

PARMA Observer

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

Volume 1 • Issue 1 • October 28, 2009

Free!
Take One!

Observer Style Civic Journalism Comes To Parma Area

Building A Virtual Public Square for Parma

by Danuiel P. McCarthy

Publisher

As I speak more and more with all kinds of people at different events and places in the tri-city area of Parma. Parma Hts., and Seven Hills, one topic is discussed again and again; the fact is that this area is large enough that any one quarter of the area doesn't really know too much about the other three quarters. We don't have a pub-

Community newspapers bring our neighborhood and our neighbors back into our lives. I welcome the Parma Observer to our community and look forward to its contributions to strengthening communities in Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills."

**Congressman 10th District
Dennis Kucinich**

lic square in the center of it all where people gravitate to and share information and opinions with each other as a whole, and chances are, we never will have such a place--in the physical sense. The idea soon became clear that the Parma Observer, through it's newspaper and website, is in the position to supply the tri-city area with something extremely useful which is badly

needed, and that is a "virtual public square". Here people can gather twenty-four hours a day with almost no effort, and begin to get to know each other and share their thoughts, dreams, hopes, and plans for making this place an even better community than it is right now.

Trying to find relevant information about what is going on in your local neighborhood from the media sources we have now is very difficult, to say the least. When all you would like to do is find out when the newly constructed hiking trail at the local park will be ready for you to enjoy, or when the next holiday parade will begin, instead you are treated to stories about the latest misbehavior of some Hollywood celebrity, or tabloid gossip about the Royal Family, or needless advice, such as "it's cold outside on this January morning, so don't forget to dress warmly". What every place as big as the tri-city area needs is a media service which

includes a newspaper that is free of cost, in which the stories are written and the information is supplied by the actual residents of the community, with an accompanying website that conveys the same

information for those online, with the expanded benefit of the capability to respond by using the various discussion boards to voice concerns

about issues, news, and information presented in the newspaper and on the website.

Other communities in which this media formula has been introduced have experienced dramatic, encouraging results. For a first hand look, pick up a copy of the Lakewood Observer at one of the more than one hundred places it is available in that city, or go to lakewoodobserver.com and examine their website; you will clearly see how after more than four years, the Lakewood Observer has become an indispensable part of community life, and Lakewood residents may tell you how they can scarcely imagine when the Lakewood Observer wasn't the first place they turn to when they want to know what is happening in Lakewood, or more importantly, what their fellow Lakewood residents might think

about what is happening in Lakewood. The same is true of

continued on page 7

Cuyahoga Community College Seeks Resident Support For Issue 4

by Randi Hansen

Every five years, Cuyahoga Community College must go to County residents to get a vote of approval for continued funding. On November 3, the College will ask County residents to support a property tax that will enable the College to continue meeting its mission.

When a levy expires the College needs to secure continued approval from the County voters to renew and/

or replace the monies in order to keep the College tuition affordable, provide quality programs, and remain financially stable. The November 2009 ballot request is Issue 4, a replacement of the current \$1.6 million and an increase of \$0.3 million for a ten year period.

This levy, if approved, will ensure that student tuition remains affordable, student services are enhanced, high quality university transfer

continued on page 2

Helping the Helpers

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero presents Parma Hunger Center Co-Directors Arch Stevenson and Dale Kraemer with Giant Eagle gift cards.

The cards were donated by the Parma Law Department totaling \$1,250.00. The money was collected through the city's Juvenile Diversion and Traffic Diversion



Programs in which offenders can choose to donate to a local charity as their community service requirement in lieu of actually performing community service hours. The Parma Hunger Center has seen a dramatic 40% jump in the number of individuals and families being served in Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn Heights and Seven Hills. So far in 2009, The Hunger Center has served 9,303 individuals and 2,880 families. The Parma Hunger Center is located at Parma Lutheran Church, 5280 Broadview Road. The church has been serving local folks in need for more than 40 years. They can be contacted at 216-351-6376.

Parma Observer

Vote Tuesday November 3rd

by Gregory Mason

Voting in Seven Hills is scheduled on Tuesday, November 3rd. There are many ways of participating, including volunteering, carpooling, posting, and chatting online. Check your Voter Location Notification (VLN) for your voting information. Changes to the voting precinct boundaries, and voting locations throughout Cuyahoga County have

occurred. Ward, precinct, voting location, general information, and absentee ballots are available online at Cuyahoga County Board of Elections or Ohio Secretary of State websites. You may also contact voting authorities directly: 216.443.3200 -- 2925 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

If you are 17-23 years young, then you command the majority of influence

in our system. Economically you have the largest disposable income, which means you have more cash than responsibility. You also influence your family's spending directly and indirectly: food, medical, education, entertainment, gifts, travel, extra curricular extras, community services, and much more. Although some of you cannot vote yet, you are nearly eligible for registration, or perhaps you are eligible and have not completed registration. Economic influence is a tremendous responsibility, with power that changes everyone's lives directly. Consider your loved ones, and friends within your community when making your choices. Researching local issues and candidates requires less time that you may think, and starting a blog can be a community service. Get involved when you notice anyone who needs help, or through local volunteer programs. Voter Guides are available online, at Seven Hills City Hall, or your friendly neighborhood periodicals. Reliable, moderate information is available from several well established print sources in Seven Hills, Parma, and

Cleveland. Television advertising, and marketing materials also flood your homes. Naming or supporting any candidates or issues would merely increase the noise of propaganda, or at least appear redundant.

However, my preference is recognizing and supporting our current local representation, public services, and authorities in their entirety, as our nation's founders intended. Your vote, your choices are private, and I reserve that right on your behalf, as I reserve it on my own behalf. Personally I support our fundamental, God given rights, and our responsibility to the generations that sacrifice greatly for our liberty. Voting indicates actionable power, balanced through our three branches of government, working up through every individual participant in our system. Please connect with Seven Hills City Council, the new city website, and your local city services, encouraging positive relationships with your local community leaders.

www.sos.state.oh.us
www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us
www.sevenhillsohio.org

News from Parma City Hall

by Daniel McCarthy

a compilation of material from The City of Parma website Article: City of Parma School Zone Photo Enforcement Program

The program began in May 2009 and was operated for the last month of the school year. Speed violators in targeted school zones were issued warning citations only.

Starting with the new school year in the Fall of 2009 speed violators began receiving citations in the mail. These are civil citations and do not add points to driver's license.

These citations can be appealed, and a hearing process is outlined in the printed information which is provided along with the mailed citation.

The Fee Structure is: up to nine miles per hour over speed limit-- \$100.00

ten miles per hour and over speed limit--- \$200.00

Polling Location Changes

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has made numerous changes to voter precinct boundaries and voting locations throughout Cuyahoga County. Voters need to know their correct ward, precinct, and voting location in order to cast a ballot on Election Day November 3, 2009.

All voters affected by these changes should have received a Voter Location Notification card which informed them of their new precinct and in some cases their new ward and or new voter location.

Voters who are uncertain should go to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections website at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us. Click on blue "voter" tab, then "where do I vote". enter home address and city. Voter will then be provided with the correct ward, precinct, and voting location.

Voters without computer access can call the Voter Information Hotline at 216-443-3298

Cuyahoga Community College Seeks Resident Support For Issue 4

continued from page 1

programs continue, education and training programs are updated, job skills training is upgraded, and the College continues to improve training for good jobs. As an economic engine to job creation, incumbent worker training and our region's economic development, Issue 4 is of the utmost importance to our community.

Cuyahoga County voters have a long history of supporting the college; the past few levies have resulted in convincing votes of confidence. "Friends of Cuyahoga Community College," the group leading this year's levy passage campaign, hopes residents will continue to recognize Tri-C as the place "Where Futures Begin."

Ribs Galore At Mt. Alverna



The three teams that won the recent Mt Alverna Rib Cook Off.

Are you or someone you know
FACING FORECLOSURE?

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
Call today to see if you qualify
216.458.HOME (4663)
Se Habla Español

**Neighborhood Housing Services
of Greater Cleveland**
5700 Broadway Avenue . Cleveland, Ohio 44127 . www.nhscleveland.org

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

The Parma Observer is a community owned and operated citizen based news source. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Parma Observer staff or our advertisers.

11180 Snow Road, Parma, Ohio 44130
440.884.7625 • <http://parmaobserver.com>

Advisory Board	Writers
Craig Czepczynski	Sharon Alexander
Randi Hansen	Craig Czepczynski
David Lincheck	Dr. Christina Dinklocker
Lisa Zaremba	Marcy Grande
George Salo	Jim Griffith
Kathy Szomoru	Randi Hansen
	James McCarthy
	Jack Marschall
	Gregory Mason
	Stacie Schafer
	Mark White
	Mary Wise
	Gary Rice
	Natalie Smollen
	Senator George Voinovich

Publisher	Editor	Advertising	Photography
Daniel P.McCarthy	Gregory Mason	JimKuth 216.513.3070 jecdoc@yahoo.com	Greg Mason Jim O'Bryan Gary Rice

The Parma Observer is powered by:

Parma Observer Health News

Parma Hospital Changes Visitation Policy For Flu

by Mark White

Parma Hospital changes visitation policy for patient safety from the flu
Limits visitors under 18 years old

During this time of increased flu activity, Parma Community General Hospital is taking proactive steps to protect the health of its patients, their families and staff by implementing a flu safety visitation policy.

Under the temporary visitation restrictions:

Visitors who have any flu-like symptoms or have been diagnosed with the flu within the past seven days will not be permitted in the hospital. An individual with flu-like symptoms should only come into the hospital if he/she is personally in need of medical treatment.

Those visiting patients being treated for influenza will be asked to wear personal protective equipment and limit their movement within the facility.

Visitors under the age of 18 will not be permitted in the hospital (including

Visitors under the age of 18 will not be permitted in the hospital (including the Small Wonders Maternity Unit). Only children in need of medical treatment should come to the hospital

the Small Wonders Maternity Unit). Only children in need of medical treatment should come to the hospital

Patients are strongly encouraged to limit their visitors.

All visitors are requested to wash their hands before and after a patient

visit, using soap and water or the alcohol gel located near each patient room.

In cases with extenuating circumstances, such as if a patient is critically or terminally ill and wishes to see

family, visits will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

“The new rules are intended to help lower the risk of infection from the H1N1 virus,” says Eva Szathmary, MD, Parma Hospital’s director of the Division of Infectious Diseases. “Children

and adolescents are more susceptible to the H1N1 virus, therefore we want to make sure we keep healthy children from getting sick and protect patients from possibly being exposed to the virus by young, infected visitors.”

Patricia Ruffin, president and CEO understands that this change may inconvenience some families, but adds: “Patient safety and the safety of our visitors and staff is our first priority. Many patients have suppressed immune systems and pregnant women and newborns have been particularly susceptible, so it’s important that we be proactive now and take extra precautions to protect them.”

Parma Hospital reminds people to cover their coughs and sneezes and perform proper hand hygiene frequently.

New hips to put life back on par



Andre Wolanin, MD

When Tish Francesangelo learned that a congenital hip problem meant she needed new hips, the 54-year-old couldn’t believe it. But orthopedic surgeon Andre Wolanin, MD, had the perfect prescription for her.

“He told me he could help me get my life back,” said the avid golfer, tennis player and mother of three who is on the go again, thanks to the personalized care of a hospital nationally recognized for joint replacement surgery.

“We’re so lucky to have the skilled physicians and technology we do at Parma Hospital,” says Tish, who recovered in time to dance at her son’s wedding and start the golf season. “If we didn’t have those things, I wouldn’t have my life.”

Parma
Community
General Hospital

Because we care.

440.743.3000 | parmahospital.org

Parma Observed

Parmadale Institute Opens

by Sharon Alexander

Parmadale Family Services opened its new Parmadale Institute on August 14, 2009 with a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the now 100,000 square foot structure designed to meet the needs of some of the area's most at-risk youth. Full of natural light and calming yet cheerful colors, the Parmadale Institute, a residential and behavioral health treatment center, will soon offer residential care, a medical clinic, and intensive behavioral treatment for children and their families. "I can say without a doubt that Parmadale Family Services offers the best residential care available anywhere in this country," said J. Thomas Mullen, President and Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities Health and Human Services. The Institute is one of five interconnected residential centers on the Parmadale campus, located at 6753 State Road in Parma. It is operated by Catholic Charities of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, and

serves families from Cuyahoga County as well as a growing number of families from throughout Ohio.

Parmadale serves children between 12 and 18 years old. They usually have severe behavioral and developmental difficulties, and are unable to succeed in a less restrictive setting. They are often accepted at Parmadale because they are a danger to themselves or others, and Parmadale's three new intensive residential treatment centers offer a safe, attractive environment where children with multiple problems can rebuild their lives on their way to becoming contributing, thriving members of our society. "We never give up on a child," said Parmadale Executive Director Thomas W. Woll. "We will not turn away any young person no matter how challenging and we will never evict or refuse to treat a family because of the severity of a child's problems."

Catholic Charities and the Parmadale Capital Campaign Team managed to raise the 10 million dollars



Left to Right: Most. Rev. Richard Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland, Tom Woll, Executive Director of Catholic Charities Services/Parmadale, Jack Marschall, City of Parma, Most. Rev. Roger Gries, OSB, Auxiliary Bishop and Thomas Mullen, President and CEO of Catholic Charities Health and Human Services

needed to build the Institute in one of the worst economies in recent history. "Parmadale meets a very real need, and there has been an outpouring of support," said Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, Bishop, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and keynote speaker for the August 14 ceremony. The Institute offers a new swimming pool, and a secure courtyard approximately the size of a football field. It is connected to a multipurpose center perfect for basketball and indoor sports. High ceilings and skylights promote openness while specialized furniture promotes both comfort and safety. On site classrooms allow children to attend school while

living at Parmadale, and psychiatric, medical and dental services are provided within the building.

Catholic Charities opened Parmadale Children's Village of St. Vincent de Paul on September 27, 1925. It served as one of the early models for cottage residential services, and primarily served as an orphanage until the 1970's, when Parmadale began serving children and families with special needs. The first of its specialized residential centers for children with behavioral health needs opened in 1989. The Parmadale Institute, including the three new units dedicated this week, has the capacity to serve up to 80 youth.

Cuyahoga Valley Career Center Nursing School's First Class President Looks Back

by Marcy Grande

Martha Horvat, 94, of Parma got to do something in her life that many people never do, and that was to realize her dream. Martha had wanted to become a nurse ever since she can remember, but her mother's death from tuberculosis and her exposure to the disease prevented her from doing so when she was much younger.

Years later, medical knowledge advanced, and it was realized that Martha was merely exposed to tuberculosis, never had an active case, and as a nurse, would not pose a health risk to anyone.

By then, it was 1963. Martha was 49 years old, had two children and a husband roughly 10 years from retirement, but her dream to be a nurse never waned.

"There was a notice in the paper about a nursing school starting. Anyone interested was invited to attend a meeting," Martha recalls.

She met with the administrator and was promptly enrolled in the first class of 20 or so students of what became known as the Parma School of Practical Nursing, with classes held in the basement of a Parma elementary school. Over the years, the school, which had belonged to the Parma School District since its beginning, has changed locations; it used to be located inside the Parma Health Education Center, then inside Normandy High School, and in 2002, moved to 8001 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, as part of Cuyahoga Valley Career Center's Adult Education program.

It was still relatively unpopular for wives and mothers to pursue a career in the '60s when Martha enrolled, "but my husband was very supportive," she says proudly, adding that the program was full-time and took a year to com-

plete. Her daughter, Deborah Kirner, currently a middle school teacher in the Parma School District, also looked up to her mother as a positive role model.

Martha even served as the 1964 class president. "I didn't sign up for it, I think I was pressed into it," she laughs. Many of her classmates were younger, single women, but one of the students was a nun, Sister Edmund, who wanted to work at Holy Family Cancer Home. But first, she had to become a practical nurse to do so. Sister Edmund and Martha became very close, but over time the two lost touch and Martha was never able to find her.

She looks back over her very fulfilling career with absolute fondness. "I have always enjoyed caring for people," Martha says.

As a student, she practiced her nursing skills at Parma Hospital and remained a practical nurse there until retiring in 1977, having worked mostly in the postpartum area and occasionally in Labor & Delivery.

"Surprisingly, we wore scrubs then," says Martha, alluding to today's nurses having shed the traditional white uniform, stockings and cap in favor of more comfortable, colorful scrubs.

Martha would share stories of her work day with her family. She recalls the patient who was preparing to give birth, but suddenly changed her mind. "I'm just not going through with this," she kept saying. I told her it was a little too late," remembers Martha.

A host of changes has occurred in health care since Martha retired more than 30 years ago. Only husbands were allowed in the postpartum area back then," says Martha. "Today, the whole family can gather in birthing suites." She also noted how tight hospital secu-

Parma Is An Asset-Building Community!

by Mary Wise

Do you ever wonder why some kids seem to grow up independently while others struggle? Are you surprised that some kids thrive in spite of difficult circumstances?

Search Institute is a non-profit organization in Minneapolis, MN, which has been researching these same questions since 1958. Through studies involving hundreds of thousands of youth across the country, Search has found 40 factors that are essential to young people's success. Search calls these factors The 40 Developmental Assets. The assets are not financial. Instead, they are opportunities, skills, relationships, values and self-perceptions that all young people need in their lives (Search Institute, 1999).

Parma City School District and the surrounding communities continue to build positive opportunities for youth to promote a young person's success. It

takes a whole community, especially parents/guardians, to support this effort to decrease the at-risk behaviors of youth in our communities and schools.

The Parma Area Family Collaborative would like to take this opportunity to encourage schools, businesses, faith communities and most importantly, families, to learn about the 40 Developmental Assets. We want to build on a community that instills safety, support and commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies, empowerment, positive identity, and boundaries and expectations. Stay tuned for more information on how our community is building assets in our youth everyday.

For more information on the 40 Developmental Assets refer to: www.parmacityschools.org/assets or www.search-institute.org or contact Mary Wise at 440-887-4881

ity has become to make sure there are no baby mix-ups or infants at risk of getting abducted.

Today, Martha resides in an assisted living facility in Parma, where the staff has nothing but praise and admiration for her. Incidentally, the staff includes several graduates of Martha's alma mater, the School of Nursing at CVCC. This summer, she was invited to address its 2009 graduates during commencement exercises, where she impressed upon them the impact they will have on

people's lives – in Martha's case, from the very beginning.

As a postpartum nurse, one of her favorite duties was dressing the new babies for their trip home from the hospital. Hundreds of people are walking around today who were preciously dressed in their first outfits, touched by Martha's gentle hands and caring spirit, as they started their new lives. If you were born at Parma Community General Hospital between 1964 and 1977, you might be one of them.

Parma Observed

Parma Area Morning Kiwanis Club Proudly Welcomes New Members

by Kiwanian
Dr. Christina Dinklocker
Deputy Superintendent
Parma City Schools

The Parma Area Morning Kiwanis Club was formed four years ago and continues to grow in members who are dedicated to service to Parma and the surrounding communities. The Kiwanis Club has several missions such as working with youth, feeding the hungry, beautifying the environment and fundraising to support cancer research.

The new Kiwanis year opened on October 1st welcoming several new members. Incoming president, Patrick Gaul, provided leadership for the welcoming ceremony as he pinned the lapels of Audrey Petsche Sims, Dr. Brad Ritchey, Joseph Gouker, Will Whitworth, Ken Burdzinski and Raymond Kimble. Lending her expertise and advocacy for children to the club, Mrs. Sims brings her experience of 20 years as a teacher and principal. As a mother of two children, Audry states, “I am a big supporter and advocate for quality education for all children. As a principal in the local community school, I look forward to connecting Constel-

lation Schools to the community and bringing resources to the students and the teachers. It is nice to be a part of the Kiwanis Club in representing the community school.” Dr. Brad Ritchey shares Audry’s passion for youth and community service as the Principal of Normandy High School, a former

teacher and assistant principal and the father of two, soon to be three, young children. Joseph Gouker also shares the mission of education and youth as a new club member and Director of Operations for the Parma City Schools. Joe came to the Parma school system after several years as an employee of

the Strongsville City Schools. Will Whitworth works for the Cleveland Orchestra as a ticket taker and greeter at Severance Hall. He also serves as a “red coat” usher for the Cleveland Playhouse. Will brings a unique distinction to the Kiwanis Club as a 3rd generation Kiwanian active with the Parma evening club since 1987. His grandfather was a charter member of the University Circle Kiwanis Club when it was formed in 1927. Will is also a proud member of the Ridgewood United Methodist Church choir. New member Ken Burdzinski is also a local business owner. Ken’s business, True Test Screening, provides drug testing, policy writing, employee training and background checks for employers. Ken states, “I visited Kiwanis because I wanted to volunteer and give back to the community. I am also concerned about drug use among our youth and this club has many members that are educators. After the first meeting, I was very interested in joining the group; seeing the dedication of the members. I look forward to working with them.” New member Raymond Kimble shares Ken’s passion for community service and supporting youth. Also a business owner, Mr. Kimble’s business is in the martial arts. He instructs in life skills and martial arts helping individuals to improve their coordination and to develop discipline, concentration, confidence and self-esteem. Ray also specializes in teaching individuals to respect others and to most importantly, improve their listening skills.

The Parma Area Kiwanis Club welcomes these new members who will enrich our community. Interested in Kiwanis membership? Contact Club President Patrick Gaul at pgaul@ease-atwork.com



New member Ken shows (From Right to Left) 2009-10 Ohio District Division 24 Lieutenant Governor Brian Shaffer shaking the hand of New Member Ken Burdzinski, Joseph Gouker receiving a certificate of membership from 2009-10 President Pat Gaul, who was sponsored by Treasurer Donna Mazzeo, new member Raymond Kimble sponsored by Director Frank Spisak, and Director Dave Guciardo with his sponsored new member Brad Ritchey. Photo by Joe Germana

Picnic Place at the Henninger Homestead

by Toth, Irene

Matt Riess, a member of Boy Scout Troop 263 chartered by Parma South Presbyterian Church, planned, collected materials, recruited volunteers and supervised the construction of a short trail and picnic area at the Henninger House. This was Matt’s Eagle Scout project.

To begin the process, Matt consulted with the staff and board members of West Creek Preservation. Matt then prepared the plan for the project and solicited necessary materials. The City of Parma supplied wood chips for mulch and three large picnic tables. The Plain Dealer supplied newspapers, which Matt used as a weed barrier under the

wood chips. The CVS store on Snow Road supplied bottles of water.

Matt recruited the following volunteers: Ray Riess, Paul Gyorok, Paul Gyorok, David Polak, Alex Polak, Richard Polak, Helen Kenzig, and Chuck Kenzig.

Matt and his crew worked two Saturdays in August. They began by clearing the area, removing dead tree and shrub branches. Roots that protruded along the path were removed. Stones also were removed and used to mark the path. A short trail was marked off from the parking lot next to the Henninger House. At first the progress was slow. But with the arrival of a few volunteers who had not appeared earlier, the trail began to take shape.

Newspapers were laid on the trail Matt had mapped out and covered with wood chips. Neither work was easy. Those who laid the newspapers were on hands and knees to complete the task. Those who carried the wood

chips from the pile along the drive used buckets or wheelbarrows to place the material on the newspapers, and the chips were spread evenly to cover the area. The trail from the parking lot to the picnic area was completed the first Saturday and some work was begun on the picnic area also. The project was completed on the second Saturday.



Matt Riess in the front center with his crew of volunteers.



From Parma Heights

Parma Heights Historical Society Celebrates One Year Anniversary

by Jim Griffith

It was last summer that four people gathered together on the porch of a house on York Road. The goal was simple yet somewhat daunting. Establish the Parma Heights Historical Society.

At the regularly scheduled meeting last month, it occurred to the members there that they were celebrating the one year anniversary of the society and did not even realize it.

What started out as 4 people on a porch with an idea is now 13 people strong and has an operating budget, albeit a small one.

The first year was devoted primarily to organizational tasks. The City of Parma Heights did not have an active Historical Society for 8 years. Very few of the former members could be located and developing the organization was done by starting from scratch. However, the group did get a few things accomplished.

One of the first tasks of the society was the rejuvenation of the Toll House. The Toll House, located in the Parma Heights Commons, is the most visible

icon for the historical society. While the local Kiwanis Club did a good job of keeping the exterior of the house looking good, the house had not been opened to the public in 8 years. Animals had taken up residence on the inside, making beds out of antique clothing and furniture. Despite the terrible condition, the house was ready to be opened to the public for Weekend in the Commons.

Important to the organization was the establishment of a web presence. The website www.parmaheightshistoricalsociety.org was established to share with the world the works and accomplishments of the organization, as well as being used as an outreach to attract new members and historical items and artifacts. The establishment of an E-news letter is used to keep people in touch with the activities of the group.

Now that the organizational tasks are complete, the group is determined to spend year two preparing itself for the tasks that historical societies are expected to do. Education, research and preservation.



Members will spend a part of this year learning how to make lesson plans, the proper way to research topics and to organize the material into presentation form. They will also learn how to archive material for use by researchers and the curious. Once these tasks are mastered,

the fun begins. Members join because of both the love of history and the discovery of unknown history. There is a lot of history to explain and a lot of history to uncover. That starts in year two.

Also important is the collection of history. Year two will start with a comprehensive program to locate or have people with history find us. The Society is looking for donations of historical and period items. The city of Parma Heights has a large number of senior citizen households and some of those households hold a lot of period items in their basements. There is a need to find a way to reach out to those people interested in donating to historical research and understanding.

Meetings are the third Wednesday of each month except December. Anybody is free to come. However, since we are still building the organization, they are not very informative and are more organizational at this time.

If you are interested in any aspect of the Parma Heights Historical Society, please send an email to jgriffith@parmaheightshistoricalsociety.org or call 440-886-4934

The Best Kept Secret In Parma

by Natalie Smollen

When times are tough, stress is high and cash is low. If you are looking for a great place to unwind without draining your funds try the Post and Beam. Located at 11790 Snow Rd. in Parma. I'm always looking for a place with great food and if you are too, then the Beam is for you. The daily menu offers a variety of choices, from patty melts, to fish dinners, to breakfast sandwiches.

The Hippo is not for lightweights. No need for a wing night because the

wings are so inexpensive, every night is wing night. They offer a myriad of sauces. They'll even mix them together for you. Try the hot sauce with honey mustard. Ask for them crispy: it takes a little longer, but it's worth the wait. If you try the Beamer burger, come with an appetite. Check the daily specials board, if you're lucky enough to go when they have stuffed cabbage try them, and you won't be sorry. Look to the back of the menu for Antonio's pizza. The best pizza in Parma, if not anywhere; they offer

that too. The staff are very welcoming, whether your bartender is Texas Donna, Liz, Jessica or any of the other of the nice ladies there. The owners Sue & Larry Moran must love their holidays.

The atmosphere varies from tiki bar all summer, to super spooky for Halloween, to warm & jolly for Christmas. If you're into country music or golden oldies you'll definitely want to play the jukebox. If you're a smoker no worries there's a patio out front & you won't miss the big game two flat-screen televisions face out the windows as well as five inside. When the bill comes you'll be pleasantly surprised at how reasonable the food and drink prices are. So stop in for a bite and a brew and leave with a smile. Tell 'em the Observer sent you!



For What It's "Worth."

by Craig Czepczynski

In today's economy, where the value of our dollar does not stretch as far, people will often ask why do they need to insure their homes for more money than the market price? A not so easy concept to understand but even more difficult when writing the check! The initial tendency is to assume that if a house is worth less now, compared to five years ago, then the insurance should as well. However the cost of rebuilding a house has not decreased, in fact it has risen like all other costs due to the recession. The question one must consider is this, "Do I want the insurance company to rebuild my entire house or am I willing to also write a check to complete the construction?" There is no right or wrong answer, it is simply one's tolerance for risk.

Several components make up an insurance price. These include but are not limited to the following: Age of

construction, zip-code of the dwelling, type of construction (is it brick or is it frame?). Are your utilities updated? Most companies will not insure a house that lacks a 100 amp breaker box. Is the roof newer? Plumbing and the furnace age are also considered. The biggest change in pricing is the consumer's insurance score. That can be comprised of your credit rating, whether you have a pattern of filing claims with a regular frequency or only for large dollar losses? The mode of payment can alter the price also.....are you the type that pays in full for the year? or do you chip away on a monthly basis.

It is more important now than ever to have your homeowner's policy reviewed by a professional. There is typically no charge for this service and the benefit can prove to be worthwhile. Your insurance agent can advise on the best options available.

craig@fourstarinsurance.com

Seven Hill News

Seven Hills: Tree City, USA

by Gregory Mason

Buckeye, maple, oak, pine, apple, sweet gum, ginko, and hundreds of tree varieties grace the modest community of Seven Hills, Ohio, my home for 33 years. Autumn winds herald radiant foliage colors, with golden sunny or soft foggy mornings yielding to crisp, moonlit evenings. Winding, rolling city streets lead to Broadview or Brecksville road, yet forests and gardens grow around every corner. Living in Seven Hills since birth, yet traveling extensively has positively influenced my global perspective. Thank you, St. Columbkille teachers, schools, and parishioners. Thirteen years in the Parma City School System contributed to lifelong friendships with fellow students living in Seven Hills, Independence, Brecksville, Parma, and Parma Heights. We are simply one generation of citizens, academics, public servants, spiritual leaders, and armed service volunteers in this story.

Seven Hills was incorporated in 1926, serving her citizens for the first full year fiscally in 1927. Cleveland was growing geometrically, producing national resources for both World Wars, regional development, and the Agricultural, Industrial Revolution. By 1932 Cleveland was called ‘Golden City’, boasting 82 banks, Terminal Tower, and shimmering in the sunlight. Diverse cultures and communities expanded, filling the radius of the metropolitan area. Business was good, prosperity was attainable for nearly everyone. Historical evidence, and research indicates fascinating intrinsic connections between Seven Hills, Rome, and her sister in Ohio.

Rome, Italy (Roma) is the capital of Italy, and Roman Catholicism, but the original capital of Rome was the Palatine Hill, near the Tiber River. September 2008: my journey through the Tuscan region, Florence, and Rome, Italy (Toscana; Firenze; Roma, Italia). Walking the seven hills of Rome for one week with my host and guide was a unique experience. One hour after arriving by train in Piazza Della Repubblica, my bohemian friend in Sardinia was assuring me that his wife’s friend would gladly provide standard Roman hos-

pitality. What I did not understand at that moment was that Roman hospitality exceeds American definitions. Visiting dozens of churches, temples, archaeological sites, Vatican City, and St. Peter’s fueled my imagination, and

my academic quest. The apartment was humble, yet warm, gracious. For nearly fifty years, his entire life, my new friend had lived and walked the life of a Roman citizen. In one week he shared his knowledge, experience, library, home,

and friends, honoring me as I could never have imagined. What I learned changed my awareness. Italy, especially Rome held new meaning when I returned to Seven Hills, Ohio.



Calvin Park, baseball field shows some of the wonderful colors available because of the diversity of trees in Seven Hills

Community, Parks, & Programs

by Gregory Mason

Famous for having a large number of parks, and more trees than people, Seven Hills devotes considerable resources to ecological programs. The local water and living ecosystem is our greatest resource. Community programs include family events, human services, sustainability, preservation, recycling, and hazardous waste removal. Rain barrels, assistance with household efficiency (i.e. heating, cooling, appliances, lights), and senior services are available. The city Engineer is also the city Arborist, managing both tree health and physical engineering services. Don’t miss the fall colors, and beautiful wildlife at these Seven Hills Parks:

1. Calvin Park -- Located at Broadview/Mapleview Roads

- * Three Baseball Fields, Lighted Tennis Courts, Volleyball, Basketball
- * Walking Path, Playground, Picnic Area, Community Center, Ice-Skating
- 2. Cricket Lane Park -- Located off Hillside or Jasmine roads
 - * Playground, Picnic Area
- 3. John Glenn Park -- Located off E. Dartmoor, directly behind school
 - * Tennis, Baseball, Basketball, Playground,
- 4. North Park -- Located at Rockside/Rockhaven Roads
 - * Baseball, Basketball, Tennis, Sand Volleyball, Pavilion, Playground Area
- 5. Summitview Commons -- Located at Broadview/Summitview Roads
 - * Three Soccer Fields, Pavilion,

- Picnic Area, Adjacent To Baseball Fields, Summer Concerts
6. Valleywood Park; Located at Broadview/Orchardview Roads
 - * Baseball Field, Sand Volleyball, Lighted Tennis, Picnic Area, Pavilion, Playground
- Community Relations representative Lisa M. Draganic is listed online, and available directly: 216.525.6227 email: ldraganic@sevenhillsohio.org -- residents, businesses, media. Click on ‘site map’ link, located on the bottom center of the Seven Hills web site for a complete listing.
- [www.sevenhillsohio.org](http://extension.osu.edu/index.php/www.maps.google.com)
<http://extension.osu.edu/index.php/www.maps.google.com>

Observer Style Civic Journalism Comes To Parma Area

continued from page 1

the Heights Observer in the Cleveland Heights/University Heights area, the Collinwood Observer in Cleveland, and the Westlake/Bay Village Observer, in Westlake/Bay.

As Publisher of the Parma Observer, my task is to make the positive change that the Observer Project has enjoyed in other communities a reality in the tri-city area of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills. Let me be clear; in order for this to happen, it will require greater and greater personal involvement of the citizens in this area. If the people get involved, the Parma

Observer can be the runaway success that the existing Observer publications have become in their communities. I am sure that the community in which we live has the same outstanding citizens, with the same talent and concerns, as the other cities mentioned. The result, in time, will be that we have developed an information infrastructure which keeps residents informed, entertained, and connected at a much higher level than they were before we began. My sincere wish is that people in this community always remember 2009 as the year that the Parma Observer came to town.

Ivan Gelfand: America’s Money Man™



America’s Money Man™ and author of “Your Money, Your Future”, Ivan Gelfand publishes an eNewsletter around the 15th of each month.

The yearly subscription for Ivan’s eNewsletter is \$29.95.

Observer readers have an opportunity to receive the eNewsletter for F-R-E-E.

That’s a \$29.95 eNewsletter for FREE!
Go to: IvanGelfand.com/signup.

Learn from America’s Money Man™

News From Ukrainian Village

A Piece Of Ukraine In Parma

by Daniel McCarthy

Official dedication of Ukrainian Village was held in Parma on Saturday September 19, 2009.

It is easy to notice right away that religious faith is a major component in the fabric of the Ukrainian community. Therefore then, it is not hard to imagine how it might be that the Ukrainian community feels that God was watching over them as they picked just about the most picture perfect September morning to dedicate the Ukrainian Village in Parma. The ceremonies started with a moving religious service held at St. Vladimir Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral on State Rd. south of Snow Rd. at 9:30a.m. Then began a parade which proceeded at an exquisitely slow pace travelling north on State Rd. The start of the parade had a solemn feel; fronted by 3 members of the Ukrainian American Veterans Association Post 24, one veteran wearing field camouflage, one dressed in uniform bearing the U.S. flag, the third dressed in uniform bearing the Ukrainian flag. Following closely were three altar boys carrying heavy looking Ukrainian Orthodox crosses. After them were several clergy members dressed in black garments carrying many colorful religious banners as well as the U.S. flag, the Ohio flag, and the Ukrainian flag. Next were the members of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, led by Maria Kvit-Flynn, vice president and main organizer of this event. Then came a multitude of groups celebrating this very special day in Parma, including a colorfully dressed group of young men and women wearing native dress of red boots, frocks fringed with dazzling floral patterns amid endless ribbons and sashes. Occasionally they would stop, and accompanied by rhythmic hand clapping they would break into an impressive dance, which featured graceful spinning turns by the ladies, and knee bending thrusts by the men holding imitation spears (I hope!), whirling about with watch-like precision, much to the sheer delight of the crowd; just about exactly what one would expect to see at an event showcasing Ukrainian Culture. There were many more representatives of the Ukrainian community featured in the parade, including the Ukrainian Women's League, St. Andrew Catholic Church, and still even more than I can list here. The Parma High School Marching Band and Majorettes provided a spirited pulse to the entire event.

The parade ended at St. Josephat's Cathedral, and this is where the official dedication ceremonies began. Jack Marschall, Director of Community Affairs for the City of Parma was the Master of Ceremonies, and what a fine job he did throughout. He graciously asked the audience to "forgive me in advance" when he issued a greeting in the Ukrainian language, but it sounded fairly convincing to me. The Dnipro Chorus sang stunning versions of both

the Star Spangled Banner as well as the Ukrainian National Anthem. I found that the name of their group is from the name of the largest river in Ukraine, an important source of inspiration for the people. Then a group of young men and women dressed in ultra colorful native costumes danced "the welcome dance", which was visually amazing and highly entertaining, to say the least. They whirled around, with much spinning, weaving, jumping, clapping, and stomping, culminating with the group parting and a young lady advancing gracefully with a beautiful smile holding a delicious looking cake. I don't know about everyone else, but I most certainly felt welcome and I was hoping to have a nice big slice of that cake!

Prominent speakers were then introduced by Jack Marschall. First was Mayor Depiero, who spoke passionately in congratulating everyone who's hard work had helped to make this event happen, and he said that he was sure that the creation of the Ukrainian Village would serve as a spark in a renewed sense of community in Parma, Ohio. Next was the President of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, who spoke, sometimes in Ukrainian, and graciously thanked everyone who had made this great day a reality. Then Congressman Kucinich

spoke, and to great applause, reminded everyone that by establishing the Ukrainian Village, this meant that now and forever there would be a little piece of Ukraine in Parma, Ohio. Following him was State Senator Dale Miller, who told the crowd that he was so proud to be the one chosen to present the official recognition of the Ukrainian Village by the State of Ohio. Finally, George Brown, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Voinovich took the stage and presented a Proclamation by the U.S. Senate recognizing the Ukrainian Village in Parma, Ohio.

Much more dancing and singing followed, and afterwards there was an all day festival held in the impressive domed community center of St. Josephat's Cathedral, featuring food, drink, memorabilia, crafts, cultural displays, and much more. The festival was crowded early on, and looking at all of the many faces, even though I couldn't always understand everything that was being said, it was plain to see just how proud everyone was at what had been accomplished here. Congratulations Ukrainian Village, on all of your hard work and in becoming another great jewel in the Parma Necklace!



A large crowd attended the dedication ceremony.



St. Josephat.



Congressman Dennis Kucinich, congratulates Parma City Council President Chuck Germana, while State Rep Dale Millier looks on.



Parma City Council President Chuck Germana speaks about how deserving the hardworking Ukrainian residents of Parma are for this village designation.



Ukrainian Bishop John Bura, head of the Ukrainian Church (headquarters) in Parma addresses the attendees.

Pulse Of The City

Your Parma City School District

An Investment Far Too Valuable To Squander Away

by Gary Rice

You’ve heard it all before, I’m sure. There are few topics in the tri-city area that can inflame more passions than discussions concerning the Parma City School District and your money.

As a retired Parma teacher and Lakewood resident, I’ve heard all just about all sides of the issues concerning your schools over the years, particularly where school levies are concerned. In the past, I’ve played the banjo for rallies, marched the streets for your votes, and stood outside icy polling places on cold November evenings hoping for those votes.

Yes, staff salaries and benefits are indeed a significant part of the monetary outlay of any school district, no doubt about it. The dilemma there has always been that, at least in Northeast Ohio, districts are quite competitive, and... let’s face it, the higher paying districts attract top-shelf teachers like bears to a beehive. Money might not be the only factor in a district’s success, but it certainly does not hurt either. Resources, financial or otherwise, can open many doors for student successes.

As far as wages and benefits are concerned, your school district seems to hang out pretty much in the middle of our region’s pack. In my opinion however, historically, your district’s done very well indeed with the resources that you have provided.

Are your schools spending too much as a district? As a matter of fact, since 2007, I’ve been told that the Parma schools have cut 8.5 million dollars from their operations as financial realities of life in this new century have increasingly come into play. Also



Parma High School under stormy skies...

soon to be realized, will be the reduction in your property tax valuations, and that of course, will also mean less money for the schools.

Bear in mind as well, that a significant part of public funding also goes to support certain non-religious fiscal and operational aspects of parochial education, so... if your children go to those types of schools, please be aware that they are included in this discussion, as well.

There’s no doubt in my own mind that public schools do enhance the value of your properties. In Lakewood where I live, for example, they recently replaced several schools with brand-new buildings, along with building an equally new library. These community investments and improvements have gone a long way in helping to stabilize Lakewood property values; particularly in this economy. The pay-off can be seen with Lakewood school district’s recent “excellent” rating by the state. If you want to safeguard your

own property values, and the future of your children, now’s the time to step up to the register with your wallet and pay for it.

There’s a very real possibility too, of a state takeover of your public schools- by July of 2010, if a levy is not passed. This is not a scare tactic by the schools. This could mean that a variety of extremely unsavory options will be on the table, including school building closings, staff reductions, and the privatization of transportation services. The big deal there would be that the decision-making would pass from your local representatives into the hands of state officials. Of course, since the State of Ohio is having funding problems of its own, I think you might surmise that a state takeover would probably not mean that you would suddenly be rolling in the dough. Quite the contrary, I do believe. Money from downstate would likely flow in as a loan to be paid back to them.

The 5.5 mill levy proposed by the school district would add about \$168

annually (or just \$14 per month) to the average homeowners’ property tax bill. Considering that you’ll probably be getting a property tax reevaluation anyway, it’s a small price to invest in your children and your community.

Let’s face it, if you want to sell your own property someday, one of the number one things that prospective buyers look for are the schools. Schools sell a community in a great many ways. In high school sports alone, the names of Normandy, Parma High, and Valley Forge are legendary in Ohio. With a state takeover, at least one of those could be gone in a heartbeat.

The quality of your school district is legendary as well. Your district recently achieved an “effective” rating, which is only a step below Lakewood’s “excellent”. You continue to have a district that you can be proud of.

For this to continue however, there’s a bill waiting to be paid.

I think that a word needs to be expressed here about integrity. With all of the publicity and investigations currently going on in our county, it would be easy for all of us to become cynical and apathetic. It is my own sincere opinion that a number of innocent people and institutions have been victimized. The one thing that we cannot permit, is for our children to be victimized, as well.. They are truly the innocent ones. They represent our future, and deserve the best that we can provide for them.

These are tough times, but your three cities can indeed rise to the occasion. Your school district is a reflection of your vision for the future, and represents an investment far too valuable to squander away.

Welcome To Our Growing Observer Family!

by Gary Rice

Just over 100 issues ago, Jim O’Bryan started publishing the Lakewood Observer paper. It was a time of change and turmoil in that aging inner-ring suburb. People seemed to be at each other’s throats over one issue or another, and far too many people were starting to simply walk away from problems that, some may have felt, were simply too large to handle.

Then, along came Jimmy’s paper... and before you knew it, an amazing thing happened.

People actually started to talk with each other again.

Both in print, and in the paper’s online “Observation Deck” component, ideas began to exchange, plans began to develop, and people started to meet each other. Before you knew it, Lakewood started being Lakewood again. These days, Lakewood is experiencing a revival of personal interchange and community spirit that is causing other communities to sit up and take notice.

I would think that the Observer project has had a great deal to do with this renaissance.

Hi. I’m Gary Rice. Some of you might know me as a former Special Education teacher with the Parma City School District. I taught at Parma High, Pleasant Valley, and, for many years, at Hillside Middle School, before finally retiring in 2005. As a Lakewood resident, and former Parma teacher, I’ve had deep roots in these communities for many years. These communities share many of the same issues that older communities do, while at the same time, they also share unique aspects and assets that continue to attract and inspire great people to do great things.

After my retirement from the Parma Schools, I needed something to do to keep me busy, so I started writing for the Lakewood Observer. I started a column called “The Pulse of the City”. That was a great opportunity for me to cover historical aspects of Lakewood, along with current issues, as well as covering people of interest. Of course, I also became involved with the Lakewood Schools as a volunteer, because teachers, after all, love to teach!

One thing that I do know for cer-

tain; the communities of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills have a wealth of great people and places to talk about, and no one can write that story better than you can! The Observer project allows you to do just that. All you need to do in order to submit your article of interest is to go online, register, and hit that submit button! The rest will amaze you.

The topics that I’ve covered can be seen in my past columns online for the Lakewood Observer here:

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/read/opinion/columns/pulse-of-the-city>

Perhaps these columns might give you some ideas for your own topics. When covering people, for example, I’ve called that particular topic “those among us”. You might decide to cover some of the great institutions and churches around the tri-city area. Don’t forget to cover the activities of your great school district too! Although a large district, it always amazed me as to the great quality of service that it offered to both students and residents.

You might also decide to share some personal adventures about your life in

your stories. I did, and you might be surprised at how many people appreciate those tales.

Whether or not you actually decide to write for the paper, you may want to get online and interact with your neighbors in the public forum called the “Observation Deck”. Jimmy liked to call that “Neighbors talking over the digital fence”. Sometimes, those exchanges can get a bit passionate, but on the whole, let’s face it, talking sure beats the alternative!

The more people talk, after all, the more ideas can come out- particularly, when the overall goal is community improvement.

In the past, all too often, access to a truly public forum in this world has been restricted by many factors.

Those days are gone now. You can now truly make a difference in shaping the pulse of these cities.

Welcome to our Observer family! What say you? It’s your turn now.

(Don’t worry though, I won’t be grading your papers...but I suppose that I can still give you my “famous advice” about being sure to proof read your work before submitting it!)

Education Observed

Record Enrollment at TRI-C College Sees Highest Enrollment Since 1976

by *Randi Hansen*
Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C) is reporting record enrollment for the Fall 2009 Semester. Enrollment reached 30,325 students, which is a 9 percent increase over 1976, the previous record-holding year with 28,012 students. This year's enrollment is a 16% increase over the 2008 Academic Year.

"The economy, lack of jobs and people looking for additional opportunities and retraining has certainly driven enrollment at Tri-C to record numbers," says Pete Ross, Vice President of Enrollment Management at the College. "Community colleges across the state are seeing spikes in enrollment because the economy tells you it's a smart move

for your money." The College's record enrollment should come as no surprise. "Nationally, community colleges are now in the spotlight- we are seen as a solution to the economic challenges the country is facing," explains Dr. Jacquelyn Joseph-Silverstein, Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

Tri-C Ceremony Launches Certificate Program in Peace Studies

by *Randi Hansen*
Cuyahoga Community College will launch a new certificate program in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies with the dedication, at the Western Campus, of a Peace Pole in the campus South Courtyard.

The dedication ceremony takes place Oct. 27 at noon in the courtyard, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will relocate to the Business, Math & Technology Building (C) Atrium.

Local and state elected officials as well as college administrators have been invited to participate, and the winners of an essay and poetry contest related to the Peace Pole's installation will be announced.

The Dedication ceremony marks the launch of a college initiative to offer a Certificate Program in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies. The Pole contains wording in 10 languages that represent the diversity of our student body. The Certificate Program will focus on understanding the diversity of our cultures and opening the lines of communication to provide our students and community members with the tools and skills they need to mediate and resolve conflicts.

Cox Business Brings Advanced Technology to Businesses in Seven Hills Telephone, Internet and Video Solutions Installed at Local Business Park

by *Stacie Schafer*
We are all hearing news of a struggling economy, but many businesses continue to strive and thrive. Business services continue to be in demand to support local businesses and some companies are still investing in the local business community.

Cox Business recently outfitted a business park in Seven Hills with advanced technology enabling area businesses to have a choice in their telecommunications provider.

"Seven Hills is excited that Cox Business is investing in our community and offering local businesses a choice in advanced telecommunications services," said Mayor David Bentkowski. "Cox Business' telephone, Internet and

cable services will provide our area businesses with a choice to support their growing companies."

Cox Business built a fiber network to provide advanced communications services at the Lombardo Center in Seven Hills to deliver telephone, high speed Internet and cable services. The Lombardo Center build comes just a few months after Cox Business completed a similar project at the Lancaster Business Park in Brooklyn Heights.

"Obviously these are challenging economic times, but Cox Business is proud to invest in area businesses to give them a choice as they build and grow their organizations," said Dan Carney, vice president of Cox Business. "Our latest installation gives

more businesses in our communities the opportunity to enjoy services from an experienced provider of telephone, Internet and video solutions with the support of a local company."

Carney adds that the advanced technology Cox Business now delivers to the two business parks brings big technology needs to all size businesses.

"A large number of Cleveland businesses already currently subscribe to Cox Business for their video, Internet and phone needs," said Carney. "Our team is eager to demonstrate to more area businesses how Cox Business can provide custom communications solutions that address specific operational requirements."



Receive a
\$100 Gift Card
when you add
VoiceManager!*
Call: 216.535.0580
Click: www.checkoutcb.com

The new voice service you can manage with nine fingers tied behind your back.



INTRODUCING,
PHONE TECHNOLOGY BUILT TO
MAKE YOUR JOB MANAGING IT EASIER

You're already expected to do superhuman tasks. Now you can have a voice communications system that makes it easy and does the work for you. There's no equipment to maintain and you can manage all the advanced features with just a few clicks.





PRESENTS
The Art of Design for 09
2nd Annual
Silent Auction, Dinner
& Fashion Show
November 13, 7pm at
Embassy Suites
5800 Rockside Woods Blvd.
Independence, OH 44131

For further details contact Executive
Director Marlene Kobzowicz at
216-221-8584
virginiamartifoundation@yahoo.com

Featuring:
Fashion Show commentary
provided by fashion writer
Evelyn Theiss from the Plain
Dealer. Guest Speakers
include **Jeffrey Paul**,
President and founder of the
non-profit 'Wigs for Kids',
VMCAD Alumnus **Hector Vega**
and a fashion show brought
to you by students and alumni
of Virginia Marti College of
Art and Design.

Sponsored by:


The Virginia Marti College Foundation is
a not-for-profit, 501(c) (3) charitable
organization supported by private
donors, local businesses and foundations.

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 13



*****NOW YOU CAN*****
Rent A Husband
HANDY SERVICE

- Painting
- Gutter Cleaning (most homes \$70-\$75)
- Drywall, Plastering & Repair
- Minor Electrical/Plumbing
- Carpentry/Lattice Work
- Chimney Caps/ Roof Repair
- Home Pressure Washing
- Tree Service/Pigeon Problems

- Driveway Sealing
- Deck Cleaning
- Broken Windows/Sash Cords
- Vinyl Replacement Windows
- Porch Repair / Steps / Hand Rails
- Bathroom / Kitchen Remodeling
- Tub Surrounds
- Vinyl Siding

And all those jobs and repairs that you never had
the time or talent to do yourself!

(Building code violation correctons)

Call: **Rich Toth at 440-777-8353**

From The Senator's Desk

About Gambling!

Dear Editor,

I have fought for decades to keep casino gambling out of Ohio, and Ohioans have seen through the casino gambling sham time-and-time again – voting it down four times. We are once again being forced to defend against an attack on Ohio's families. This attack is being brought on by a familiar foe: the selfish out-of-state backers of Las Vegas-style casinos in Toledo, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Columbus.

I am especially concerned this time around because I know Ohioans are struggling and are desperate for a quick fix, which the promoters of Issue 3 are exploiting with their commercials. But, more gambling is not the kind of help Ohio needs to revitalize its economy. It takes money away from local businesses, restaurants, churches and families, and gives it to the wealthy owners of the casinos who need it the least. Ballot Issue 3 intentionally preys on human weakness to line the pockets of the promoters. Meanwhile crime, bankruptcies and devastated families take a toll on everyone, even those who avoid the slot machines.

I know that many Ohioans look to your newspaper for trusted guidance when making decisions on Election Day that will impact their lives. Even if you think casinos are a good idea for Ohio, as Brent Larkin – former Editorial Page Editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer – does, this is simply a bad amendment. I humbly ask that you take the following important facts about Ballot Issue 3 into account when making a recommendation to your readers:

FACT: Issue 3 will alter Ohio's Constitution and create a monopoly for two entities – Cleveland Cavaliers' Owner Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming – for four casinos in the state that would have both table games and slot machines. Why should Ohio's constitution be amended to grant monopolies? When other states like Pennsylvania made the choice to bring casinos into their borders, they used a competitive bidding process, the results of which are always better for taxpayers.

Randall Fine, who is managing director of Las Vegas-based Fine Point Group – a gaming consultant for MGM MIRAGE, Station Casinos, and Harrahs' Entertainment – addressed Ballot Issue 3 saying, "...the structure they have proposed is not in the best interest of Ohioans."

FACT: The one-time licensing fee to be paid to Ohio by Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming for the right to operate casinos by this proposal is significantly less than the licenses are worth on the open market. Jeffrey Hooke, a Maryland-based casino expert and investment banker, said a fair price for each casino license would be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. Issue 3 calls for a measly fee of \$50 million per casino, while other states are making out like bandits.

A casino planned for Illinois will

bring a fee of more than \$400 million; **State officials** in Massachusetts may ask \$500 million each for two casinos being discussed there; and

In 2007, two Indiana racetracks coughed up licensing fees of \$250 million each for just slot machines.

Taking just the fees the Indiana racetracks put up for slots – \$250 million – Ohio would miss out on at least \$800 million in additional revenue if Issue 3 passes.

FACT: There is nothing in the Petition Language of Ballot Issue 3 that requires Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming to actually build the casinos after obtaining the deeply-discounted \$50 million licenses from Ohio's government.

FACT: There is also nothing in the Petition Language of Ballot Issue 3 that prohibits Dan Gilbert and Penn National Gaming from simply selling their licenses on the open-market for big-profit. As mentioned before, Issue 3 calls for a measly fee of \$50 million per casino, while the fair price for a casino license would typically be in the \$300 million to \$500 million range. This is Penn National's business, and they know a windfall money-making opportunity when they see it. Would the state benefit in any way from this resale? The issue of sale is not addressed in the Constitutional Amendment.

FACT: The casinos proposed by Issue 3, if built, would pay only a 33 percent tax on gross revenue, with the other 67 percent of Ohioans' hard-earned money going to casino owners! That is far below the average paid by casinos in our neighboring states of West Virginia and Pennsylvania, each of which have gross revenue tax rates of more than 55 percent.

According to Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee, taxes levied on the four Ohio casinos would bring in \$651 million in revenue. To do this, the four casinos would have to bring in gross revenue totaling \$1.97 billion. If you apply the Pennsylvania or West Virginia tax rate to this gross revenue, it is estimated that Ohio would stand to bring in \$1.09 billion. Ohioans would be getting denied \$434 million in tax revenue under Issue 3 annually due to the 33 percent tax rate!

FACT: When the out-of-state casino developers wrote Issue 3, they gave themselves a bonus. A loophole in Issue 3 means casino developers may not pay taxes on cash betting. Under Issue 3, cash bets will cheat Ohioans out of their rightful tax revenues. Now the casino developers say cash isn't used to gamble – but they are not telling Ohioans the truth. The definitions in Ballot Issue 3 would make cash wagers in slot machines and other games exempt from taxation.

FACT: Passage of Issue 3 will mean inevitable job losses from competing hospitality businesses. According to the Public Policy Research Group at Hiram College, hundreds of restaurants, taverns and other hospitality businesses

will go out of business, nullifying any economic benefits the casinos could provide.

The crowd out effect: Casinos are specifically designed not to partner with other businesses in the immediate vicinity – they provide food, lodging and entertainment under one roof. When casinos move in, other businesses are often forced out.

FACT: "Tourism" is a losing bet: 80 to 90 percent of a casino's patrons come from surrounding counties. Proponents will tell you that Ohio casinos will be destination points for out-of-state gamblers and attract tourism. What they will not tell you about is a conclusion reached by a survey conducted regarding the city of Detroit: 80 to 90 percent of a casino's patrons come from surrounding counties. (Source: The Detroit News; "Detroit casinos lose tourism bet," July 6, 2003).

FACT: While only a few areas in the state will actually see some pittance of funding once the owners take the majority of the profits tax free, the rest of the state will have to pay for all of the social costs, including: the effects of local businesses losing revenue to slot machines; welfare rolls growing larger once gambling parents lose their jobs or, even worse, leave their spouses and children to fend for themselves.

FACT: The United States International Gambling Report Series, a 3,000-page compilation of decades of academic research on gambling concludes that casinos are most destructive to those citizens least able to cope with financial loss.

- National statistics underscore that every tax dollar that comes from casino gambling results in \$3 of social welfare costs.
- New crime in a community increases 8 to 10 percent on average each year after a gambling facility opens; and
- The costs of gambling addiction

are greater than drug addiction.

A broad array of additional studies detail the social costs of gambling:

- Bankruptcies increase significantly among casino gamblers;
- Gambling addiction rates double within 50 miles of a casino;
- A casino within ten miles of a home yields a 90 percent increased risk of becoming a pathological or problem gambler;
- The frequency of gambling in the 10 percent most disadvantaged neighborhoods (72 times/year) is more than twice the frequency of the least disadvantaged neighborhoods (29 times/year);
- Violent crime rates "spike" in casino counties, as do embezzlement and fraud rates. In just three years after the casinos arrived, Atlantic City rocketed from 50th to 1st place in the nation in per-capita crime.
- Among groups of people who admit to being addicted to something, suicide rates are highest among addicted gamblers.
- In a 1999 interview, Reverend Jesse Jackson called legalized gambling "the new chains of slavery."

I hope this information makes it clear that Ballot Issue 3 is simply a bad amendment, and its promoters are manipulating the people of Ohio through their deceptive multi-million dollar campaign. I urge all Ohioans to vote NO on this deceitful ploy which has no place in the Ohio Constitution.

I truly believe the temporary construction jobs and low-wage service positions casinos could bring to Ohio aren't worth the increased crime, gambling addiction and corruption that typically accompany big-time casinos. And, every dollar spent on gambling under the botched Ballot Issue 3 proposal is a dollar taken out of our state's already struggling economy.

Sincerely,
George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

Bob's Appliance Service

Repairs On Most Major Brand Appliances



- Stoves
- Refrigerators
- Serving Lakewood and the Westside Suburbs Since 1980
- Quality Rebuilt Washers and Dryers
- Delivery Available

- Dishwashers
- Washers/Dryers

Speed Queen
Commercial Grade Washers and Dryers – American Made! Independent Dealer

216/521-9353
Leave Message on Machine

2003/05/06/07/08 Angie's List Super Service Award!



Every Sunday!

pajamas BRUNCH

Roll out of bed and into 56 West!

all for \$7.56
kids \$4.56

- Scrambled Eggs
- Eggs Benedict
- Eggs Florentine
- Omelettes made to order with unique ingredients
- Bacon & Sausage • Hash Browns
- Gourmet Topped Pancakes
- Fresh Fruit

Now Serving Brunch On Sundays 9 AM - 2 PM • LUNCH & DINNER 7 DAYS A WEEK

16300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood
216.226.0056 • www.fiftysixwest.com



fiftysixwest
BURGERS/SALADS

In today’s economy everyone needs to keep on learning.



Two women wearing safety goggles are in a laboratory or classroom setting. One woman is pointing at a computer monitor that displays a line graph. The other woman is looking at the screen.

“The President is right.”

I’m a Mom and a Veteran. I have a bachelor’s degree, but I came back to college at Tri-C to build my new career in health care. Serving my country took me a long way. Tri-C is taking me the rest of the way.

Veronica Magda



Where futures beginSM

For more information call 800-954-8742
or visit www.tri-c.edu