannot be ignored at a time budgets are being pulled in more directions that ever.

Parma Heights was the first municipality in Ohio to pass a bond issue specifically for the construction of a library. The entire process took nearly two years, forged new legal ground in the state, and became the template for other municipalities who wanted libraries in their communities.

In 1960, Parma Heights residents passed a \$150,000 bond issue for the construction of the library building. However, at the time, the state statues

did not allow a city to own and operate a library. An agreement was reached with the Cuyahoga County Library Board, and they accepted the building on a lease basis with the provision that the County Library operated the branch. Since this type of arrangement set a precedent, the bond counsel would not approve the construction bonds for public sale until the Parma Heights pension Funds agreed to purchase the bonds as an investment. This makes the Parma Heights library a significant part of the history of the State of Ohio.

Saving any older structure will require active pursuit of grants, which the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program is prepared to do. There is a difference between a building that speaks to Parma Heights' proud past and one that just sits there for decades or more. It is hoped the city and the Ohio's Historic Preservation groups and Preservation Trusts can work together to identify how to manage irreplaceable history with economic reality, so that usable buildings can not only represent what Parma Heights once was, but what it is now, and will be.

Parma Heights
Memorial Day Commemoration

continued from page 1

Rev. Blake Severson from Parma-South Presbyterian Church, American Legion Post #703 representative, along with the Valley Forge Marching Band and Boy Scout Troop #263. For those planning to attend the service at Parma-South Presbyterian church, please bring chairs to sit on.

The Veteran's Memorial Cemetery service will include the wreath laying ceremony. Over 50 veterans are buried in the Parma Heights cemetery ranging from The Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War.

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. The continuation of the Memorial Day ceremonies is a staple for the City of Parma Heights and its residents.

For more info, call 440-884-9600.

<http://www.parmaheightsoh.gov/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofParmaHeights/>

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PARMA HEIGHTS

Best Mother’s Day Gifts For Every Type Of Mom In Your Life

by Emery Pinter

Choosing a gift for your mom can feel like an impossible task, especially if she’s the “has everything, wants nothing” type. If your mom is anything like mine, she is incredibly kind, deserving, and never asks for anything in return for all the hard work that it takes to just be a mom. She’s the family’s rock, comedic relief, and overall superhero; she deserves something that will make her feel thought of, pampered, and adored. That’s why this Local Gift Guide is full of unique picks, luxurious items, and indulgences she wants but would never buy herself. Whether it’s your own mom or another beloved mother in your life, Parma Heights has you covered. Shop on to find the perfect gift for every mom on your list this year.

For the Mom who likes to soak and who’s all about ambience-- Let her relax with handmade self care items from Thee Tree House, 6269 Pearl Road, which has one-of-a-kind holistic Mother's Day gifts. You'll find no shortage of candles, crystals, and apothecary products. But be sure to check out the one-of-a-kind soaps and beauty gifts made with all-natural botanicals.

For the Mom who likes to see things clearly--Get Mom a new pair of designer eyeglasses or sunglasses for Mother's Day. 168 Optical LLC, 6315 Pearl Road, Ste#206 has some of the most stylish options you can choose from and at a very affordable price! Every mom is unique. Discover their Mother's Day sunglasses selection and give your mom a pair that reflects



how special she is. And don't forget the fashion eyeglass cases with matching microfiber cleaning cloths, and ceramic face planter and glasses holder.

For the Mom who never skips her night time routine--Village Cards & Gifts. 6643 Pearl Road, is a go-to spot for sending the spa to her. Enjoy a little at-home pampering with spa essentials from Lemon Lavender! From eye masks to satin pillowcases, there's so much cozy to discover. Hot & Cold relaxing

reusable gel eye masks to relieve stress, upgrade her skincare with a gentle, high-foam exfoliators, and socks infused with natural aloe vera. And remember to pick up a Mother's Day card, and shop the rest of the store to put together a Mother's Day-inspired gift with jewelry, apparel, accessories, Kedzie products, and maybe even a soft, cuddly Ty plush.

For the Mom who prefers the Best looking nails--Heidy's Nails Supply

has the colors she'll love!! The Pearl Road store is outfitted in stylish decor and hundreds of products from nail polishes to artificial nails, and a great selection of nail art supplies. Heidy's Nails Supply is at 6625 Pearl Road.

For the Mom comfortable in their surroundings-- Diamond Strength Fitness, 6690 Pearl Rd, is racking up impressive reviews and customer feedback. A clear benefit of this women-only gym is the fact Michelle can tailor classes very specifically to her audience, and it's going to lead to a better workout. Gift certificates are available to get any Mom started on a more personalized exercise experience.

This Mother's Day, let us praise mothers more than we ever have. They've taken on a great role more than ever imagined, including stepping up as an in-home teacher when kids are out of school, holding the family together in a time of need, and wearing so many hats it’s too hard to count. Thank you to all the moms out there. May this year’s Mother’s Day be an extra special one.



Easter At
Pleasant Lake Villa

by Theresa Ritchie

We had an egg-ceptional Easter at Pleasant Lake Villa this year. We enjoyed a beautiful Good Friday prayer service lead by our very own, Reverend Thomas. He spoke about the importance of Good Friday. On Holy Saturday, there was some-bunny special that stopped by with Easter candy and helped us color Easter eggs. Then, we showcased our residents' art and enjoyed delicious Easter-themed desserts. Thank you to all that made our Easter season such a blessed experience this year!

12th Annual Parma
Run-Walk for Pierogies

5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, July 1, 2023 - 7:30 am

Tri-C Western Campus - 11000 Pleasant Valley Road

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College

University Hospitals
Parma Medical Center

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Mail entries must be received by Wednesday, June 28.

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*Day of Registration \$30

*Ages 11 and Under: \$15

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Race Director: Sean Brennan: pierogie5k@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit local charities and projects. Sponsorship opportunities available!

Run/Walk for Pierogies

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Last Name: _____

Race Day Age: _____; Gender: M F

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

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Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature (Parent/Guardian, if under 18): _____

Shirt Size: YS YM YL S M L XL XXL XXXL Circle One: 5K Run, 5K Walk or 1 Mile Walk

I hereby understand that upon my entry into the Pierogies 5K race/walk or 1 mile fun walk, I waive any and all claims for damages that I may have against University Hospitals, Cuyahoga Community College, Perla Pierogies, the Parma Charitable Fund, Hermes Sports & Events, promoters, sponsors or anyone involved in the production of this race, regarding any and all injuries suffered by me while running, traveling to and from, or participation in this event, for myself, my heirs and/or assignors. I also understand that refunds will not be available for entry fees.

Join the Discussion at: www.parmaobserver.com

INSPIRATION

Hometown Heroes... The True Meaning Of Memorial Day

by Tony Kessler

Throughout the years, Memorial Day in the United States has traditionally become the “unofficial” start of summer. Family Gatherings, Picnics, barbecues, swimming pools, pancake breakfasts have become commonplace on the last Monday in May. There is nothing wrong with having an enjoyable time kicking off the summer months, however we must never forget the true meaning of this day, the honoring our countries heroes, the Military members who gave their lives so that we can have the freedom to enjoy the picnics, family gatherings and barbecues.

Memorial Day dates to the civil war in the 1860’s when it was called “Decoration Day”. It was so named for the tradition of decorating soldiers’ graves with flowers and flags and only honored Civil War soldiers. After World War I, the holiday took on a much greater meaning and later became recognized as Memorial Day.

The American Civil War repre-



sented an unprecedented conflict in the United States, and it claimed more lives than any other U.S. war. Many lost loved ones whom they sought to honor and remember, and people often showed their love by laying flowers on their soldiers’ graves. Communities gathered to mourn their losses, and

this led to Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day.

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of

men and citizens. For love of country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue."

....James Garfield

General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, was said to have been the one who started Memorial Day. He called for May 30th to become a National Holiday in 1868. By 1890, every northern state had made Decoration Day an official Holiday. Many say the ending of May was designated because that was when all the flowers were in full bloom. Remember our Hometown Heroes this Memorial Day.

The monthly Meeting of the “Parma Area Senior Veterans” meetup group will be a special tribute to Memorial Day with special guests and entertainment. Everyone is welcome to join us at The Donna Smallwood Activity Center in Parma on May 26th at 12:30pm. Follow us on Facebook at: [parmaareaseniorveterans](#)

Faith Community Directory

- All Faiths Pantry**
P.O. Box 34239 Parma, OH 44134 216-496-4329
[allfaithspantry.org](#)
- All Saints Episcopal Church**
8911 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, Ohio 44130, 440-888-4055
[parishadmin@allsaintsparma.org](#)
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
7500 State Rd. Parma, OH 440-845-2230
[www.blc7500.com](#)
- Divinity Lutheran Church**
11877 Blossom Ave. Parma Hts., OH 44130, 440-845-2060
[www.divinitylutheran.com](#)
- The Islamic Center of Cleveland**
6055 W. 130th St. Parma, OH 44130 216-362-0786
[www.iccleveland.org](#)
- Ridgewood United Methodist Church**
6330 Ridge Rd. Parma, OH 44129 440-885-1360
[www.ridgewoodumc.org](#)
- St. Bridget's of Kildare Church**
5620 Hauserman Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-886-4434
[www.Stbridgetparma.com](#)
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
7367 York Rd. Parma, OH 44130 440-842-5533
[www.holyfamparma.org](#)
- Parma Christian Church**
7000 Ridge Rd., Parma, Ohio 44129, 440-842-1614
[www.parmachristianchurch.org](#)
- Calvary Lutheran Church**
6906 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, Ohio 44130 440-845-0070
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NEIGHBORHOODS

A Memorial Day Tribute (Honoring Our Veterans)

by Robert Stilwell

In 2017 the Parma Heights Historical Society began identifying and placing markers at each Veteran's grave site. The Cemetery is currently close to capacity. Since the start of this project until now I began to realize how Patriotic this rural area was especially during 1861-1865, Civil War years. I did a Nation wide study and discovered that the Parma area is one the highest number of Veterans as a percentage of total graves. 12.5% of the total grave sites in this Cemetery are Veterans.

There are 75 Veterans buried in this Cemetery. 70 Men and 5 Women, 2 WWII Nurses, 1 Civil War Nurse, 1 Marine, and 1 from Coast Guard. The Oldest Veteran at death was Steve Santner at 101. Steve was a WWII Army Veteran.

The Toll Collector at the corner of Pearl Road and Old York from 1876-1907 was Oscar Nicholas, a wounded Veteran from the Civil War. He was in the 67th Regiment Company G of the Ohio Infantry. He entered as a Corporal and left as a Sargent. He was shot in the right arm during the battle of Fort Wagner, South Carolina. He was also shot in the right leg during the battle of Ware Bottom Church, Virginia.

He was to be promoted to Lieutenant, but because of his extensive wounds was discharged on 12/12/1865 by a Surgeon. Oscar was a President of the Grand Army Republic. He represented the Civil War Veterans from the Parma Township and was one of the founding members of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Cleveland.

The City of Parma Heights in partnership with the Parma Heights Historical Society purchased two benches that will be permanently placed in the Cemetery and in time for this year's Memorial Day Service Monday May 29. 2023

As a Navy Veteran from the Vietnam War Era, Member of the American Legion Post 703, and Parma Heights Historical Society Member, I can say in behalf of all these groups we will NEVER FORGET their Service.

Number of Veterans per War

- Revolutionary War - (2)
- Civil War - (21)
- Spanish American - (1)
- World War I - (3)
- World War II - (36)
- Korea - (4)
- Vietnam - (8)
- Total ---- (75)**



Main Auditorium without shell installed

Help Us Save Parma Senior High School's Bell Tower And Theaters

by Katrina Yeigh

Many of you know that the Parma City school board and the superintendent have decided to tear down Parma Senior High school and several elementary schools. They also want to build a new school on Parma Senior High School's site. I would love to fight to save the whole building as it is my alma-mater. In addition, I have been involved in some way or another in the school district and Parma Senior High for the last 25 years. I definitely do not agree with the superintendent's plan to get rid of these schools for many reasons and I definitely do not think he should be tearing down Parma Senior High at all because the school was build very well and is still very viable but I think that fight would be fruitless. I am, however, helping the Parma Senior High School Stage Crew circulate a petition to

try to save a piece of Parma Senior High School. We are trying to save the beautiful, historic 1500 seat theater, the iconic bell tower and the little theatre. The large theater used to be home to the Cleveland Orchestra and many stars like Frankie Avalon have been on that stage. One of the students has put together a petition with a lot of history about these spaces to get signatures to present to the school board and superintendent to try to convince them to keep the theater section of the school. I am asking the residents of Parma to help us by signing our petition. The petition is on Change.org. I am including the link here. <https://chng.it/rj8kdZ54LD> If it doesn't work, please type in the url to get to the petition or go to Change.org and search for "Save Parma Seinor High theaters and bell tower". We are hoping to get enough signatures to change their minds.

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PERSPECTIVE

The Wind From Hell - Continued

by Lee Kamps

In last month's column I discussed tornadoes in Ohio and locally. This is a continuation of that subject.

The deadliest tornado in the history of the United States was the deadly "tri state tornado" of March 18, 1925. Besides being the deadliest tornado in history, it was also one of the fastest moving and had the longest track on the ground of any tornado reported. This monster formed near the town of Ellington Missouri in the southeastern part of the state around 100 PM local time. Then it traveled on a path northeast into southern Illinois and ultimately dissipated near Princeton Indiana four hours later. This tornado traveled 217 miles on the ground and was estimated to be an EF5 tornado with winds estimated to be over 300 miles per hour. The number of deaths from this tornado was 695 people with most of the deaths being in Illinois. The forward speed of this tornado was estimated to be between 60 and 70 miles per hour along much of its track.

The peak "season" for tornadoes is in the spring with the months of March through May being the "peak" of the season. But tornadoes have formed in every month of the year and in every state in the United States. In fact, earlier this year a rare tornado struck the Los Angeles area. Generally, winter is the season least likely to see tornadoes. But on December 10, 2021, an EF4 long track tornado formed in western Tennessee, crossed into Kentucky, killing 57 people and injuring 533 people along its path.

The town of Mayfield Kentucky was the hardest hit. This tornado had a track of over 165 miles. This past winter has seen a record number of winter tornadoes in the southeastern part of the country.

The year 2011 was a year with the most tornadoes and some of the deadliest in recent history. A total of 1705 confirmed tornadoes were recorded that year in the United States. The "super outbreak" of April 25 – 28 in the southeastern United States was one of the largest and deadliest in history. During this outbreak a total of 360 confirmed tornadoes were reported causing 324 fatalities. The state of Alabama was the hardest hit with some towns wiped off the map. Then a month later, on May 22, an EF5 tornado struck Joplin Missouri, killing 155 people.

Normally summer is not a big season for tornadoes in the United States, particularly in Ohio. However, on July 12, 1992, Ohio recorded the highest number of tornadoes of any day since records were kept. A total of 28 tornadoes were reported that day in northern Ohio from Fulton County west of Toledo to Portage County. Damage was reported near the intersection of Ohio route 2 and US route 250 south of Sandusky and in North Ridgeville in Lorain County. The number of tornadoes reported in Ohio during July 1992 was 44 tornadoes and a state record of 61 tornadoes were reported in Ohio during 1992 with some being reported in November that year.

Tornadoes are formed primarily when a cold, dry air mass collides

with a warm, humid air mass. Usually, the cold air mass is moving south from Canada and when this is aggravated by a strong low pressure system, the ingredients are all together for large storms that can produce tornadoes. The two major forces that cause a tornado to form are lift and rotation. Warm air rises and when warm humid air is rising rapidly because of the advancing cold air or there is a strong low pressure center this causes greater lift. If the warm air is rising faster than the air is naturally cooled by the altitude, the air mass is unstable and will keep rising until it reaches the upper atmosphere. This creates the large thunderstorm clouds so common in the spring and summer.

But not all thunderstorms produce tornadoes. To create a tornado, there must be rotation of the air within the storm. That rotation is caused by winds converging from different directions or "wind shear". Usually this is when the air at the lower levels is moving in one direction while the winds at higher levels are moving in another direction. Normally this creates a lot of turbulence in a thunderstorm but not tornadoes because there isn't enough lift. However, when the tem-

peratures and humidities are the greatest such as in spring, there is more lift that can cause that rotating air to become vertical, then a tornado is formed.

Very frequently in late summer and fall, we see waterspouts over Lake Erie. These are caused by cold air moving over a warmer lake which causes the lift from the rising air and the wind has some shear to it which causes the rotation. But these cold air waterspouts are not very dangerous and usually dissipate as they reach land. But they can cause some problems on the beach.

The same phenomenon often happens on hot summer days when a rising column of air on a sunny day may develop a spin caused by the hot air rising and the winds causing some shear. These are harmless and can stir up dust and hay but are short lived. In a desert, these whirls, or "dust devils" can get quite large and reach high into the sky, but often there isn't a cloud so these may cause some problems, they are not deadly or dangerous and usually don't last long.

Source material for this column came from Thunder in the Heartland by Thomas W and Jeanne A Schmidlin, Kent State University Press 1996 and the National Weather Service as well as my studies in Meteorology and Climatology as a student at Kent State University.

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OBSERVER

Unprecedented Presidential Prosecutions: The Why

by Davidione Pearl

America, as every generation has come to know it, is at an unmistakable crossroads in presidential oversight. What was once an untouchable shield of extreme executive privilege held tightly in the palm of the nation’s most powerful office, is today being pierced by law enforcement at both the federal and state levels, for an ever-widening array of charges against the 45th President of the United States, Donald John Trump.

Throughout the country’s history, prosecutors and lawmakers have consistently chosen (not) to engage presidents for unlawful and unethical enterprise at nearly every turn, in fact largely aiding them openly with such efforts - from the Indian Removal Act of 1830 enacted by President Andrew Jackson, a law that forcibly removed Native Americans from their homes, relocating them up to a thousand miles away, clearing the path for white settlers to claim their former lands, to the infamous Trail of Tears that would follow, under President Martin Van Buren’s administration, resulting in the deaths of four-thousand Native Americans and over sixty-thousand displaced lives.

President Andrew Johnson’s backing of the post-civil war Black Codes, an Apartheid-esque forced labor campaign ensuring the south’s claim and



return to pre-civil war labor expectations of black citizens, setting the stage along with President Rutherford B. Hayes in giving rise to the Ku Klux Klan, (after) federal amendments had already been established to protect said black lives, effectively rendered their support of the Black Codes impeachable on unethical grounds, and, firmly illegal by newly recognized federal criminal statutes.

Notably, slave-owning presidents and presidents openly supporting slavery include: Washington, Jefferson, Monroe, Jackson, Taylor, Van Buren, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Johnson, and Hayes, with President Millard Fillmore signing the Fugitive Slave Act

(1850), giving license to the federal government to spend tax dollars in locating and returning slaves to their owners, regardless if the condemned had fled to a “free” state or not.

President Chester A. Arthur’s Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, an initiative that led to indiscriminate murder and violence against America’s Chinese population, and the Daws Act of 1887, costing Native American Tribes the loss of an additional sixty-two percent of their lands under President Grover Cleveland, were yet additional unethical crimes against humanity that went unpunished.

Beyond the question of unethical impeachable offenses of former presi-

dents, are the direct criminal offenses of (most notably) President Warren G. Harding, who, with the ill-famed Ohio Gang (his cabinet of advisors) were well-known for embezzlement, racketeering, theft, bribery, securities fraud, blackmail, witness tampering, smuggling, extortion, and perjury. Together they smuggled alcohol into the White House during the federal prohibition of alcohol, as federal agents routinely sent smugglers to prison for the same offense. The Ohio Gang accepted bribes from private oil companies to lease federal naval oil reserves in the west (Teapot Dome Scandal), going as far as to offer one million dollars in bribes to editors of the Denver Post to not run the story once it was uncovered.

Additionally, Harding paid Carrie Phillips over three-hundred thousand dollars (today’s equivalent) to keep quiet about their affair, while her husband was recovering from a severe depressive episode in a sanatorium. Harding paid hush money to Nan Britton, an (underage) visitor to the White House that he routinely had his way with in the Oval Office, to keep news of his impregnating her and the birth of their child, Elizabeth Ann Britton Harding Blaesing, a paid secret.

You can read the rest of this article at: parmaobserver.com

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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (And Where To Find It)

by Gene Lovasy

RAISING AWARENESS: Human Trafficking/Abuse: Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www.parmaobserver.com/read/news

From The Polaris Project... To bring yourself up-to-date, go here for a quick review of the myths vs. realities of sex and labor trafficking and some of the Red Flags of each.

From Men Can Stop Violence – Don't be "That Guy"... This is a PSA adapted by Futures Without Violence designed to engage men in helping to reduce rape, sexual assault, and harassment through frank conversations about male sexual entitlement and unhealthy masculinity. =From

Cleveland Rape Crisis Center:
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM). CRCC's theme for SAAM 2023 is Let's Talk...about supporting survivors of rape, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. Let's Talk about promoting healing and prevention. Let's Talk about advocating for social change and the elimination of sexual violence. Print a copy of their April SAAM Event Calendar; Download & print a SAAM Poster for your classroom or office; Visit their SAAM webpage for additional SAAM resources to view and/or share.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Grant Sources for Nonprofits...
Here is another set of five grantors identified by the MyCom network.

• The JAMS Foundation/ACR Initiative for Students and Youth; The Sam J. Frankino Foundation; The Ohio Children's Foundation; > The National Endowment for the Arts Big Read; The Hillshire Farm Allowance Grant. If you're affiliated with a family/youth-serving organization visit these funders' sites to see if your program/service fits their mission.

From Parma City Schools:
The 3 April Town Hall Meetings pertaining to the upcoming bond issue.. No FB sign-up is required to view the stream.

The Superintendent's State of the Schools address, presented on Feb. 16, 2023, is available on YouTube. Go here to view the presentation & learn more about the successes achieved & issues currently facing the District.

Summer Movie Nights at Byers Field are back. Mark your calendars... June 6th, 13th & August 22nd. Gates open at 6:30 and the features start at 7:00 pm. FREE to all residents of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

From Parma Council of PTA's...
Nutrition Svcs and PTA have partnered up to provide elementary students with

a free tomato plant and online curriculum to follow during the summer. Go here to sign up.

From Ohio Board of Education – Career Connections

SuccessBound... SuccessBound is an educational approach and communication strategy that bring together Ohio's strong business and education partnerships to engage and inspire students about career opportunities. If you're a student considering what career path to pursue or an employer looking to partner up with a school system SuccessBound may have the answers you're looking for.

ACE Savings Account program (provides qualifying families with a \$1,000 credit per child) team members will be available virtually every Tuesday & Wednesday through May 31st to answer all questions about ACE. Go here for details.

From CANDID... Established in Feb 2019 with the merging of the well-regarded Foundation Center & Guidestone, CANDID, with only a few exceptions, now offers its training programs for non-profits at no charge. Go here to check out course offerings in such categories as Proposal Writing, Fund Raising, Governance, Management, and more.

From The Literacy Cooperative...
1st Annual Pre-K Teachers' Academy –

Friday, May 5th, 8:45 – 2:45 pm

Be part of the first annual PKTA celebrating professionals that educate and nurture our youngest learners. This all-day in-person event taking place at the CCPL's-Parma Snow Branch will provide opportunities for learning, networking, and fun! Two (2) Ohio-approved credits are available for a breakout session of your choice. Go here to register.

From The Center for Community Solutions:

Survey: Reproductive Rights & Mental Health...Last year's Dobbs decision overturning Roe v Wade has experts worried about increased mental health issues among birthing people. Individuals working with pregnant people and community- or health-based organizations are invited to complete the survey. Take the survey.

Ohio Medicaid rolls increased by roughly 800,000 people during the public health emergency, 40% of whom were children. With Medicaid processes returning to normal, what does that mean? If you're a provider, advo-

You can read the rest of this article with hotlinks at:
parmaobserver.com

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

*Images In Bloom, soap, silk and more, owned by Parma residents Barb & Steve Bloom, is having an open house in their new studio May 7th, noon to 5 pm. The studio is located on the 5th floor of the Twist Drill Bldg at 4700 Lakeside Ave. The studio offers a great view of Lake Erie. Several other

studios will be open to the public that day. Parking is across the street. **Prama Artspace & Gallery**, 5411 Pearl Rd is closed temporarily. It will reopen in about a month. Watch the Prama Facebook page for details. **Call For Artists** - The Parma Area Council 2023 Annual Medley of Arts Show, is Saturday, May 20th and

Sunday May 21, 2023, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. An independent panel of judges will determine the winners in each of the 5 categories. Seven cash prizes will be awarded. Deadline for entry is May 15th. Details, deadlines, rules and application can be downloaded at www.parmafinearts.org. Or contact Michelle by calling 216-618-0956, or by email at beartracksart.com, with questions, or if you'd like an application mailed.

Greenbrier Art League is a group of artists that meet every Tuesday at the Parma Heights Cassidy Theater, in the social room in the downstairs of the theater. It is free and open to all artists that would like to come and work on their projects from 10 am to 1 pm. They do a little assignment each month and have a critic on the last Tuesday. Coffee and friendship is provided. If you are interested stop in and join them.

Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing art to the community. This organization has both artists and crafters, and those that just enjoy the arts. In addition to classes they also partner with other community members on events and hold an annual art show with prizes. They are looking for new members. Are you interested? Email kathrynmabin@att.net for more information.

Call For Artists – The Parma Area Historical Society at Stearns Homestead is inviting artists to participate in open air painting on Saturday, July 8, 2023. Artists are to bring their own supplies and set up between 9:30 & 10:00 am. Stearns opens to the public at 11:00 am. Artists should pre-register. No registration fee.

Great Lakes Wood Carvers meet every Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 8:00 pm, at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center located at 7001 W Ridgewood Dr., for an open carve night. This is a laid back friendly group, and anyone interested in carving can stop and visit. They were founded in 1975.

Parma's May Show

by Kathryn Mabin

The Medley of Arts Show & Sale is sponsored by the Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Inc. (PAFAC) is held annually in May. PAFAC is a non-profit organization that was created in 1962, and has been serving this area for over 60 years. They are dedicated to creating, producing, and enjoying art, and bring the art to the community for enrichment and pleasure of it's people. The show will be held at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W Ridgewood Dr., Saturday and Sunday, May 20, & 21, from 11 to 3 pm. The building is handicapped accessible. Admission is FREE.

The show is divided into five categories. 1. Watercolor Painting, 2. Acrylic/Mixed Media/Collage & Oil Painting 3. Graphics (Pencil, Charcoal, Pen & Ink, Marker, Computer Generated Art, Pyrography) 4. Photography 5. Three-Dimensional Art (Sculpture, Pottery,

Glass, Enamel, Wood Carving, Jewelry) Some of the work will be for sale. Pieces range from low to mid-priced. Artists who place First in each of the five categories will be awarded \$50. Second & Third receive ribbons. A \$150 prize is awarded for Best In Show. And, attendees vote for the People's Choice award of \$75 to the artist. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet and talk with local artists. Demonstrations in painting and wood carving are always a highlight of this event. There's also a raffle and a Chinese Auction for a chance to win some nice prizes. The judges for this art show are a three person independent panel not affiliated with PAFAC. The show committee is proud to announce that George Kocar famed Cleveland freelance cartoonist and illustrator, known for his humorous and satirical

paintings is one. The second is Laura D'Alessandro, area fine art photographer and Director/Founder of the Cleveland Photo Fest. The third to be announced at a later date. Judging is a long and difficult process, and care is taken when hanging the show in order to not reveal the artists name, age or gender to the judges.

Friday, May 19th, a small group of volunteers will gather at the Smallwood Center and work frantically, for a couple of hours to install the display screens, set up tables and chairs, all in preparation for the next two day's art show. Additionally numerous pieces of art work, created by local artists and craftsman, will dropped off, checked in, sorted, tagged, labeled and set up for display. The judging occurs after setup. Hours later the winners are revealed.

Stop in and say hello. It's a great way to view the artistic creations of your friends and neighbors. Lots of talented artists in this area.

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