

“If it costs you your peace, it is too expensive”- Paulo Coelho

Parma Observer Is 14 Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Even Nostradamus couldn't have predicted the events that occurred between 2009 and 2023, and the world which we find ourselves today. We've been through quite a bit of turmoil since 2009 when the Parma Observer was born. Political upheaval, pandemic, even more political upheaval, and now profound social division and so much anxiety that seems to have spared no one. Through it all we have maintained our publication so that average people can have their voices heard as citizens in our community try to

make sense of these strange and challenging times. Here we are in the middle of the third decade of the 21st Century, and we have no choice but to look ahead and face the world as we know it today.

It is the same as it has always been for the Parma Observer. We owe everything to our writers who volunteer their talent so that the community at large can read what the people are saying and feeling, and our generous advertisers who have all along supported our citizen journalism project. Our readers continue to this day to offer their opinions and ideas in

order to help us determine how best to serve the people in our community. When I despair, I remember all of the people throughout the years who have reached out to let me know how much they appreciate having a place where their voices can be heard, and it lifts my spirit tremendously.

Change is one of the few guarantees in life. Some changes are welcome, while others are not. Since chance favors the prepared mind, it is best to be ready for changes

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History Made With New Parma Heights Chief Of Police

by Marie Gallo

Mayor Gallo swore in the new Interim Chief of Police Tanya Czack to the Parma Heights Police Department on Monday, September 11 at the Greenbrier Commons Gazebo.

Mayor Gallo said, "I am honored as the first female mayor of the city, to also swear in the first female Chief of Police. I look forward to working closely with Interim Chief of Police Czack as she transitions into the permanent role of Police Chief once her interim assignment is completed."

For the past 34 years, Czack has been a part of the Parma Heights Police Department serving in almost every division of the department. "She has demonstrated time and again her commitment to the City of Parma Heights and its citizens, we are excited and welcome her strong leadership as the Chief of Police for the Parma Heights Police Department," said Mayor Gallo.

Tanya Czack began her career at 19 years old as a police dispatcher and became an officer nine years later. Czack was the first female officer for the Parma Heights Police Department. The first eight years she was a patrol officer, including time as an SRO (School Resource Officer). Czack earned her master evidence technician certificate for the state of Ohio, became an academy instructor and a continued professional train-

ing instructor. She currently teaches at the Polaris Police Academy. In 2008, Czack was promoted to Sergeant and then Captain in 2021. In addition, Czack became a certified crash reconstructionist and started the multi-jurisdiction Southwest Accident Group in 2011. She was the Commander of that group over the past several years as it grew to 12 cities and over 30 members.

Tanya Czack is married to Vince Holocker who is a 25-year veteran and Captain of the Cleveland Fire Department. She has two adult daughters, a teenage son and three rescue dogs.

The Parma Heights Police Department is in service with the purpose to protect, with the passion to preserve, and with the utmost pride in their performance.

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2023 PARMA

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Get ready for spine-chilling thrills and hauntingly creative displays as Parma's neighborhoods become a battleground of Halloween décor! The Spooky Showdown invites all brave and imaginative residents to join in this epic Halloween house decorating extravaganza!

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Polish Village's Treat & Greet

by Kathryn Mabin

Saturday, October 21st, 2023, Polish Village will hold their 13th Annual Treat & Greet from 11 AM to 2 PM. Treat & Greet is an extremely popular community event. Each year it attracts more and more participants from our area and the surrounding communities. This is a great, safe, free, fun family event.

The children, accompanied by an adult, trick-or-treat the businesses located in the Polish Village business district along Ridge Rd., from Pearl & Ridge to Ridge & Thornton. In addition to the treats at businesses, each family will receive a Passport with the names and addresses of the participating businesses. As the family trick-or-treats the businesses they receive a stamp at each of the participating business. When the children are finished, or the adults become exhausted, the



Passports are turned into the headquarters, located this year at 5767 Ridge Rd. For each 10 businesses visited and passport stamped, the adult receives one ticket for entry in a raffle for an array of prizes, like gift baskets and gift certificates from local merchants.

This event is held during daylight hours. The upside for businesses is they receive foot traffic from people who don't normally shop their stores. This gives businesses the opportunity to introduce

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Script Parma Picture Of The Month



For putting us in the Halloween spirit, this month's script Parma picture of the month depicts Parma resident Mary Melhuish, her canine Skye, and neighbors (from left to right) Helen Foulkes, Robby McDonald, and Diane VonBlon. Mary has won a gift card courtesy of Chuppa's Marketplace. If you would like to submit a photo for the contest, please email it to Sean Brennan at pierogie5k@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and address.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Representative's Corner

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

As State Representative, it is my duty to ensure that my constituents are informed about matters that directly affect them. As such, I have important news to share regarding unclaimed funds in the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Unclaimed Funds that may belong to you or a family member.

The Division of Unclaimed Funds is responsible for safeguarding funds that have been left unclaimed by individuals and organizations. These funds could be from various sources, such as forgotten bank accounts, insurance policies, utility deposits, un-cashed checks, and more.

My Statehouse office has been working diligently with the Department to identify residents within the district who might be entitled to unclaimed funds. As you can imagine, the verification process is a very time consuming task, especially due to residents moving, passing away, and other variables. So, to ensure that everyone in the district can find out if they are entitled to any unclaimed funds, I thought that I would dedicate this month's column to the procedure that is simple to do on your own.

To initiate the process please follow these steps:

Visit the official website for the Division of Unclaimed Funds at: com.ohio.gov/divisions-and-programs/unclaimed-funds

Use the provided search function on the website to enter your name and other relevant details.

Review the search results carefully and identify the claims

associated with your name. Follow the instructions provided on the website to submit your claim.

I wish you the best of luck in reclaiming any unclaimed funds that may be due to you or a loved one. In fact, if you are able to identify any funds to which you are entitled, I would be very happy to know, so please feel free to contact me to let me know. Further, if you require any assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov. Best wishes for a Happy Halloween!

Bubble Blast Was A Blast



State Rep. Sean Patrick Brennan, Bernie Kosar and Dean DePiero pose for a picture before the Kathleen DePiero Memorial Bubble Blast Run in September. To find our more or to donate to the charity event visit: runsignup.com/Race/Donate/OH/NorthRoyalton/BubbleBlast.

State Rep. Brennan Announces Funding For After School Enrichment Programs

by Sean Patrick Brennan

State Representative Sean Patrick Brennan (Parma) has announced that the State of Ohio is now accepting applications for the 2023 – 2024 Ohio Afterschool Enrichment (ACE) Educational Savings Account program. The program provides families with a \$1,000 credit per child (ages 6-18) that can be used for a variety of educational enrichment activities, such as before- and after-school educational programs, day camps for academics, music, and the arts, curriculum and materials for homeschool families, educational, learning, or skills services, tuition for learning extension centers, field trips to historical landmarks, museums, science centers, and theaters, including admission, exhibit, and program fees, language classes, music lessons, tutoring, and many other programs.

“As a father of two and a public educator for three decades, I know how important it is to keep our young people engaged and socializing outside of the school day. I also know how expensive it can be. That is why I am happy to support the Afterschool Childhood Enrichment (ACE) Education Saving Program.”

To find out more and to apply visit <https://education.ohio.gov/ohioace> or contact State Rep. Brennan at 614-466-3485 or Rep14@OhioHouse.gov.


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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Celebrating Old Brook Parma High School's 2023 Graduates

by Mark Ellenberger

Magic was certainly in the air at Old Brook High School Parma Campus’ 2023 graduation ceremony! Taking place June 16th at the fantastic Sari Feldman Auditorium (Parma-Snow Branch Library), Old Brook Parma’s graduation celebrated the superb accomplishments of its 53 graduates. In addition to fulfilling their graduation requirements, all 53 graduates earned a CTE (Career Technical Education) industry credential.

During the ceremony, individual awards were presented to six outstanding graduates for their exemplary accomplishments in three areas: Student Engagement, Perseverance, and Determination and Drive. Winners were as follows: Student Engagement - Bella Vega and Jose Bonilla; Perseverance - Inessa Wright and Alanis Johnson; Determination and Drive - Natalie Burchett and Liberty Vest-White. Class representatives Caleb Baka and Payton McQuade shared heartfelt messages of gratitude for family, friends, and staff members and congratulated fellow graduates on their achievements, leaving them with the following quote: “Take pride in how far you’ve come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don’t forget to enjoy the journey.”

Prior to graduation, all 53 graduates wrote personal senior reflections as part of their final chapter at Old Brook Parma; these reflections powerfully



Old Brook Parma High School's Class of 2023

conveyed the meaningful contributions Old Brook Parma is making to the lives of young people and the community.

Class of 2023, Old Brook Parma’s staff couldn’t be more proud of you and couldn’t be more excited to see all you accomplish in the years to come!

ABOUT OLD BROOK PARMA: Old Brook High School’s Main Campus in Cleveland opened its satellite location in Parma to expand their Career Tech Pathway offering. The Day Drive campus facilitates space that cultivates their Healthcare, Business & Entrepreneurial, Nail Tech, and Construction pathways. At this tuition-free charter high school, students ages 15 to 21 can earn a career tech credential while receiving a blended model of self-paced learning and direct instruction to earn

an accredited high school diploma. Credit recovery and advancement are both available—students can get back on track or even graduate early. Old Brook High School offers a flexible class schedule that works around jobs, childcare, or other obligations. They know that every student learns differently; their approach is to understand what each student needs to succeed and then help them chart both a graduation and career-focused path.

Old Brook High School’s nail tech, healthcare, and construction programs, housed at their Day Drive location, continue to impress. In their 1st year, Old Brook’s eight nail tech students were the first drop-out recovery students in Ohio to pass their state boards; the program maintained its 100% pass rate in 2023

when 5 more students passed. Healthcare boasts the same impressive statistic: every student who has tested with the National Healthcareer Association has passed, earning 37 credentials to date. The construction program, which is partnered with Stearns Homestead, has awarded dozens of OSHA-10, NCCER Core, and pre-apprenticeship certificates. Oakmont Education’s VP of CTE, Dr. Jerry Farley, adds these certifications give graduates an edge in securing jobs that pay a sustainable living wage: “I don’t know of any other program that helps place our graduates into jobs and stays in their lives for one full year to help them succeed.”

To learn more about the school, call 216-236-3208 or visit their website at oldbrookparma.org.

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GLIMPSES OF THE TRI-CITY AREA

Issue 12 And The School Master Plan

by Tony Biasiotta

First, I want to encourage everyone to vote this election. Your vote helps us ensure we are represented at our greatest potential. Please be sure to complete an absentee ballot or vote in person on November 7. Second, I ask that you join me in voting “YES” on Issue 12. Issue 12 is a no tax increase renewal of two existing Parma City School District operating levies. Operating levies is how we pay for the day-to-day activities at our schools such as teachers, student curriculum, and support staff.

Next, I want to follow up on public letter I released this August. The letter was regarding potential new options for improving the building conditions of our schools. The call to action in my original letter was for open and transparent dialogue on all available options, including those just brought to light. Not for any specific long-term plan. Why is that a bad idea?

Some have asked why now? I read an article about Shaker Heights School district having a bond issue this November for the refurbishment of their schools. A few weeks later, I attended a party for the son of close friend who recently graduated from Shaker Heights High School. At this party I learned of the age and condition of their buildings. This made me curious as to how this was possible for Shaker Schools to secure refurbishment funding and not Parma schools.

I then contacted state officials on July 16th asking for information related to Shaker’s potential use of OFCC funds. I received responses on July 31st and reviewed them on Aug. 2nd. This information included details regarding the OFCC 2/3rds waiver. The waiver program allows school districts to receive 100% of the funding they could get for a rebuild to put towards refurbishment.

Why is the relevant? Many hard working and well-meaning residents participated in a school facilities master planning sessions. During those sessions it was presented that the only way to receive state OFCC funds was to rebuild our schools. Any reasonable person would have come to same conclusion, we must rebuild. State funds to rebuild vs. No funds to refurbish, what would you choose?

Therefore, I asked we stop all demolition and revisit the master plan before irrevocable actions happen.

Since then, I have learned that OFCC gets its direction from the school districts not the other way around. Many districts have opted for the refurbish approach. In addition to Shaker Hts., Cleveland Hts., and Elyria have used this approach and next door in Brooklyn they are looking to refurbish Brooklyn High School (Opened in 1957 (not part of the OFCC program)). Further Lakewood used a hybrid approach, keeping their historic auditorium and the building façade while rebuilding the remainder of the school. I also need to point out that my research to date has indicated that 100% of the districts applying for a waiver have been approved by OFCC (my public record request from August with OFCC is still pending).

Since my letter there has been some discussion at two school board meetings regarding Parma Senior High. While I appreciate the “dialogue”, 3 minutes at the first meeting and 5 minutes at the second meeting (albeit before the presentation without opportunity for follow up). Neither addressed the core issue of revisiting the entire plan with the new information. The first meeting was predominantly about the cost of re-opening Parma Senior High as the 3rd High School, something I did not request. The 2nd meeting was with the OFCC presenting an analysis on the rebuild vs. refurbish of Parma Senior. This analysis was completed in 1 week. A waiver application is typically a 4-to-6-month process. At a high level I do concur with the findings for what was reviewed, but I will note that OFCC funds are for classroom space and do not cover the current board office, the auditorium, bell tower or pool area. Further, the analysis was for a significantly larger facility than what is there today. The direction for OFCC to do analysis on the “MEGA” format came from the district and did not look at other potential uses for the structure, nor has a professional appraisal been completed for this property.

In summary, after new construction bond issues have failed 4 times, there is currently no funding available to improve the building conditions or rebuild. Therefore, we must work together to address this issue and the operating deficit by informing the public of new information and educating them on all possible solutions for the entire plan. With this new information the 1 High School-2 Middle School-4 Elementary Schools conclusion may turn out differently.

I believe this is the only hope we have to get the buy-in from the whole community that is required to achieve what is best and what we all want for the children of this community.

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PARMA OBSERVER

The Birth Of Shock Theater

by Kevin Kelly

Influential Halloween Locals

The month of October is here again, and you know what that means. Monsters and goblins roaming our neighborhoods, late-night horror movies, wild parties, etc... However, the holiday wasn't always like it is now. During the great depression years, Hal-

loween vandalism was a major problem among youths. Universal, the studio known for producing famous monsters like Frankenstein and Dracula, didn't even begin licensing their monster costumes until the 1960s. It wasn't until after World War 2, when the 1952 Donald Duck's "Trick or Treat" cartoon was released, that the Halloween phenomenon took root in children's minds. It wasn't long afterwards that the candy companies jumped on the bandwagon. Scrambling to release their scariest movies during the month of October, Eventually, Hollywood studios joined in the mix. Today, Halloween is the top multi-billion dollar industry after Christmas.

What really contributes to the Halloween atmosphere that exists today was the birth of horror hosts on late-night television. In 1957, Universal Studios re released their classic horror films in a package deal to local TV stations around the country. It was Universal

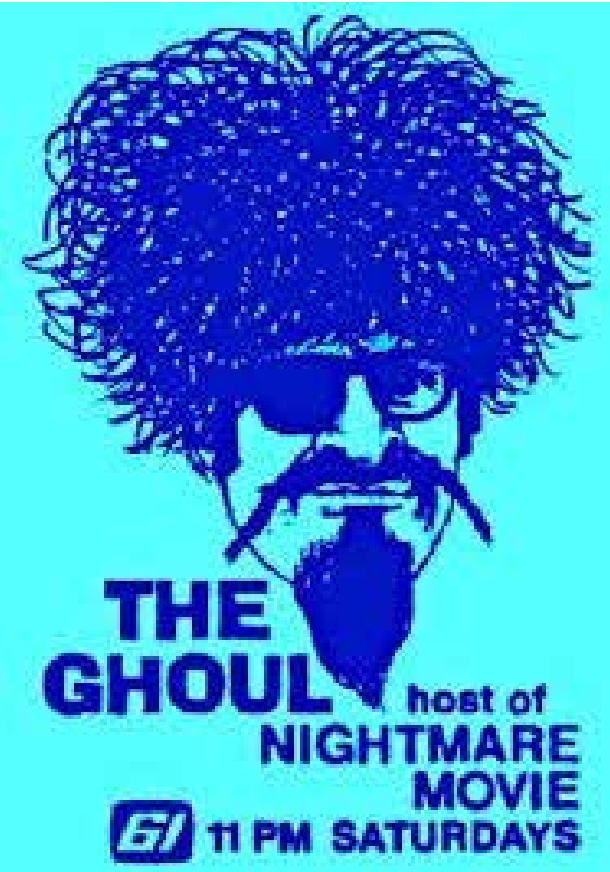
who encouraged the local stations, who purchased this "Shock" package, to provide a macabre host to showcase these scary films. Many of these horror hosts debuted during the Halloween month of 1957. Many of these hosts were associated with Halloween becoming local celebrities in their own right.

Here in the City of Parma and surrounding cities, we have had some of our own horror host celebrities. Late-night shows like "Shock Theater", which aired Friday Nights on WJW TV8, had horror host "Ghoulardi" played by Ernie Anderson. Ron Sweed hosted "Nightmare Theater", which aired on WKBF Channel 61 on Saturday nights as "The Ghoul". Even though Channel 61 was located at St. Clair Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio, the station was transmitted to surrounding cities from a 1,069 foot tower located here in Parma. In addition, for ones who couldn't stay up late, there was "Mad Theater", which aired during the day on Saturdays. Marty Sullivan, the TV stations announcer, played, "Super Host", which was broadcasted from WUAB-TV Channel 43, located right here in Parma, on Day Drive.

For those interested in learning more about the early years of horror hosts, you can catch the documentary, "The Birth of Late Night Horror", which will air on Fridays at 8:00 PM on Cox cable, Channel 45,. Also, if



you want to catch old episodes of "The Ghoul Show", they will air on Wednesdays at 8:00 PM. For more information, you can contact Kevin at: Kevin@ShockerEnterprises.com or call: (440) 888 – 8327.



Anthony D. Biasiotta
Mayor of Seven Hills

“Friends, I want to encourage everyone to vote this election. Your vote helps us ensure we are represented at our greatest potential.

Join me in voting YES for Issue 12! Issue 12 is a no tax increase renewal of two existing Parma City School District levies .

If you are undecided in your vote for school board please consider supporting Ashley McTaggart and Brit Kurpik. Two first time candidates that will be strong independent voices on the school board!”

Brittany Kurpik



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Ashley McTaggart



Candidate Parma City
School District Board

PARMA HEIGHTS

Prep Your Home For Winter With Andy's Hardware!

by Emery Pinter

Andy's Hardware says Fall is a great time to prep your home and landscape for the harsh Winter. These are 6 Fall chores you should never skip....

1) **Clean And Sharpen Gardening Tools.** There's nothing worse than heading out to the garden shed in the spring only to find your tools rusty, broken, and useless. Avoid the heartbreak and frustration by taking the time, now, to clean and sharpen tools. Make a list of any that are broken beyond repair so you can replace them. Store your tools safely away until spring.

2) **Drain and Store Garden Hoses:** The plastics used in garden hoses quickly wear down over the exposure to heat and sun in the summer. Save yourself money by draining, rolling up, and storing hoses somewhere indoors; garages, greenhouses, and garden sheds are perfect. Turn off Sprinkler Systems. Leaving your sprinkler system connected will cause those pipes to burst.

3) **Remember to mulch.** Mulching involves putting cardboard or other biodegradable material such as compost around your plants to keep their roots from freezing and dying in the snow. About four inches of mulch is usually sufficient to keep most gardens

safe over the course of the winter.

4) **Winterize Windows with Caulk.** Clean off any old caulking and properly seal windows closed. Clearing gutters and downspouts are a crucially important part of preparing for the rains and snows of Cleveland. Water that gets trapped in gutters and downspouts can cause damage both to your roof and the foundation of your home. Ensure that the path water takes moves away from your home and is free of obstruction.

5) **Weatherstripping** helps prevent heat loss during the winter which, in turn, lowers your electricity bills. Check doors and windows to make sure weatherstripping is free of cracks or rips and doesn't need to be replaced.

6) **Clean Your gutters.** Before all the leaves have turned and fallen. Also, put off this chore when the ground is wet or slippery, which makes using a ladder unsafe.

Andy's Hardware, 6658 Pearl Road, in Parma Heights is worth a look and they will help you with your Fall chores. This hardware store is absolutely packed with a little bit of everything. There's no better time to get outside and spruce up the yard and prep your home for Winter.

The Parma Heights Historical Society Of 2023

by Robert Stilwell

April of This year 2023, a new President was elected, (Chuck Kaczynski). He has spearheaded some very interesting, Historical tours of Parma Heights. He planned these in conjunction with City events. He is a high energy motivational speaker. The following is a sample of his accomplishment in 5 short months. He planned and implemented 3 City bus tours in conjunction with the Cities Xmas in July Event. In August he planned and implemented a PHPD, (Parma Heights Police Department), Narrative and Visual Display. It's important to note that he always acknowledges the help and commit-

ment from other Members in our group. Since Chuck has been President we have added 4 new Members. In September he and several other members helped and supported me while doing a tour in the Parma Heights Cemetery to highlight some of our 75 Veterans buried there. A week prior to doing this event, Chuck and I attended a very interesting History tour of Woodvale Cemetery in Middleburg Heights that was lead by a Member, as well as the Past and current President of the Middleburg Heights Historical Society.

You can read the full list online at: parmaobserver.com
Online the hot links are active.

History Of Parma City Schools

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host History of Parma City Schools on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Join presenters from Parma City Schools Historical Museum who will share how Parma, the fastest growing city in the United States in the 1960s, grew from 10 one-room schoolhouses in the 19th century to 29 school buildings by the mid-1970s. Using an audiovisual presentation with maps, photos and narrative, learn how Parma educators developed cutting-edge multifaceted curriculum for its students. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.

How To Buy A Car

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host How to Buy a Car on Saturday, October 28th, 2023 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Learn the information about how to make the best deal and buy a new car stress-free from Howard E. Katz, Law Professor at Cleveland State University. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Book Discussion For Adults At Parma Heights Branch Library

by Bridget Lavelle

Join the Adult Services librarians at the Parma Heights Branch Library of Cuyahoga County Public Library for a staff-led book discussion on Thursday evening, October 26th at 7:00 p.m. or Friday morning, October 27th at 10:00 am. Same book both days. Choose your day and join us as we discuss The Midnight Library by Matt Haig. Books are now available for checkout at the circulation desk of the Parma Heights Branch. Registration requested. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch at 440.884.2313.

Migrating Waterfowl And Winter Birds Of Northeast Ohio

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library will host Migrating Waterfowl and Winter Birds of Northeast Ohio on Tuesday, October 17th, 2023 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in Meeting Room A. Matt Valencic of The Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland will talk about the waterfowl and winter birds which migrate south through Ohio to their winter destinations. Learn about which bird species spend the winter in Northeast Ohio and where to find them. Registration required. To register, visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313.



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Decorating Contest Promises Fright And Delight

by Jackie Baraona

Young Professionals of Parma (YPOP) is known for our festive Holiday Lights Contest that celebrates the Christmas and holiday season, but something new is brewing for 2023.

Get ready for spine-chilling thrills and hauntingly creative displays as Parma's neighborhoods become a battleground of Halloween décor! The "Spooky Showdown" Halloween House Decorating Contest invites all brave and imaginative residents to join in this epic Halloween house decorating extravaganza!

The first annual "Spooky Showdown" follows a similar format to the Holiday Lights Contest with a couple new twists. Like the Christmas competition, homeowners are encouraged to submit photos or video of their home via email (deadline Sunday, October 22). The entries will be narrowed down to a top 10, and then members of YPOP will judge the homes in person (taking place Thursday, October 26).

Winners will receive a plaque and a gift card, however this year, we recognize that not all Halloween displays are the same. Some feature eerily haunted houses with very scary ghosts, clowns, and more. Some are over the top Halloween with a family friendly vibe.

While others celebrate the fall harvest time with pumpkins, corn husks, and hay bales. Therefore, for this new contest, we're judging homes based on overall use of a theme. Full contest judging criteria is below.

Additionally, we have some new partners we're excited to work with. The City of Parma and community organization We Are Parma Proud join us as co-presenters of the event and local company Sgt. Clean Car Wash is our lead sponsor of the contest.

We encourage you to enter or share the contest with any Parma resident with a festive outdoor Halloween display.

HOW TO ENTER

Participation is open to all City of Parma residents. The goal is to build community connections through friendly competition while also making Parma a decoration destination.

Entry is free. Send photos or a video of your display with your name and address to Halloween@ParmaYPs.com by Sunday, October 15. Please mention in the email whether you would like your display judged during the day or night.

Ten finalists will be selected among those initial entries. Members of Young Professionals of Parma will review finalists in person on a bus tour taking place Thursday, October 19. The four winning entries will be announced shortly thereafter. If you are interested in helping with judging and are not currently a member, consider joining at parmayps.com/membership.

Polish Village's Treat And Greet

continued from page 1

themselves to new potential customers. Many of the merchants supplement the candy with coupons, or other treats for both children and the adults. Some shops also dress in costume.

Last year Polish Village Parma, a qualified 501(c)3, purchased over 100,000 pieces of candy for this event from funds received through donations, or fund raising. This event is free and open to the public, residency is not required. It is a great way for families to herald the fall season in a safe friendly environment, and a great way to celebrate the community with your friends, neighbors and shop keepers.

Parma Observer Is 14 Years Old

continued from page 1

and make the most of them whenever they come along. Our community is experiencing a certain level of transition in many ways, whether we realize it or not. One thing is certain- as time advances. inevitable transformation will take place in the Tri-City area of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills. Will we make the decisions now that will have the best outcome for the future of our community that we all love? That remains to be seen. Crucial change occurs for a variety of reasons. People come, people go, growth takes place, opportunity arises. Often it is just a matter of the universe unfolding as it was meant to all along. Father Time. Nothing more elegant than that.

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PERSPECTIVE

Sail On, Jimmy Buffett; *It's Been A Lovely Cruise*

by Lee Kamps

I was surprised on the morning of September 2 when I heard of the death of Jimmy Buffett. Ever since the mid-1970s when I first heard his song “Why Don’t We Get Drunk and *bleep*”, I was hooked on his music. Since his first album after leaving Nashville in 1972 after his first two albums didn’t sell, he has released 29 studio albums with most of the songs being new material with a new studio album scheduled for release in November. Along with the many concert recordings and collections, he has become one of the most prolific recording artists of the past fifty years.

He began touring in 1974 as a means of selling more records and building a base of fans. His band was a group of pick-up musicians that he called the Coral Reefer Band with a nod to the tropical setting and a wink to a term for marijuana. Since 1974, he has toured just about every year and performed in numerous venues around the world. Some of the musicians in his band have been in that band since the beginning.

He has performed at Blossom Music Center 28 times, the most times by any popular music performer at Blossom. His first concert there was on July 25, 1977, and his last concert there was on September 25, 2021. I lost count of how many Jimmy Buffett concerts I have attended. His live concerts have become a day long beach party without the beach (unless he is playing at a beach).

His brand of tropical rock with tales of pirates, scoundrels and tales

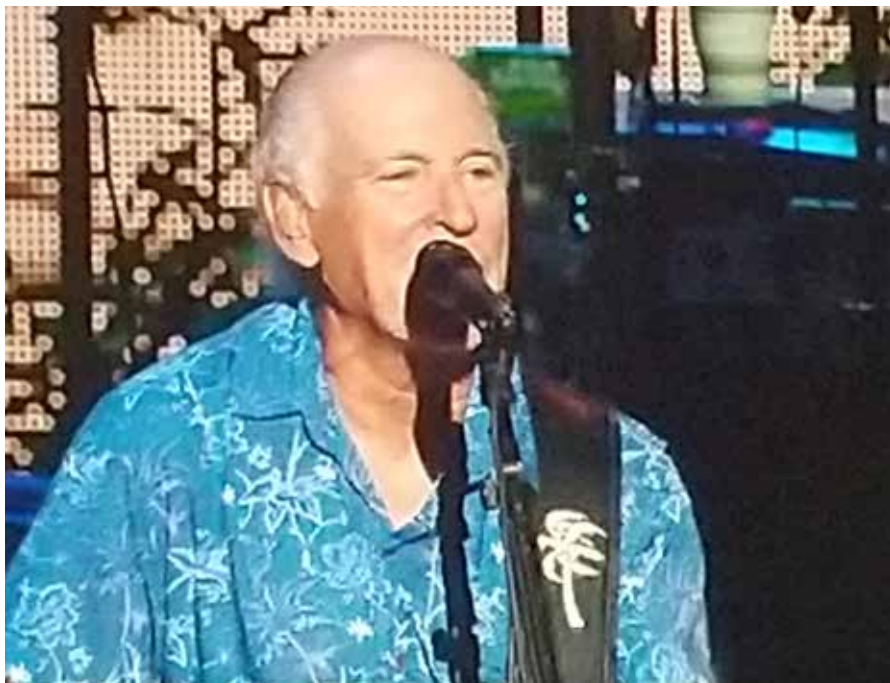


Photo taken by me at his concert at Blossom Music Center May 27, 2018

from the tropics provided some much-needed escapism for most of us tied down with making a living. Along the way, he took his only top ten hit “Margaritaville” and turned it into a business empire of restaurants, food, beverages, clubs, resorts and even retirement communities. In the process, he became a billionaire. But he wore flip flops, Hawaiian shirts and shorts instead of a suit and tie.

Listening to his songs transported the listener to the tropics. Here are some lyrics from his song “Boat Drinks” from his 1979 album “Volcano.”

“It’s 20 degrees and the hockey game’s on. I don’t care, I’m way too far gone. This morning, I shot six holes in

the freezer. I think I got cabin fever. Somebody sound the alarm. I want to go where the pace of life is slow, could you beam be somewhere Mister Scotty. Any old place, here on earth or in outer space, you pick the century and I’ll pick the spot. I know I should be leaving this climate. I got to go where it’s warm. Waitress, I need two more boat drinks. Then I’m heading south before my dream shrinks. I got to go where it’s warm!”

Now, who here in northeastern Ohio hasn’t felt that way in the middle of winter?

Another of my favorite Jimmy Buffett songs was titled “A Pirate Looks at Forty”. It was about a man looking at mid life and not liking what he saw.

Here are some lyrics from that song.

“Yes, I am a pirate, two hundred years too late. The cannons don’t thunder, there’s nothing to plunder. I’m an over forty victim of fate. My occupational hazard is that my occupation’s just not around. I made enough money to buy Miami, but I *bleep* it away too fast. Never meant to last.”

How many of haven’t felt like that in our careers or job?

Before Jimmy Buffett sang about Margaritaville, I never had a margarita. Now it is one of my favorite drinks and I know how to make the perfect margarita.

Another song by Jimmy Buffett is a song about his grandfather that was recorded on his first album in Nashville that didn’t sell and is almost impossible to find. It was later recorded on one of his later albums. It is titled “The Captain and the Kid”. His grandfather jumped out of a second-floor window of his home in Halifax Nova Scotia and made his way to the dock. From there he made a career as a merchant seaman, eventually becoming a steamship captain. He would regale his grandson of the tales of being on the sea and of the places he had been. The final line from that tribute to his grandfather went “he’s somewhere on the ocean now, a place he wants to be with one hand on the starboard rail, he’s waving back at me.”

Also, it is a travesty that Jimmy Buffett has been ignored so long by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

So, sail on Jimmy Buffett. As another one of his songs went “it’s been a lovely cruise.”



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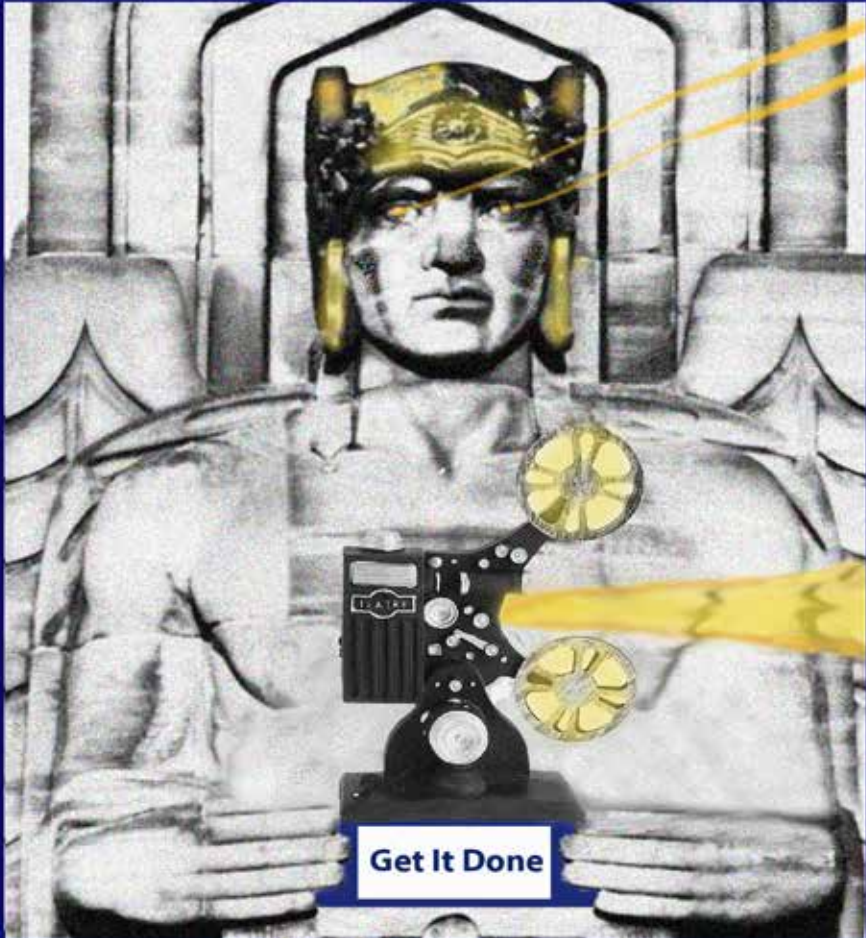


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OBSERVER



A Poem For St. Charles

by Jeremy Jusek

This poem was written last year as part of a mini series for the 100th anniversary of St. Charles. Our community is many things — and chief among them is our sense of belonging.

Meditative in St. Charles on a Friday in March

This bastion is a sanctuary—
its hallowed arches like Atlas, shouldering
the world’s burdens high above to better
make ours light.

Within its trinity-locked bits
of hewn wood and stone, a man
now unshouldered, dusts his knees
coughs
looks at his phone

in the corner, an elderly man and wife
are praying, eyes closed, the sunken wisdom of which
have nearly vanished behind a pile of scarves and wool
and matching tweed hats

these are the Schoenstatt stewards
resting in this beautiful place
relieving themselves
like kettles escaping one last wheeze
as they are removed from heat

we are here
we are here now
and as Mary gathers the blood of Christ
we have it pumped back into our hearts

Mobile Food Pantry

by Bridget Lavelle

The Parma Heights Branch of Cuyahoga County Public Library, partnering with The Greater Cleveland Food Bank, will offer a monthly Mobile Food Pantry distribution on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Parma Heights Branch Library, 6206 Pearl Road, on Wednesday, October 18th from 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon for customers who are in need. Please visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org or call the Parma Heights Branch Library at 440.884.2313 for additional information.

Please note: Outside event. Enter the Greenbrier Commons parking lot towards the Parma Heights Branch Library. Follow the Mobile Food Pantry signs and traffic pattern.

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**
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OBSERVER

News You Can Use (and where to find it)

by Gene Lovasy

Note: View the digital version to activate hyperlinks – www.parmaobserver.com/read/news

O From Futures Without Violence ... For youth & those who work with youth, they've created:

>> Hanging Out or Hooking Up safety cards urge teens and

young adults to reflect on how they are treated by the people they date, and shows how to support friends experiencing relationship abuse.

>> A webinar with strategies to help school-based health providers discuss relationship abuse and trafficking with adolescents, and lessons learned from this work.

>> Our Changing Minds NOW website, with powerful videos showing how school staff, coaches, and others have helped youth overcome trauma, along with resources for teachers, mentors, school nurses, and others. They include How School Staff Can Help Students Heal from Trauma, which explains how violence affects

child development and what adults can do to promote resilience; and Five Everyday Gestures to Help Children Heal, which shows how supportive, caring adults can help prevent or mitigate trauma.

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

O From Ohio House District 14 Representative Sean Brennan - Monthly Newsletter

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

You can read the full list online at: parmaobserver.com
Online the hot links are active.

More People Should Run For Public Office

by Emery Pinter

Politicians can ignore yard signs, phone calls, public opinion polls, editorials and griping constituents on Facebook groups. The one thing they cannot ignore is the majority of voters on Election Day. We the people decide whether a candidate has a job in public office come January. We help decide the fate of our country, state and even our own community by casting a ballot for candidates best aligned with our own values. This November 8th, voters across Cuyahoga County will make important decisions on a host of local issues, deciding everything from school board seats to funding for local schools. The individuals who hold elected office affect every part of our lives.

It's a shame then, when I look at the Candidate List in the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website that so many people are running

unopposed. The upcoming election may not draw the headlines that the bigger races do, but they're just as important to shaping the fabric of our community, and it's high time more people get involved in local politics and get out there and VOTE!

Over the weeks since July when I was walking the streets, or along Pearl road, or in the barbershop, after a brief conversation, people usually wrap it up by saying, "Thank you for running" When I ask residents and friends if they would run for political office, they most often reply, "H\$%&# NO! I can't raise that kind of money, they manipulate everything, and nothing will change!"

Elected officials manage millions of tax dollars and they make our laws. Two excellent reasons why I think it's worth fighting for even a chance at change. And every city should be committed to providing the fullest access

possible to public records. I have been waiting since June 15 for a public records request. Access to information concerning the conduct of the people's business is a fundamental and necessary right of every person in any city because it gives the public an opportunity to monitor the functioning of their city government. And many residents and myself strongly believe that the Parma Heights library should become a historical site. Parma Heights was the first municipality in Ohio to pass a bond issue specifically for the construction of a library, and the "Google" architecture of the building is unique and becoming rare. This makes the Parma Heights library a significant part of the history of the State of Ohio.

Run for Public Office and if you see something you don't like, bring it up! Always. Some politicians don't like criticism, don't like residents dis-

agreeing with them. Sorry, not sorry. Every city needs dissenting voices too, or else those in the establishment get a little too complacent with their jobs. The most important thing anyone needs to do running for office is to talk to voters, your potential constituents. You need to talk to people who do not know you, who have different opinions than you, and it can be

continued on page 11

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PARMA ARTS DISTRICT

Arts In Parma

by Kathryn Mabin

*** On The Move** – Parma Area Fine Arts Council, or PAFAC, moved their offices from the Donna Smallwood Activities Center to 7335 Ridge Road on September 25th. This building also houses the Parma Park and Recreation Department. The new location offers the non-profit a larger space. This organization has served Parma and surrounding communities for just over 61 years. Watch for a Grand Opening celebration in November.

*** Prama Artspace Gallery, 5411**



Rafael A Valdivieso Troya

Pearl Road, Lena Simovic, Lena Atomika Photography, a Parma resident is currently on exhibit. She appeared at Wall of Books in September to discuss and sign her book, *Legs: & the ArtPhotography of Lena Atomika Photography*. Her book is also available on Amazon. Lena was also artist of the month of August for her photography on the Ohio Artists Gallery Shows/Sell/Buy Facebook page. Exhibit closing event is scheduled for October 9th from 5 to 9 PM. Next up is artist Rafael A Valdivieso

Troya, born in Ecuador and now living in Cleveland creates very intricate compositions using various media. He’s shown in various galleries in the area, and is involved with Parade The Circle. Exhibit opens October 20th.

*** Sean Mabin’s** photography will be on display in November at the Doubting Thomas Gallery, 856 Jefferson Ave. in Tremont.

*** Evergreen Artists, Nancy Notarianni & Anna Hsu** were accepted into the exhibit at the airport titled “Oil and Water, They Do Mix”. Show runs October 5th to January 31, 2024.

*** Jan McAndrews** – member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council and Tribe Ostara Belly Dance Group appeared atIngenuityFest 2023: Biologies & Geologies in September.

*** Jan Hasselbusch,** member ofParma Area Fine Arts Council,has her artwork ion display at Donna Smallwood Activities Center lobby through mid-October. Stop in and view it.

*** Wall of Books, located at The Shoppes at Parma, 7783 W Ridgewood Drive,** now carries the original art works of a select few talented local artists. You’ll find paintings, photography, prints and more, reasonable priced, along with their excellent selection of books, toys, games, puzzles and gifts. The artists include: Emis Art Corner, RKW Photography, Kim Karbon Photography, Fluid Vibes by Evy and Kris, members of The Parma Area Fine Arts Council, Katie Harroff, Kathryn Mabin, Donata Rahne and Michelle Behal. Stop in, view and possibly buy, the works of your talented

neighbors. Thank you WOB for supporting local artists.

*** 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

Chalk It Up To Good Neighbors: We Want You To Write Poems On Sidewalks!

by Jeremy Jusek

The Flamingo Writers’ Guild wants to make Halloween fun this year with chalk poetry! We are asking that houses across Parma write short poems in chalk outside their houses on Sunday, October 29th to decorate the sidewalks before this year’s Trick or Treat. If you send a picture of the poem outside your house with your address in an email to flamingowritersguild@gmail.com, you will be eligible for prizes, including gift cards and free chapbook copies from our micropress!

We will also be handing out chalk and short poems, including haiku and limericks, at the Veteran’s Memorial Park off of State Road on October 28th. This way, if you would like to par-

that would like to come and work on their projects from 10 am to 1pm. 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.



Image credit to Faith at RotT.

ticipate but don’t want to buy chalk or aren’t sure what to write, we’ve got you covered! Join us to help make this year’s Halloween a memorable one by livening our sidewalks with colorful poetry just in time for costumes and candy.

More People Should Run For Public Office

continued from page 10

humbling. I've listened to a lady whose lease will be terminated in sixty days, people who have been cited by the city several times, residents who have continuous basement flooding, and one person even asked why am I running when I am not a homeowner!

Refusing to vote because you’re tired of politics or think all the candidates are “the same” is a lazy cop-out. Candidates are not the same. I am very different than the 3 other candidates running for Council At Large in Parma Heights. Why am I running? I want to give back. Why am I running? I want to do good. Why am I running? I want to advocate for causes. I started 2ND Fridays Parma Heights 3 years ago to help promote local businesses and it has been growing. Many challenges and important issues face

every level of government. Anyone, and I mean anyone can have a real impact by running for office, even if you lose, simply by drawing attention to specific issues and persuading the electorate to share your passion. Running for office will make you a better person by listening, by surrounding yourself with empathetic, hardworking and committed people, and by showing that you care! It is an honor and privilege to talk with residents all over the city and carry their hopes and dreams, to earn their trust, and most importantly--make their voices heard!!! Win or lose, I will never regret it.

*** Re-Elect Allan J. ***

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