



# The City of Parma

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2020

## Promoting community pride online connects residents

By Carolyn Kovach

Staying connected during the holiday season is challenging this year.

“Many of us did not have a traditional Thanksgiving, but I am hopeful it was still an enjoyable holiday for everyone,” said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. “Similar to other special occasions, we have found different ways to celebrate with our families, neighbors and friends. It started in July, and I see that enthusiasm continuing today.”

Although the annual Christmas Parade and recently created Frosty’s Fest joined a list of other cancellations in 2020, civic leaders and enthusiastic residents have discovered alternative approaches to holiday celebrations. It began with the Parma Patriotic Pride yard decorating competition this summer, morphed into a return of the city’s Parma Pride Award this fall and ended with council members’ Santa parades and the annual Young Professionals of Parma’s Holiday Lights contest this holiday season.

Throughout the year, We Are Parma Proud played a significant role. The nonprofit provided the winning \$250 Visa gift card for the Parma Patriotic Pride July 4th random drawing and later created a Halloween and fall

decorating competition that showcased homeowners’ fall and Halloween decor.

Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime and Ward 4 Councilwoman Kristin Saban serve as We Are Parma Proud co-chairs. They both noticed a tremendous sense of pride that homeowners have for their properties.

“Because people are home more, they have time to focus on their yards and homes. Why not highlight their hard work? Plus, it helps bring us together when we can’t physically be together,” Saban said.

She added that when council members this fall were awarding Parma Pride yard signs to residents with meticulous lawns, the positive reaction from homeowners was noticeable. “I had one resident spotlight the sign so it could be seen at night,” Saban observed.

Her point was reinforced when homeowner Jack Tibbitts at 5812 Southington Drive received a Parma Pride Award from the mayor and sent this Facebook message to the



Parma Pride Awards were given to homeowners whose yards looked nice enough for an HGTV show.

city: “Thank you for the sign in my yard. It 1,000 percent made my day.”

For all these competitions, social media was a key component. The city’s Communications Director Carolyn Kovach and We Are Parma Proud’s Executive Board Member Kathy Mabin filled their respective Facebook pages with beautiful, colorful and fun images of residents’ decorated properties and promoted the posts using the hashtag #Parmapride.

(continued to page 2)

# The switch to cloud-based format saves time and money



Brian Day

The Auditor's Office has been busy over the past couple of years engaging in technology initiatives to make city government more efficient. It has been my priority to improve outdated information technology infrastructure with new and improved technologies.

This year, we migrated financial, payroll and human resources systems to a cloud-based format. A

move like this for a city government our size took a great deal of time to appropriately prepare and implement. For the transition to be successful, several steps were taken.

First, a business process review was completed to allow our vendor to understand our current workflow. These reviews were then used to design an efficient workflow for our new system.

Second, a testing phase confirmed that the new workflows met our functionality, reliability and performance requirements.

Third, training was provided. During this step, numerous employee training sessions were held to ensure staff understood the functionality and workflow of the new systems. We went live with the finance system last January. Payroll and human resources followed a few months later.

We also completed the migration of email to cloud-based Microsoft Office 365. This allows employees to remain in touch and available to meet the needs of residents regardless of where they are located.

Additionally, we installed a cloud-based secure document storage system, allowing for document retrieval outside of Parma City Hall.

There are several advantages to moving our servers to a cloud-based environment, such as server costs savings and accessibility.

The new systems were invaluable during the statewide shutdown last spring, allowing access to files so employees could work remotely and ensure the timely and efficient processing of city business.

## Promoting community

*(continued from page 1)*

"Parma residents did not disappoint," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter. "I am not surprised, considering the turnout for city parades and the elaborate parade decorations and costumes. Plus, residents have never held back with their Halloween and Christmas displays. These social media posts were a different way to celebrate the changing seasons and holidays, and residents rose to the occasion."

Additionally, council members and the mayor have been using social media to support local small businesses that have weathered a difficult year due to the pandemic.

In spring, during the shutdown, the



Jack Tibbitt's putting green, Koi pond and hand-painted flag on the side of his garage caught the mayor's attention.

city promoted a Support Parma Takeout campaign. This holiday season, city leaders and Parma Area

Chamber of Commerce have been promoting the annual #ShopSmall campaign to highlight local restaurants, retailers and services.

"It has been a difficult year for everyone and, in particular, small business owners," DeGeeter said. "Small businesses are a critical part of this city and need our support now and all year round."

He added, "I am looking forward to when we can shop the way we normally shop and gather again in large groups. Until then, council members and I will continue to promote Parma through creative initiatives like these because they bring community members together and share our collective pride." ■

## City Council News



### Ward 1 — Vito Dipierro

On behalf of the Parma Fall Food Drive and Shred Event organizers, I thank everyone for their generosity and time volunteering. We safely raised funds and food for fellow residents with food insecurities and provided free document shredding. This was our third year hosting the event. If you missed it this year and

want to be notified of the next one, send me an email, so I can add you to my email list. If you would like to contribute, send monetary donations to: **Parma Council Office, Attn: Parma Project Cheer, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio, 44129. Make checks payable to "Parma Project Cheer."**

Also, the improvement project at Miller Park on Aaron Drive, off Queens Highway, is still in the works. Pitt Ohio, which has partnered with the city, remains committed to investing in new equipment, landscaping and upgrades to the park. Work will begin in 2021. I will announce dates when they are confirmed.

If you want regular city and ward updates, email me, and I will add you to my email list. I will be lit dropping a Ward 1 news article this winter. If you can help me distribute it, contact me.

If you need help, call me at 216-215-8877 or email me at [ParmaWard1@gmail.com](mailto:ParmaWard1@gmail.com). Follow me on Facebook @CouncilmanDipierro. God bless you and your families.

### Ward 2 — Debbie Lime



I hope you are well and safe. This year has been a different time for all of us. We have tried our best to be safe and take care of our families.

Remember your neighbor who may be a senior or living alone. Check on them with a simple knock on the door or a friendly phone call.

These can be lonely times for all of us. I continue to be positive while working through these moments. Remember, we are all in this together!

We have had to cancel so many events over the year with hopes that we can all be together again in 2021. In an effort to try to keep spirits up this holiday season, Santa Claus (the big guy, HO, HO) made his way through the streets of Ward 2 — waving at everyone and sending well wishes! He was well received by all.

It has been so much fun driving through neighborhoods and seeing all the decorated homes for July 4th, fall, Halloween and now Christmas. Everyone has done such a great job! Thank you!

If you need to reach me, please call me at 440-845-1714 or email me at [limeward2@gmail.com](mailto:limeward2@gmail.com). If you wish, send me your email so I can keep you updated on happenings in the ward moving forward. I am looking forward to walking the streets next year and catching up with everyone. It is my pleasure to serve you as your councilwoman.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!

### Ward 3 — Mark Casselberry



The year 2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime. Our news cycle and social media feeds have been filled with mostly negative news. Here in Parma, how-

ever, we had several people create good news in our community.

Meet Tyler and Melanie Tapajna. The couple had scheduled their wedding for Aug. 15, long before the world knew of COVID. The bride and groom kept their wedding date but made some changes. They planned a small outdoor wedding

ceremony and canceled their reception due to safety concerns. Tyler and Melanie then donated their reception food to a women's crisis center, Laura's Home in Cleveland. They even helped serve the meals to the residents while wearing their formal wedding attire.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and I met Tyler and Melanie at their home and presented them with a Citizen of the Month Award. After a few minutes of conversation and photographs, the couple had to go back inside for a Zoom interview with *Good Morning America*, one of several news organizations that covered their story.

In September, State Rep. Jeff Crossman brought to my attention an impromptu donation center that Velma Avenue resident Kimmie DiBenedetto organized. Kimmie set up a table at the end of her

driveway and collected food and cash donations for a local food pantry and our animal shelter. She then delivered a pickup truckload of donated food to the pantry and gave more than \$1,000 in donations to Parma Animal Shelter. I had the pleasure of meeting Kimmie at her home. She told me she is fortunate to be employed as a sales rep at Lumen Technologies during COVID and wants to help others. Being generous is a yearly practice for her. This is the fourth year she has raised funds and food for pantries.

It is selfless acts like these that make Parma a wonderful place to live! If you know of anyone else in Ward 3 who has helped others during these trying times, share their stories with me. If you need anything, I can be reached at 440-842-6710 or [mcasselberrycityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:mcasselberrycityofparma-oh.gov). Follow me on Facebook @ParmaWard3.

## City Council News



### Ward 4 — Kristin Saban

As we enter into the last couple weeks of 2020, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. In previous newsletters, I would recap what was accomplished in our ward over the summer and fall months. It truly saddens me some traditions started in the last few years had to be postponed. I, like many others, can't

wait for the days ahead when we welcome them back. I also eagerly anticipate that we will create many new traditions.

The resiliency of our friends and neighbors was on full display this year. We were fortunate to still hold our Annual Garage Sale. This summer, we opened the event to the entire city as we welcomed all the wards to join us.

Our first and successful City Craft Fair, held the first weekend in October, was another example of our residents' creative spirit. Ward 4 resident Daneen Kruezer spearheaded the Craft Fair, which I hope will become an annual event.

I shared the disappointment of many Ward 4 residents when our Ward Safety Meeting and Quarry District Picnic had to be canceled. I am optimistic that both events will return, better than ever, in summer 2021.

Additionally, I hope to host our much anticipated first Quarry District Committee meeting in spring 2021 with the assistance of Ward 9 Councilman Roy Jech and State Rep. Jeff Crossman.

My husband Bruce, my son Logan and I wish each of you a very happy and healthy holiday season!

If you ever need assistance, contact me at 216-398-1770 or [ksaban@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:ksaban@cityofparma-oh.gov). For the latest updates, follow me on Facebook @KristinSaban,ParmaWard4Council. #ward4rocks



### Ward 6 — Larry Napoli

If you reside in Ward 6 and have questions, concerns or information you wish to share about your neighborhood, call me at 440-845-4547 or email me at [deblaryn@aol.com](mailto:deblaryn@aol.com).

Working together, we can make a positive impact in our community.

### Ward 5 — Allan Divis

This year continues to be full of challenges for all of us.

Unfortunately, my goal of door knocking throughout the ward was not completed due to COVID-19. I enjoyed, however, greeting people outdoors as I walked through the neighborhoods this past summer and fall. Seeing people walking outside or working in their yards allowed me to stay in touch.

In August, I had the pleasure of presenting a resolution honoring Ward 5 resident Ann Rist. She retired after 20 years of service at the Parma Animal Shelter. Ann was the driving force behind the shelter's mission of providing excellent care for the animals and finding forever homes for its furry friends. She is an inspiration to many, and I am sure the volunteers will miss working with her.

Individuals and families requiring aid continues to grow during the pandemic. Assisting those who need help remains a high priority for me. I am a board member of Rise in Love and, working with the Pantry at All Saints, our volunteers strive to fight poverty and hunger in Parma and the surrounding areas.

Rise in Love provides nonperishable and frozen food, household supplies and personal care products to those needing assistance. It now serves more than 300 families. Distributions occur the third Saturday of every month, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Parma Heights Baptist Church, 8971 West Ridgewood Drive. To inquire about a monetary donation to Rise in Love, contact me or call Rise in Love at 440-457-7209 or donate online at [www.riseinlovecenter.org/make-a-donation](http://www.riseinlovecenter.org/make-a-donation).

On a personal note, my family and I celebrated three significant events this fall. Michele and I celebrated our 40th anniversary at St. Anthony of Padua Parish with our family on Sept. 20. We are truly blessed. Then, on Sept. 30, I retired after a 48-year career with *The Plain Dealer* as an advertising consultant in the retail and national division. Finally, on Oct. 3, our daughter Elizabeth married Mike Cepis at St. Anthony Parish. As parents, we could not be more proud of them.

If you are in need of any information, please call me at 440-888-7213 or email me at [allandivis@yahoo.com](mailto:allandivis@yahoo.com).

Stay well and remain healthy.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



# City Council News

## Ward 7 — Brian Brochetti



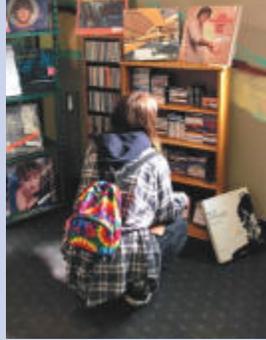
As Parma City Council finance chair, 2020 has been the most challenging year I can remember due to COVID-19. Many of our Parma families have been impacted by the virus, loss of work or loss of childcare due to safety precautions put in place by the state.

I praise the resiliency of our neighborhoods and of Parma to persevere through these

unprecedented times. In that same vein, I want to credit city administration for its efforts to maintain a degree of normalcy during this pandemic. Despite being impacted as well, the city did its best this summer to continue with the high standard of service that our residents expect, along with keeping many of our recreation programs running for our city's youth.

In spite of the pandemic, our city continues to grow and become stronger. Parma is home to three incredible health-

care systems: University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, Parma VA Outpatient Clinic and MetroHealth Parma Medical Center. Recently, the emergency department at Metro received a Level III Adult Trauma designation, providing another service to our residents.



*The Current Year opens.*

Business in the city has also remained strong. We saw the groundbreaking of Chick-fil-A, ribbon cutting of Dick & Alice Sausage and Pierogi Haus and doors opening on a vinyl record store, The Current Year. Moreover, Parma was able to use money from the CARES Act to provide assistance to small business owners.

Thank you for what you do to make Parma a strong city and community.

As always, if I can assist you, please contact me at 440-345-5239 (home), 440-885-8091 (council office), or email [bbrochetti@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:bbrochetti@cityofparma-oh.gov) and [parmaward7@gmail.com](mailto:parmaward7@gmail.com).

City of Parma Newsletter • PAGE 5 • 440-885-8000 • 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129

## Parma Dental

**Dr. Vladimir Belikov**

*America's Top Dentist Award 2019*

We speak **Ukrainian, Polish, Russian**

We accept all major insurances including Medicaid, Care Source, Buckeye, Molina



Parma Office:

**(440) 885-1111**

5500 Ridge Rd, Ste 135 • Parma, OH

Highland Hts Office:

**(440) 995-9999**

6151 Wilson Mills Rd, Ste 250 • Highland Hts, OH



**AC and HVAC  
Spring Tune Ups**

*Rehab/Remodeling for Spring!*

**216-220-4527**

**FREE Estimate**

– LICENSED LEAD ABATEMENT –  
HVAC Emergency Services

[www.ghsohio.com](http://www.ghsohio.com)



## Constellation Schools: Parma Community



**NOW ENROLLING**  
K-12th Grade

To enroll in our school, call 216-712-7600 or go to

[www.constellationschools.com](http://www.constellationschools.com)



VNA  
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION OF OHIO  
A Member of VNA Health Group

Your  
Health Care  
at Home

**1-877-698-6264**

[www.vnaohio.org](http://www.vnaohio.org)



**Kimberly  
Cassidy**

Professional in Biotracking  
Naturopath

Health and Wellness Specialist

**440-502-1705**

[KimsHerbalSunshine@yahoo.com](mailto:KimsHerbalSunshine@yahoo.com)  
[www.healthwellnessandsunshine.com](http://www.healthwellnessandsunshine.com)



PARMA, OHIO

**VALLEY YORK**  
APARTMENTS



6935 York Road | Parma Heights, OH 44130 | 833-615-1243  
[www.valleyyorkapartments.com](http://www.valleyyorkapartments.com)



4-E-5-5

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • [www.4lpi.com](http://www.4lpi.com)

14-1537

# City Council News

## Ward 8 — Linda Kohar



I hope you and your family are receiving this newsletter in good health during this difficult time.

Just as your family is struggling to deal with the impacts of Coronavirus, so has the City of Parma. The administration constantly weighs difficult choices to be able to continue essential services such as police and fire.

Although it is a challenging time for everyone, we welcome the addition of Chick-fil-A next to Byers Field and Ace Hardware to The Shoppes at Parma. Chick-fil-A is under construction, and Ace Hardware hopes to open before the end of the year.

We also witnessed the repaving of Ridge Road. The short-term mess and inconvenience of construction paid off because the repaved street is now a pleasure to drive on.

Work to alleviate flooding seems to have helped as heavy

summer rainstorms did not cause as much flooding as it did last spring. This important and costly work will continue.

This fall, the city received the long-awaited Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District report, which lays the groundwork for future projects. I will email the 500-page report to anyone who wants to read it. Contact me at [lkohar@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:lkohar@cityofparma-oh.gov).

Many residents received recognition for their hard work to maintain a beautiful home and yard through the Parma Pride Award campaign. It was so rewarding to see the happiness this recognition provided our residents. When so many people are dealing with serious problems, it is wonderful to make people smile.

I look forward to continuing to serve Ward 8 as your council representative and wish everyone a happy, healthy holiday season!



Parma Pride Award winner.

Cuyahoga County Public Library

AMERICA'S TOP-RATED LIBRARY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## LOCATIONS IN PARMA

**PARMA BRANCH**  
6996 Powers Blvd / 440.885.5362

**PARMA-SNOW BRANCH**  
2121 Snow Rd / 216.661.4240

[CUYAHOGALIBRARY.ORG](http://CUYAHOGALIBRARY.ORG)

### Tony Tomaro Waterproofing & Construction Inc.

**Better Business Bureau A+ Rated**

Basement Waterproofing - Wall Repairs  
Cement - Brick Work  
Sewer Unclogging - Camera and Jetting

**10% DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD!**

Anthony Tomaro 440-476-3601      Office 440-276-1806  
[tonytomarowaterproofing.com](http://tonytomarowaterproofing.com)      [office@tonytomarowaterproofing.com](mailto:office@tonytomarowaterproofing.com)

## FOUR STAR INSURANCE AGENCY

Save on insurance of all forms

Auto • Home • Renters  
Boats • RVs • Commercial

Call 440-882-2000 or click [www.fourstarinsurance.com](http://www.fourstarinsurance.com)

**PROGRESSIVE**

- President, Chuck Germano
- Joe Germano
- Paul Germano
- Bob Durante
- Ivan Voytovych
- Randall Woodland

### COX Connect2 Compete.

**Low-Cost, Home Internet with WiFi**

Cox opens a world of opportunity for families that have a K-12 student and receive government assistance.

**Qualify Now!**

Families who may qualify:

- Have a K-12 student
- Are eligible for the National School Lunch Program, SNAP and/or TANF
- Receive Tenant-Based Vouchers or Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)
- Live in public housing

Resources for discounted, refurbished computer equipment available through our association with PCs for People at [www.pcsforpeople.com](http://www.pcsforpeople.com)

## COX HIGH SPEED INTERNET

**\$9.95** PER MONTH FOR QUALIFIED FAMILIES

- No annual contracts
- No deposits
- Free installation
- Free Wifi modem

Complete the online application to confirm your eligibility at [Cox.com/Connect2Compete](http://Cox.com/Connect2Compete) or call 1-855-825-1666

## Script Parma Picture of the Month Contest showcases creative and fun photos



Sean Brennan

Last year, I worked with several generous community members and business owners to bring the Script Parma sign to the community in hopes of boosting community pride.

Subsequently, it was installed in Anthony Zielinski Park and donated to the City of Parma. I

could not be happier with

the results, as the sign has already become a popular city landmark.

This year, I started the Script Parma Picture of the Month Contest. Community members are encouraged to enter the contest.

Here's how. Simply snap a creative selfie, family shot, work group photo or photo with friends or neighbors at the Script Parma sign and email it to [councilmanbrennan@msn.com](mailto:councilmanbrennan@msn.com). Be sure to include your full name, address and phone number in the email submission. Each month, a

winning photo will be selected, and the photographer will receive a gift card to Rookies Sports Bar and Grill at 5513 Pearl Road and a free car wash, courtesy of Sgt. Clean's Car Wash at 7875 Day Drive. The winning photo will also be published in the *Parma Observer*.

Thanks to the fine Parma businesses for their sponsorship of the monthly contest. I look forward to seeing holiday, winter and early spring photos of the sign over the next several months.



### ***A Reflective Year***

*For Parma Senior High graduate Alexander Bearer, his Chestnut Hills Drive neighbor, Mary Ford, made the ending to a tough school year fun with this senior photo at Script Parma. Not only did Bearer get a cool senior pic, Ford won a gift card and free car wash for this photo submission.*

### **Ward 9 — Roy Jech**



Neighbors, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. These have been very difficult times for all of us. I have tried to do my best

at answering your calls and emails, and visiting you personally at a safe distance. I wish to welcome all of the new families who have purchased homes in Ward 9 this past year. I had a chance to drop off welcome packets and meet most of you.

There are not many functions scheduled for the holiday season because of this pandemic, but the city will again promote #ShopSmall on social media to encourage residents to shop local. Many businesses are offering online, curbside and carryout to make shopping safe and

convenient. It has been a tough year for small business owners. Let's show them our support.

Please be diligent with safe activities during the holiday season, and enjoy Christmas with your families.

If any family is experiencing hardships during these challenging times, do not hesitate to contact me at 216-272-6418 or [rjech@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:rjech@cityofparma-oh.gov). I may be able to direct you to agencies that can be of assistance. Bless you and stay safe.

### Enlighten yourself about scammers posing as electric company reps



Tim Dobeck

A City of Parma official told me he received a phone call from a scammer posing as an Illuminating Company employee. The caller informed him that he was late on a payment, and service would be shut off if he did not immediately pay an outrageously high bill. He didn't fall for it, and neither should you.

Be aware of these potential threats and report any suspicious calls. You should *never* provide or confirm sensitive information over the phone. If you are being pressured to make a payment immediately, hang up the phone, as it is most likely a fraudulent service.

Be vigilant when answering calls from purported utility companies or other strangers. Scammers are opportunists who prey on people and look for any personal identifying information such as your name, date of birth and Social Security number that they can later use to defraud you.

Here are a few tips to protect yourself:

**Spot the Scam:** The overarching sign of this scam is pressure. The scammer posing as a representative of the Illuminating Company or some other public utility will state that your service will be shut off within minutes if you decline

to pay immediately. A utility company will usually first issue a turn-off notice in the mail. The company also allows a minimum of several days, but more often weeks, to make a payment before services are terminated. A utility company will *not* give you mere minutes to make a payment before shutting off service.

**Verify:** First, demand from the caller a callback number and his/her name. Then, hang up the phone immediately. Do not call the number the caller gives you. Instead, contact your utility company directly to verify the status of your account.

**Report:** If you believe a scammer contacted you, call the Parma Police Department's non-emergency number at 440-885-1234 to file a report. Provide the police with a name and telephone number that the scammer may have given you. Also, report the call to Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs at 216-443-7226. You may also make the Ohio Attorney General's Office aware in one of three ways:

1. Online: [www.OhioProtects.org](http://www.OhioProtects.org)  
(You may remain anonymous.)
2. Phone: 800-282-0515 (Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
3. Mail: 30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215

For all law director advisories, visit [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov). Go to Law Department, and click the link in the right blue column titled "Law Director's Advisories."

### Tax Connect Online makes filing taxes easy and safe



Tom Mastroianni

This year has been a tough year for all of us. I thank all my employees in the Tax and Treasury departments who have worked through these difficult

times. Most importantly, I want to thank you for adjusting to all the changes we made at Parma City Hall. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we must now work differently.

If you are coming to our offices, you are required to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing guidelines for everyone's safety. The Service Department staff has placed X's on the floor to help you with social distancing when standing in line.

The Tax Department will continue to prepare city taxes in person until Friday, Feb. 26, 2021. After that date, you must drop off or mail your tax information to us. We are doing this so you can avoid standing in long lines. We will prepare your Parma taxes and then mail you the completed forms.

The Tax Department also offers online filing through Tax Connect Online, where you can see what payments and credits you have for your current year or past years. You are also able to prepare your taxes, e-file and, if needed, pay your taxes online. Visit [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) and go to the Tax Department page. Look for the Tax Connect Online link in the right blue column. If you have questions, contact 440-885-8045 or email [taxoffice@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:taxoffice@cityofparma-oh.gov). If there is anything I can do to assist you, contact me at 440-885-8810 or [treasurer@cityofparma-oh.gov](mailto:treasurer@cityofparma-oh.gov).

# State Rep. Crossman works for Parma residents



State Representative  
Jeff Crossman

As a fellow Parma resident, I am grateful for the opportunity to address you in this city newsletter. At the Ohio Statehouse, we do our best to reach out to constituents in a number of different ways, including our own monthly newsletter.

I always appreciate the opportunity to communicate directly with you about the

issues that matter to you and about the work we are doing in Columbus.

So, what do state representatives do? The short answer is that we pass laws that affect all Ohioans in a number of areas. This is separate from the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., which focuses on federal law. It can be confusing to know who to contact when you need assistance or when you want to support legislation that may impact our city. My office welcomes your calls and emails. We can connect you with members of the U.S. Congress if the issue is related to something federal, such as Social Security.

We also have the ability to assist with issues that are

considered state issues such as unemployment compensation or Medicare assistance.

In the Ohio House of Representatives, we have worked on hundreds of legislative pieces that have the potential to impact you directly, for example, funding for first responders, road construction projects or health-care protection. The Ohio House works with the Ohio Senate and Ohio Gov. DeWine's office to set policy for the state.

## Our office can assist with:

- proposing ideas for bills and changes to laws.
- contacting state agencies about unemployment, utility assistance, rental assistance, taxes and insurance, veteran services, EPA issues, Medicare and SNAP benefits.
- scheduling Ohio Statehouse tours.
- drafting Statehouse commendations, condolences and congratulatory letters.
- attaining information about hearing schedules.
- connecting you or your business to state programs or services.

Contact us directly anytime if you need assistance. This year has been difficult for many of us, and we want to do our best to serve you. To reach me, call 614-466-3485 or email [rep15@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep15@ohiohouse.gov).

# Parma Auxiliary Police Department turns 70

They show up at parades, games, concerts, teen dances and city council meetings. Parma Auxiliary Police handle security and traffic control at public events. They also help write winter parking ban warnings, handle special attention details and assist at sobriety checkpoints. When the Parma Police Department needs additional support, these officers are there to help.

At a September city council meeting, Safety Chairwoman and Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime, Mayor Tim DeGeeter, council members and city officials honored Parma Auxiliary Police for 70 years of service.

"Thank you to Auxiliary Commander George Balasko and all our auxiliary officers for their assistance throughout the year," DeGeeter said.

Training to become an auxiliary police officer isn't easy. Before serving, these officers complete a three-phase training regimen, which includes basic training, firearms qualifications, cruiser tire safety, car searches, fingerprinting, defensive driving and other requirements.

In 2019, auxiliary police officers collectively logged 5,744 hours. This year, they are still racking up hours,



including time spent assisting with COVID-19 protocols.

Operating as a nonprofit, the department accepts donations and occasionally charges for its services to supplement its city budget. The officers, however, volunteer their time.

# Drivers have a smooth ride on newly repaved Ridge Road

Drivers traveling Ridge Road from Pleasant Valley to Pearl are now enjoying a smooth ride. Months ahead of schedule, the \$4.5 million Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) road construction project is nearing completion. The project is a 50/50 split between the state and city.

Due to the stay-at-home order last spring, less traffic meant less interference for CATTs Construction.

“Having a big road construction project run ahead of schedule is good news every mayor and city council member wants to deliver,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said.

In spring 2021, weather permitting, additional pavement repairs between Pleasant Valley and Ridgewood, as well as fine grinding of the pavement, will make the ride even smoother.

The section of Ridge Road going

north from Pearl Road to Brooklyn’s Flowerdale Avenue could be next for repaving. Cuyahoga County Public Works would oversee the \$3.8 million project, and Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) would fund 80 percent. Cleveland, Brooklyn and Parma would be responsible for the remaining 20 percent of costs, totaling \$902,530. If approved, road construction could begin in 2021.

## County strives to protect and support public during pandemic



County Council Rep.  
Scott Tuma

Each of us has dealt with change over these last several months as we continue to navigate through unprecedented times due to COVID-19.

I am truly amazed and grateful that our community has embraced changes in order to remain safe and healthy.

As your Cuyahoga County Council representative for District 4, my overall focus is ensuring that county government provides all the necessary and appropriate support to communities during this pandemic. To that end, the county provided \$2.3 million in June and \$1.2 million in September in CARES Act relief funding to the City of Parma.

In addition, CARES Act funding was allocated to improve and reconfigure infrastructure in various county buildings to ensure the safety of employees, residents and the public. Many of these improvements allow for social distancing and include preventive measures such as touch-free hardware and better ventilation systems to protect everyone who walks through these buildings. We are much better prepared to safely deal with this pandemic and other infectious diseases due to structural changes in these county buildings, listed to the right of this column.

If I can assist you, do not hesitate to call me at 216-698-2013 or email me at [stuma@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:stuma@cuyahogacounty.us).

### Cuyahoga County Building Improvements

#### Administration Building

council chambers partitions: \$9,746

#### Harvard Yard

PPE storage facility: \$1,375,000

#### Jane Edna Hunter Building

drinking fountain enhancements: \$92,884

#### Justice Center

layout of atrium and court offices: \$61,056

escalator systems clean-rail/UVC lamp: \$334,200

hardware access: \$116,169

Tower II, Plexiglas for probation officer desks: \$47,855

Tower II, restroom automation: \$150,770

Jails 1 & 2, temperature scanning: \$245,698

#### Juvenile Justice Center

hardware access: \$100,373

HVAC: \$23,066

restroom automation: \$523,979

temperature scanning stations: \$34,251

vestibule and atrium enhancements: \$87,754

#### Old Courthouse

restroom automation: \$382,893

vestibule enhancements: \$43,981

#### Virgil E. Brown Center

drinking fountain enhancements: \$159,004

#### Westshore Building

existing restroom enhancements: \$38,094

drinking fountain enhancements: \$25,196

# Road Construction Update



Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma City Council offer the following road construction update:

- The **Broadview Road** \$2.4 million resurfacing project from West Ridgewood Drive to Brookpark Road was completed this past October. The cost of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) project was split between the state and the city.
- **West Ninth Street** was resurfaced from Rockside Road to Decker Drive. The \$200,000 project was split evenly between Seven Hills and Parma.
- The city is part of an \$11.3 million Cuyahoga County Public Works project to widen **Sprague Road** through several communities. The county installed new sanitary and water lines at the end of this year, but road construction in Parma between York Road and West 130th Street will not begin until June 2021. That part of the project is expected to cost \$3.4 million and would be split among Parma, Parma Heights and the county, with the county absorbing the largest portion (\$2.7 million). The project is expected to last 12 to 18 months.
- Repaving and repairing of **Pearl Road** from Snow Road to Brookpark Road is slated for fall 2021, pending funds for the \$2.1 million project. ODOT will use federal funds to help cover the cost.
- In 2022, **West Ridgewood Drive** is slated for repaving from Ridge to State roads. The county will fund 80 percent of the \$2.2 million project, and the city will be responsible for the remaining part.
- The county postponed a Parma/Parma Heights \$3.4 million project to repair **York Road** from Pleasant Valley Road to Pearl.

## Recycle Better, Recycle Right

**CuyahogaRecycles.org**  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

### COMBINE ONLY THESE ITEMS FOR RECYCLING

## www.All-StarRoofingCo.com

**- FREE ESTIMATES -**  
**Seniors and Veterans Discounts**

### ALL-STAR ROOFING CO.

**216-332-0098**

Skilled Nursing · Outpatient Therapy  
Rehabilitation · Long Term Care

★★★★★  
**Five Star Overall Rating**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

**PARMA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

440-886-1700  
www.parmaareachamber.org

**PERNA'S JANITORIAL SERVICES, LLC**

Residential · Commercial · Industrial

**216-235-7272**

24-hr Emergency Service  
Bonded Insured

Carpet Cleaning · Snow Removal  
www.pernasjanitorialservice.com

## Broadview Multi-Care Center

Part of the Legacy Health Services Family

5520 Broadview Rd. • Parma, OH 44134  
216-749-4010

www.broadviewmulticare.com

# Rumpke starts waste and recycling services Feb. 1

Rumpke Waste & Recycling will be the new waste and recycling service provider for the City of Parma beginning Feb. 1, 2021 and over the next five years.

Under the new service agreement, Rumpke will provide weekly trash, recycling and bulk-waste collection for residents, including the use of Rumpke trash and recycling carts. The company will begin delivering around 60,000 new carts starting Jan. 4, 2021. Residents should *not* use the new carts, however, until Feb. 1. Rumpke will be mailing instructional information to residents prior to its service beginning.

“The current garbage provider, Republic Services, will be collecting rubbish throughout January,” said Service Department Director Brian Higgins. “In order to make this transition as seamless as possible, we are asking residents to use only the Republic Services carts in January. Although they will already have their Rumpke carts, they should not begin to use those carts until Feb. 1.”

Mayor Tim DeGeeter said he is confident residents will be pleased with

the new service. “With this new contract, residents are not required to separate yard waste and will have weekly bulk pickup — a convenience they have wanted, and we are happy to now deliver.”

Regarding bulk waste, Rumpke will collect items such as appliances, sofas, chairs, mattresses, box springs and other large items. Upholstered furniture and mattresses must be wrapped in sealable plastic.

“We are looking forward to serving Parma residents,” said Paul Marker, Rumpke regional vice president. “We will continue to work collaboratively with the city to ensure the best service for the whole community.”

One of the nation’s largest privately owned residential and commercial waste and recycling firms, Rumpke serves neighborhoods throughout Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. The family-owned business has been around since 1932. The company has 11 recycling facilities, including major material recovery facilities in Cincinnati and Columbus, as well as a glass processing facility in Dayton, Ohio.

## Reaching Rumpke

1-800-828-8171  
centralohio.market@rumpke.com  
www.rumpke.com

Service begins Feb. 1, 2021.

## Recycle Right

Place your recycling items loose in your Rumpke recycling cart. Do not bag recyclables.

Rumpke’s acceptable recycling items include:

- Plastic bottles, jugs, tubs, fruit and yogurt cups (empty and reattach lids)
- Cartons with caps and straws removed (please, no egg or ice cream cartons)
- Any color of glass bottles and jars (reattach lids or caps)
- Metal cans (non-hazardous and nonflammable)
- Paperboard (cereal boxes, 12-pack containers, etc.)
- Cardboard (flattened and should fit inside the cart)
- A variety of paper products:
  - Office papers
  - Newspapers
  - Magazines
  - Junk mail
  - Envelopes
  - Telephone books
  - Paper grocery bags

Rumpke keeps a list of recyclables on its website, [www.rumpke.com](http://www.rumpke.com).





**A New Look** – The Michael A. Ries Ice Rink is sporting new signage. Community Services covered the cost of the banner, which replaced a smaller, weathered banner. Adhering to Ohio Department of Health guidelines, the ice rink reopened in September to figure skating and hockey.

SHARE JOY  
SHOP SMALL

ALL SEASON LONG

CITY OF PARMA

The holidays are happier when we share them with you!  
Check out our  
Restaurants, Stores, Bakeries & Services



Support small businesses now & all year.

City of Parma Newsletter • PAGE 13 • 440-885-8000 • 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129

**YORKTOWN LANES**  
BOWLING – BANDS  
BIRTHDAYS – BANQUETS

6218 PEARL RD. (440) 886-5300  
WWW.YORKTOWNLANES.COM

**Allstate** Nationwide  
You're in good hands.

Only an Allstate agent can give you a fast, free Good Hands Coverage Checkup. You'll see what coverage you may need and what discounts you deserve. Are you saving all you can?  
**A-All American Insurance**  
John Cymbal, *Parma resident*  
**440-888-8884**

**SNOWVILLE PLAZA**  
Excellent Neighborhood Shopping Center  
Below Market Rent • Only A Few Spaces Remaining  
For Leasing Information Contact:  
**Howard Forman**  
**216-921-5663 and 216-315-5404**

*World Class Memory Care*

Schedule a personal visit today!

Where vibrant living and care come together.

Welcome to Vista Springs Greenbriar! We've created an extraordinary senior living community with 5-star resort accommodations, personalized care services, and World-Class memory care programs. [VistaSpringsLiving.com](http://VistaSpringsLiving.com)

**VISTA SPRINGS**  
Full of Life!

(440) 340-4000  
8658 Day Drive  
Parma, OH

**#1 PARMA AGENT**

**HER** Realtors®  
**Michelle Green**  
Professional Group

**Michelle Green**  
**440-305-7339**  
**FREE** book available to people thinking of selling...

[www.MichelleWillSell.com](http://www.MichelleWillSell.com)

# Parma fire and police departments share good news

Enough with the bad news of 2020. There has also been some recent good news Parma firefighters and police wish to share.

In October, the Parma Fire Department received two new fire trucks that replaced 25-year-old trucks in the fleet. Engine 1 is housed at Fire Station 1 and Engine 2 at Fire Station 2. The new vehicles will help the firefighters better serve the community.

As part of Fire Prevention Week in October, Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Fire Chief Mike Lasky and Councilwomen Kristin Saban and Debbie Lime honored 8-year-old Jaida Green during a press conference. Jaida had attended a fire department education session at John Muir Elementary School prior to the COVID-19 shutdown. Using the Aluminum Cans for Burned Children safety trailer, Capt. Ronnie Iacobonni and Insp. Gary Vojtush taught Jaida and her classmates how to escape a house fire. On July 16, Jaida smelled smoke

coming from her home's attached garage. Remembering her training, she did not open the door that leads to the garage. Instead, she listened for the sounds of a burning fire and felt the door for heat. After determining there was a fire, she woke up her 18-year-old sister, exited the house and called 911. Jaida's bravery and quick thinking saved her, her older sister and the family home.

In November, police picked up a BMX bike after receiving a call about a bike lying on the ground. They discovered the bike was stolen and contacted the owner — 15-year-old Valley Forge High School student Owen Fausnight. Unfortunately, the bike was in bad shape, so Det. Todd Hanley contacted Nick Bruce, a family friend. A Youngstown resident, Bruce is a U.S.A. BMX Olympic team member and has competed in the X Games. The pro BMX rider replaced the bike's brakes, chain, pedals and grips at his own expense. Bruce's generosity blew away Owen, who said his bike now looks better than it did before.



*Counterclockwise: 1.) Firefighters stand next to one of two new fire trucks. 2.) With her mom by her side, Jaida Green shows her proclamations and awards that she received from city leaders. 3.) Owen Fausnight holds a picture of pro BMX rider Nick Bruce, who fixed his recovered bike.*



## County taking HEAP calls while Activities Center remains closed

The Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging offers a variety of programs that benefit residents ages 60 and older. One program, which is available to Parma residents, is the Cuyahoga County Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). For residents' convenience, a HEAP office is located in the Activities Center. Residents should note, however, that HEAP is a *county* program, not a city program.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Activities Center and the HEAP office in the center have been closed. County HEAP

employees are working from home or the downtown Cleveland office. Whether it is Summer HEAP, Winter HEAP or the PIP program, all applications or re-certifications must be scheduled by HEAP staff.

The Activities Center does not make appointments, and the staff is not allowed to take confidential HEAP information. Nor does the Activities Center staff have access to the county database to look up information. Residents inquiring about HEAP *must* contact the county at **216-350-8008** or visit **[www.ceogc.itfrontdesk.com](http://www.ceogc.itfrontdesk.com)**.

Each HEAP participant will receive a

date and time for an appointment, and then a county HEAP employee will contact the participant. All appointments are being conducted over the phone.

During the phone appointment, the HEAP staff member will address the participant's questions or concerns, explain what paperwork is needed and provide location details about where the paperwork can be dropped off or an address where the paperwork can be mailed.

When it is safe for the Activities Center to reopen, the HEAP office in the center will also reopen for residents' convenience.

City of Parma Newsletter • PAGE 15 • 440-885-8000 • 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129

**At University Hospitals,**  
***your health and safety***  
**have always come first.**

# safe

**All** patients, care providers and staff must wear masks.  
**Everyone** is screened for symptoms before entering.  
**Public** areas reconfigured for social distancing.  
**Separate** Fever Clinics for those with COVID-19 symptoms.  
**More** enhanced cleaning of all public areas.

**Learn more** at [UHhospitals.org/Safety](http://UHhospitals.org/Safety)  
or make an appointment at 440-743-3000.



**Protecting your health**  
with **science and compassion.**





City of Parma  
6611 Ridge Road  
Parma, OH 44129

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Cleveland, OH  
Permit No. 647

*May Christmas  
and the New Year  
be happy, healthy  
and joyful for you  
and your family.*

*— Mayor Tim DeGeeter,  
City Council,  
City Elected Officials  
& City Employees*

