

Parkman Paragraphs is published in Spring and Fall.  
This special edition is dedicated to the 2024 Great Geauga County Fair  
and is sponsored by the Parkman Trustees.

### Parkman Township Trustees

Meetings normally are 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
at 7pm in the Community House

For all Township business, call 440-897-8761

#### **Parkman's Facebook**

Search "Parkman Township" on Facebook.com

**Parkman's New Trustee E-mail**  
parkmantownship548@gmail.com

Henry Duchscherer - hduchschererjr@gmail.com  
Joyce Peters - joyce\_peters2000@yahoo.com  
Lance Portman - rdtrustee@gmail.com

### Fiscal Officer

Denise Villers - Parkman.F.O@gmail.com

### Parkman Community House & Overlook Park Pavilion

Lynn Schiffbauer - Hall Coordinator  
For info or reservations call  
440-904-0540

or e-mail ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com

### Fire & Rescue

Mike Komandt - Fire Chief  
440-547-2817 or mike.komandt@gmail.com  
Non Emergency Fire Station 440-548-2515

### Fire/Medical Emergencies:

CALL 911

### Zoning Commission

(now meets 4th Wednesday 7pm)  
at the Community House

### Zoning Appeals Board

(meets 2nd Tuesday 7pm)  
at the Community House

### Zoning Inspector

John Spelich

(Wednesdays 4:30pm - 6pm) at the Community  
House or by appointment in the event you cannot  
make office hours.

Cell Phone or txt: 330-219-3698 or  
e-mail at rcavictor42@aol.com

E-mails must have  
residents name and contact info  
to be officially answered.

### Road Department

Eric Mathews - Superintendent  
ParkmanRoads@gmail.com  
Roads Cell Phone - 440-904-0655

### Cemetery Sexton

Dale Komandt - Sexton  
440-785-3514 or  
dKomandt@hotmail.com

Angela Fox - Assistant Sexton  
ParkmanCemetery@gmail.com

### Parkman Webmaster & Editor

Cory Anderson

### Parkman Chamber of Commerce

16295 Main Market Rd. (Rt. 422) - Unit A  
West Farmington, Ohio 44491  
or Email - ParkmanChamber@gmail.com

Denise Villers, President  
Sandy Rought, Secretary

Nancy Black, Vice-President  
Lynn Schiffbauer, Treasurer

Chamber meets at 7pm on the 3rd Monday of the months  
**January, February, April, September, October, and November**  
in the Parkman Community House. We are always looking for new members.

**Our biggest event is the:**

#### **Parkman Pancake Breakfast - since 1968**

Parkman Community House - Sunday's in March (2, 9, 16, 23), 2025 (9am-1pm)  
Pancake and Sausage Meal - "Eat In" and "Drive Through" options available

Many thanks to all who help volunteer and support all of our Parkman traditions!



# Parkman Ohio



## Parkman salutes the Great Geauga County Fair Over 200 years of Something for Everyone!



**Community Website: [www.ParkmanOhio.com](http://www.ParkmanOhio.com)  
Newsletter E-mail: [ParkmanOhio@gmail.com](mailto:ParkmanOhio@gmail.com)**



# Parkman Gazebo and the history of the Parkman "Buckeye" Band

(Based off of the bands 50th reunion booklet - 1936)



The Parkman "Buckeye" Band had its beginnings in the Fall of 1886 at the suggestion of Guy B. Norton. Melvin H. Norton organized a Parkman High School Band and Guy Norton wanted to involve the rest of the community. Thus the Parkman Town Band evolved from such ambitions. The first meeting of the Parkman Band assembled at the "Factory Hall" (today called the Parkman Community House).

After six months of organizing, the Band ordered new uniforms trimmed with red and gold braid, black helmets with scarlet plumes. These new uniforms were first worn at the Burton Fair in June of 1887. The band played a full three day engagement at the Fair.

On August 10th 1887, the Parkman Bandstand was dedicated. Located in the town center, this gazebo would be a place to allow the community to enjoy outdoor performances. Local residents spent the summer building the bandstand and it was a point of community pride. There was a large crowd for the dedication. The Western Reserve Band from Windham, and the West Farmington Cornet Band were both there to help celebrate the event. People traveled from long distances to enjoy the sounds.

Membership in the Parkman Buckeye Band was not an easy commitment. The band would rehearsed 40 weeks a year and traveled to engagements all over the NE Ohio area. The tally on their Golden Anniversary in 1936 was over 2000 rehearsals and almost 900 public appearances. They estimated over 1000 miles of total marching.

Parkman Buckeye Band's success was largely due to the leadership of Clayton C. Smith, where for over 30 years he unselfishly devoted himself to the interest of the band. His health failed in 1916, and passed away in 1921.

Many changes in members occurred throughout the rest of the bands history, yet a dedicated group of fellow residents kept the tradition alive and very successful for many years. The Parkman Buckeye Band held many firsts in Geauga County and throughout Ohio.

Today, a gazebo still stands at the same location in Parkman Center Park. This current gazebo was donated and built by Tim and Kara Yoder in remembrance of their son who died in a car accident. It has a weathervane on top of a boy swinging a baseball bat.

The township recently refurbished the gazebo with needed repairs, new white paint with a beautiful blue ceiling which is an old southern tradition intended to ward off evil spirits. Another old belief is that a blue porch ceiling will prevent bugs from making a home there. Recently, the Parkman Alumni Association donated the original 1883 Parkman School bell to the township. It has been placed on a structure in the center of the gazebo for everyone to enjoy. A plaque is being made to add to the structure. Directly below is a time capsule buried in 1997 by the Parkman Chamber of Commerce. It is to be opened in 50 years which is in 2047.

A mill stone from the old Moss Mill and the building stone from the Cromwell Store are in the Gazebo Garden, reserving pieces of history.



# Parkman's Overlook Cemetery

## Parkman Cemetery Sexton

Dale Komandt - Sexton

For any information:

440-785-3514 or dKomandt@hotmail.com

The pillars and arch at the entrance are going to be restored this year.



The Parkman Cemetery's host a rich history of over 200 years with those who call these locations a final resting place. The earliest headstones were close to when Parkman was founded in 1804. Included in the care are US Veterans that span almost every conflict in our countries existence. Representation from the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) - War of 1812 (1812-1815) - American Civil War (1861-1865) - Spanish-American War (1898) - World War I (1917-1918) - World War II (1941-1945) - Korean War (1950-1953) - and the Vietnam War (1955-1975) have Veterans who supported those campaigns. Today there are well over 300 Veterans that get honored each Memorial Day with flags and decorations. Each year since 2001, Parkman chooses an honoree to salute during our Memorial Day Parade. You can visit our Parkman website to see the newsletter stories of our past honorees and photos of the most recent Memorial Day Parades.





## Air B&B's Parkman include the Old Postal Cottage, Ledge Rock Cabin and the Shangri La Event Center



### The Old Postal Cottage

Located on the Parkman Town Square, The Old Postal Cottage, built in the 1840s, was the Parkman post office until mid-2018. It was completely renovated, and it is now a tiny house, located in Northeast Ohio. It has a private entrance, and is a cozy space, perfect for a getaway in the country, with access to all major roads and an easy commute to Cleveland, Youngstown, Akron, and many tourist attractions.



### Ledge Rock Cabin

16137 McCall Road (Rt 88) Parkman Ohio 44080  
Serving visitors with meals and scenic views, the Inn-keepers will ensure a delightful stay there. Ledge Rock Cabin is an Air B&B located next to the beautiful Grand River Gorge.

### The Shangri La Event Center

16110 McCall Road Garrettsville, Ohio 44231  
<https://www.shangrilalake.com/>

The Shangri La Event Center / Air B&B is also perfectly located and very picturesque. The property consists of perfectly manicured lawns and gardens, acres of mature trees and wooded areas, a 30-acre lake, a steel tent suitable for up to 300 guests, two islands, three bridges, and a full service tiki bar, and includes 2 Air BNB homes available to rent.



Check out the Parkman Website for a full list of local businesses!

## Parkman Ohio Veterans Memorial Park

Parkman Center on the corner of Rt. 422 and Rt. 528/Rt88



Our Parkman Veterans Memorial Park was newly redesigned and installed in 2022, Park has brand new flags honoring each of the US Military branches and fresh landscaping to allow a beautiful town center

The Parkman Veterans Memorial Park has been around since the early 1940s. The original monument was installed by the Parkman Veterans Club and the Parkman Mothers Club (precursor to today's Parkman Chamber of Commerce.)

### Parkman Veterans Club

Established in 1946, as Parkman Veterans returned home from WWII, this club was a support group to allow fellow members to recoup from the enduring the stress of such an experience. This club later was evolved into the Middlefield VFW Post 9768, that still exists to date.

### Interesting Parkman History

In 1822, after the formation of the 1st Militia Company in Parkman, the ladies united in furnishing a flag by contributing fine linen of their own spinning. The painting of the stars and stripes was done by Barton Avery. When completed, it was presented to the company by Miss Sophia Doty with an address by Mrs. Daniel Owen. Her speech has not been preserved, but the following is a copy of the remarks made to the Ensign by Captain Fairbanks upon acceptance of the flag:

The current Veterans Monument reads:

**THIS MEMORIAL IS  
ERECTED TO THE  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS  
OF PARKMAN TOWNSHIP  
WHO SERVED THIS  
COUNTRY**

"Ensign, it becomes your duty to take charge of this flag, a present from the patriotic ladies of Parkman. Although in times of peace it is used for parade and ceremony, yet, remember in times of war, it serves as a rallying point for the soldiers. Your liberty or your life."

This was the first flag owned by any company in the county and at the following training at Burton, the Parkman Company marched in front of the others carrying the colors of "Old Glory".

Not once in its years of existence has Parkman lost sight of its ideals of patriotism for the stars and stripes have been unfurled as a standard for the present as well as the on coming generations.

### Many Thanks to those who helped design and install our recently updated Parkman Veterans Memorial Park







## Parkman Community House Rental

16295 Main Market Rd, Parkman, OH 44080

Lynn Schiffbauer - Hall Coordinator

For info or reservations call - 440-904-0540 or e-mail - [ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com](mailto:ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com)

Parkman Township has been busy improving and updating the Community House. The entire interior has been painted. The dining room and kitchen floors have been replaced with a beautiful laminate. The ballroom floor has been repaired and refinished. Comfortable new chairs have been purchased for the dining room and ballroom, as well as new round tables for the ballroom. New curtains have also been hung. An elevator lift has been installed in order to help those with mobility challenges to easily access the ballroom.

We hope you are pleased with the results, and will consider renting the facility for your events. If you are planning an event--shower, party, wedding--please give us a call at 440-904-0540. Community House Coordinator, Lynn Schiffbauer would be glad to help you out.



Photos of the newly refinished 1st floor of the Parkman Community House



Photos of the newly refinished 2nd floor of the Parkman Community House



Old St Edwards Church



New St Edwards Church

## St Edwards Catholic Church also near its Centennial

<http://www.SSEdwardLucy.com>

The early Catholics came out from Cleveland and began farming. Most parish members were Polish, Slovak, etc. To attend church they originally had to drive to Warren.

In 1928, Frank Soltis, Sr. and others purchased at auction the 87-year-old Episcopal Church and a small parcel of land for \$1,075.00. This church had been moved from across the street and was originally a Methodist church. After some remodeling and a lot of detailing, the first Catholic Church in Parkman celebrated its initial mass and dedicating ceremony on December 23, 1928.

In the 1960's a second larger tract of land adjoining the original was donated by Frank & Mary Soltis Sr. for a new and larger building. In 1964 the new church held its first mass. The old St. Edward Church building was 123 years old that same day. Each year the Parish hosts a chicken dinner and car show in August. The very first chicken dinner was in 1932. Obviously the car show was added later on in this community tradition.



## Aunties Antique Mall

15567 Main Market (Rt. 422) in Parkman, Ohio 44080

<http://auntiesantiquemall.com/>

Serving Geauga County for well over 20 years, Aunties Antique Mall is the largest antique mall in Geauga County at 20,000 square feet. We have over 150 booths and showcases displaying the treasures sourced by our 60+ vendors.

## Laleure Vineyards

17335 Nash Road (Route 88) in Parkman, Ohio 44080

<http://www.laleurevineyards.com>

Laleure Vineyards started growing grapes in Parkman, Ohio in 1997. We became an official Ohio winery in 2002, and opened our tasting room doors in November of 2003. We are a small boutique winery dedicated to producing high quality wines made primarily from vinifera grapes grown on the property.





## Parkman Congregational Church 1823 -2023 Bicentennial

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

Parkman Congregational Church celebrated a Bicentennial in June 2023 with a Community Carnival and Luncheon.

The Parkman Congregational Church was organized on April 28th, 1823 as a Presbyterian church with ten members and Mr Benjamin Fenn as the Pastor. Local Parkman history books state the meetings were irregular at different locations (usually peoples houses) and had times with no formal members on the roster. After Rev. Fenn, there was a Rev. Woodruff in 1828 as the first regular pastor for one year. Up until 1850, there were at least six other reverends that tried to commit to the obligation. In 1850, a Rev. Hopkins made the first attempt to build a church. He was successful in collecting the needed materials but complications prevented the work to be completed.



In 1852, Rev. Frasier began and he was the longest pastor committing at 9 years. During his tenure (around 1857) the church joined the Plymouth Rock Association of Congregational Churches. The church was reorganized at the time with 14 members.

In 1873, after several other reverends tried to keep the group together, Rev. Taylor from the Home Ministry Society as the new leader and seven members, set forth to finally build the new church building. It was completed and dedicated on December 1, 1878. The only debt was \$500 that was loaned from the Church Building Society.

Rev. Taylor during his 5 years as pastor, added 23 members to the church and made the church self sustaining for the first time. As years went on and reverends come and go, the church successfully grew in members.

In 1923, W. W. Moore and his two sons, Walter and Robert, came to Parkman and operated a garage and service station in the building which has been used by the Fire Department. In 1939, they purchased the lot occupied by the Congregational Church. The church was moved to its current location (the photo on top) and Moore built a new garage.

In 1946, Mr Moore sold the garage to Standard Oil Company. Today this corner of Rt 422 and Rt 528 has several newer businesses including a newly renovated Gulf Station, Bow and Reels sports store, K &K Barns and the current Post Office.

**Many thanks  
to all who helped support the  
2023 bicentennial celebrations  
of the  
Parkman Congregational  
Church.**



Large Pavilion with new siding, new paint, new grills and new well.



New horse shelter for our Amish friends.



Large Baseball field and pavilion.  
Small ballfield and pavilion also available.



New Gaga Ball Pit with instructions for play.



Basketball and Tennis Courts and Playground.  
Plans are in the works to make the tennis court dual purpose by painting a Pickleball court on it as well.



## Overlook Park Rental

18105 Tavern Rd Burton Ohio

Lynn Schiffbauer - Park Coordinator

For info or reservations call - 440-904-0540  
or e-mail - [ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com](mailto:ParkmanCommunityHouse@gmail.com)

Pavilions for groups require reservations.



# Parkman Community House

## Celebrating over 160 Years of Community Service!!

### 1863 – 2024



Photo Circa 1900



Photo Circa 1940

Parkman Historical Society validates that our Parkman Community House building was built in 1863 - and celebrated its 160 years in 2023. The building hosts many various events and operations - but the cheese house is how it began.

The Parkman Cheese Factory was built in 1863 by a New York company called Stokes and Budlong. It is said that they went into production right away and were very successful. Milk was collected by horse then. Nearly every farm in the community contributed to the supply of milk. In the late 1860's the company changed owners to OC Smith. This became known as the O C Smith Manufacturing Company. There was a patent in 1881 where rotary cheese vats were invented. In one year 260,000 pounds of cheese was made netting a profit of \$27,000... which was a very productive business back then.

Successful farming in this area took notice and many various agricultural cultures began to migrate into our community. The first Amish settlers in Geauga County arrived in 1886. Samuel Weaver and his family arrived from Holmes County to Parkman Township and settled on a small farm on the old Parkman - Middlefield Road. He is considered the founder and first settler of the Geauga Amish settlers. As other farming cultures moved into the area, both Amish and Yankee farmers worked together to support all ends of the cheese industry by supplying both grain and milk production. In the late 1880's, after the death of Smith, the company changed hands several times and was managed poorly. At the turn of the century there was a craze for roller-skating and a new floor was put upstairs to support the new trend. Hoping the gimmick might add revenue the failed investment was not enough to save the company. Sometime around 1900ish, the cheese production ceased and the building was closed.

In 1924 the cheese factory was redesigned as the new Parkman Community House. A local group called the Mothers Club donated money to help fix it up. They were active in raising money with fund raisers and bake sales to help organize its construction. It was remodeled to the current look and uses.

#### Here are a few examples of the recent milestones for this historic building.

In 2006 the Parkman Community used fundraising from our annual Pancake Breakfast to remodel a new kitchen to modernize it to current FDA standards. Many local non profit groups and residents have used this kitchen to support their venues and fundraisers as well as Pancake Breakfasts since 1968 - which is our 55th year of serving this tradition.



In May 2011 the Parkman Community House went active with a large 45 panel solar array on its south side roof. This Green Energy project has helped save on our community house electric bill with renewable energy for over a decade. You can visit the Parkman website on the Community House link to actually view the entire span of data that these solar cells have produced since they went active.

The new metal roof was installed onto the Community House in 2015, after noticing major leaking from the old roof. This preservation effort helps give the building an extra-long future. It was decided to spend a little more for the better quality roof since this building is the heartbeat of this community.



In 2017 Parkman decided to professionally replace all of the old style lighting with some newer energy efficient LED lighting in its buildings (community house, fire department, and road department). Also that same year a new generator was added in case of any power outages and all of the old and broken windows on the community house were replaced by brand new and energy efficient windows.

In 2018 the Parkman Community decided to register its community house as a possible American Red Cross Emergency Response Shelter location. Thus another remodeling project occurred that allowed the Community House accessible to those with special needs such as wheelchair accessibility. The entrance doorway had electronic door opening mechanisms installed and soon there will be an elevator added to the building structure to allow second floor access to those in wheelchairs. Also both the upstairs and downstairs ladies and gentlemen bathrooms were completely redesigned and rebuilt from the stud level to accommodate the ADA current standards.

In 2020 a brand new community event digital sign was installed replacing the old snap letter sign. This allows more flexible communications to help promote upcoming events and share community information. New flooring was also installed replacing the old tile that was aged and chipped. The new floor helps to keep the facility clean and modern looking. Both the exterior of the Community House and the interior were recently repainted. All of this is to help preserve our local gem.

Many residents have helped volunteer to keep our Community House in good shape and a modern local gem in the last 160 years. It is a passion in this Parkman Township to have such a site that can support many various groups and functions. It is a local treasure and used by the community regularly. Many Geauga County and Parkman non profit groups use this as their primary meeting and fundraising location. The Trustee and Zoning meetings as well as many private functions are hosted there throughout the year. It hosts many Parkman historic items for display. Our Parkman Community House is a very diverse facility.

Each year the Parkman Chamber of Commerce decorates both the Community House and the town square for the holidays. The Parkman Community always looks awesome for our residents and those who pass through our town.



If you would like to see the remodeled photos of the current Parkman Community House, look at the Community House Rental page in this issue or go to the Parkman website.

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