

PARMA Observer

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Federal And State Grants

More Good News For Parma

by Jack Marshall

Several awards from federal grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are making available sizable funding to the City of Parma. The stimulus bill is providing Parma with nearly \$7 million in grants for sanitary sewer projects to be administered by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. More than half the amount will be in the form of grant funds through the ARRA, and the remainder will be through low interest loans for project costs in order to reduce assessments to residents. "Cities everywhere are competing for federal grant money being provided by the federal stimulus package," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "We are pleased with the dollars coming to our community. The funding will make a huge difference in strengthening our infrastructure, our safety forces and energy efficiency programs in the future. We have been aggressive at going after these vital dollars." In addition, the City of Parma has been designated for \$715,300 from U.S. Dept of Energy for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, \$100,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for purchasing

technology and other supplies for the police department and \$77,000 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety to hire two dispatchers for 13 months each (75% of total cost). Separate monies have been set aside for an additional \$264,000 toward Community Development Block Grants and \$117,000 for the Parma Public Housing Agency (PPHA). The ARRA is primarily crafted to create jobs and offer tax incentives to stimulate the nation's economy. In all, nearly \$8 billion dollars is being distributed to municipal programs around the country. The City of Parma has also received additional funding through federal and state grants that were outside of the Stimulus Bill. A police officer will be hired through a grant from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and a grant-funded regional dispatch feasibility study was recently completed funded 100% via a grant from the Ohio Department of Development. The federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program has provided \$1.6 million for Parma to use to acquire and demolish some problem properties. "Our hope is that the federal funding will keep our community on track by offsetting the loss of tax revenue – an issue



ClearChannel donated space for two billboards in Parma, touting the city's high ranking in Business Week Magazine. A poll by the magazine declared Parma one of the Best Cities in Ohio to Raise Children. The two billboards are located at the intersection of Ridgewood Dr. and State Road. The second is on Broadview Rd. at Tuxedo Avenue.

facing every city across the country," said Mayor DePiero. "The stimulus money keeps us in the

race to maintain city services and programs. To say the funding will have a positive impact in this

economic climate is an understatement. It gives us and other cities the breathing room we so

A Night On The Town, Monte Carlo Style!

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation volunteers prepare for their own Monte Carlo adventure... Casino Royale style! For informa-

tion on the Foundation's major fundraiser held on Saturday, March 6 at the Embassy Suites, Independence, call 440-743-4280 or visit the website: www.parmahospital.org/foundation.



From left Judy Mileti, owner of Distinctive Eyewear; Peggy Farris, coordinator, Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation; Gayle Clapp, principal, Dentzler Elementary School, Parma Kiwanian; Salvatore Felice, Foundation trustee; Rosemary Gulick, Parma School Board member, Chamber of Commerce Board member, Parma Hospital auxiliary; Mary Dejak, president, Parma Hospital Auxiliary; Randi Hansen,

RTA Needs Change More Than We Do

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The truth is, so often things that we know are important escape our attention because they do not affect us directly, or so we may think. Then the reality of a particular situation confronts us suddenly, as we realize that we are about to experience pain, discomfort, or inconvenience as a result of either action or inaction at the hands of others. Then something is worthy of our attention, and we consider just how our lives will be impacted and what that means to us.

Recently I was rudely awakened from my own personal slumber by the deafening failure of RTA in the most basic functions of the mission it was created for in the first place. I have to admit, I am old enough to remember a time before RTA, when the Cleveland Transit System, or CTS was the public transportation entity in the Cleveland area, with some municipally owned bus lines sharing the

market, as I understand. CTS replaced the streetcar system, which on examination seems to have been an excellent network of public transportation which probably did not need to be replaced at all. By the

early 1970's, CTS had become so ineffective and expensive that people demanded change, and the voters approved the creation of RTA county-wide. The idea was to have an agency that was publicly funded and accountable to the taxpayers, providing low cost, efficient public transportation. I was in the eighth grade then, and all

continued on page 9

City of Parma Scholarship Applications Available

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2010 award season. In its fourth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. Applications may also be obtained at Parma City Hall, any of the Parma Cuyahoga County Public Library branches or any high school

located within the Parma City School District. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2010 – 2011 academic year. Financial need, work ethic and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is April 1, 2010. For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact Parma Councilman Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net or (440) 884-0489.

Parma Observer

Parma Mayor Prepares State Of The City Address

by Jack Marschall

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero will discuss the local economy, Ukrainian Village, the upcoming Polish Constitution Day Parade in May, unveiling a new city logo, the soon-to-be-built Westcreek Stewardship Center and other issues in his annual State of the City Address February 22. The address will be held in Parma City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. “My message will be one of optimism,” said Mayor DePiero. “My gut tells me that our city is being cautiously optimistic that we can rebound from this devastating recession. We’re holding our own by trimming the budget but not cutting the basic quality services that our residents have come to expect.” Mayor DePiero says staying financially healthy in 2010 will greatly depend upon a balanced budget, attracting good businesses to the community and continuing to offer great safety services and programs for residents. “Our sewer projects and our sanitary sewer

cleaning program will continue,” said Mayor DePiero. “There will be a lot of good news in my address, not the least of which is our new city logo, improvements at Ries Ice Rink and the fact that Business Week Magazine has named Parma as one of the best cities in which to raise children. We’re very proud of that distinction.” The unveiling of Parma’s new logo will take on an added flair of excitement. The logo creator is planning to attend the mayor’s State of the City address. Residents chose the new logo from the four finalists posted online on the city’s website, www.cityofparma-oh.com. Plans are also in the works for the Polish Constitution Day Parade that will be held Sunday, May 2 after moving from its traditional location in Slavic Village in Cleveland. “Big Chuck” Schodowski will be the grand marshal. Tentative plans call for participants to march from Parma City Hall to Snow Road. A program will follow at St. Charles Church on the corner of Ridge Road and Wilber Avenue.



New Year Nuisance: Gang Plowing in Parma. The New Year started off with a blustery reminder from Mother Nature as to who calls the shots when it comes to our unpredictable winter weather. Parma Service Department workers were kept busy around the clock on January 8 plowing our heavy snowfall in northeast Ohio.

Parma To Host Career Expo To Boost Employment Opportunities

by Jack Marschall

The City of Parma is inviting the public to attend a special Career Expo March 18 at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center adjacent to Parma City Hall. Experts in the field of job training and retraining will be available to help unemployed and underemployed area residents gain new skills to help them reenter the workforce. “My concern is that a certain segment of any community has individuals who do not have the skill sets to reenter this constantly changing economy,” said Parma Treasurer Anthony Zielinski. “Our city’s unemployment rate is more than 9%, but that does not take into account those who have been furloughed, workers who have gone from full-time to part-time and those individuals whose work schedules have been drastically reduced.” The Parma Career Expo will feature employment experts from Cuyahoga Community College, Parma City Schools Community Educa-

tion, Bryant & Stratton, Polaris Career Center, Employment Connection Career Center and United Way 2-1-1. “There are a lot of folks out there who are wondering, ‘Where do I go from here?’” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “We want to stress this is not a jobs fair, but it is a great opportunity for people across the area to better understand the tools they will need and what’s available to find a job and start a new career.” Treasurer Zielinski says the Career Expo will offer what many employees used to take for granted – a future. “This is training and education for our neighbors and families to be successful in this new economy,” said Zielinski. “The aim is to succeed – not only today, but also in the years to come.” The Parma Career Expo will be held on Thursday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The Donna Smallwood Activities Center, 7001 W. Ridgewood Dr., is located behind Parma City Hall.

Councilman Introduces Legislation To Assist Schools

by Sean Brennan

Parma Ward Two Councilman Sean Brennan has introduced an ordinance that will make it a criminal offense to illegally enroll students in the Parma City School District. The District has been experiencing problems in recent months with families who do not actually reside within the boundaries of the District enrolling their children, while maintaining that they do live in the District. “In essence parents are lying to the school district in order for their children to receive a more high quality education than they perceive they might get elsewhere,” Brennan said. “Let’s face it, when choosing between area public schools, Parma is still one of the best alternatives. Some parents and guardians care about their child’s education so much, that they are clearly willing to falsify their residency,” he added.

The new law, Ordinance 45-10, would make it a criminal offense to provide false information regarding student enrollment to a school district official. Punishment for being found guilty of breaking the law would be a misdemeanor of the first degree, carrying a fine not to exceed \$1,000 or imprisonment not more than six months or both. Further, anyone convicted of breaking the law will be ordered by the court to fully reimburse the Parma City Schools the total dollar value of tuition determined to be owed to the District


Brennan, a full-time high school government and history teacher, knows firsthand how costly families enrolling their children in a school district in which they do not live can be to a dis-

trict in terms of dollars and to students in terms of academic achievement. “Families who enroll their children illegally in a public school not only cost the taxpayers of that district, but negatively impact the achievement of legal students,” he said. “When a student is enrolled wrongly in a district, this takes away from their legal peers in the form of larger class sizes, fewer administrative, guidance, special education and other services, among many other limited resources,” Brennan added.

The problem was brought to Brennan’s attention when he met with Pamela Edmonds, Parma City School’s Director of Student Services, and Richard Vanek, Director of Safety and Security for the District. “I was surprised to find that this was such a problem,” Brennan said. “I immediately agreed to introduce the legislation and, thanks to the help of Law Director Tim Dobeck and his fine staff, we are well underway,” he added.

According to Brennan, his ordinance will only be enforceable in schools within the City of Parma. “I will be reaching out to my legislative peers in Seven Hills and Parma Heights to encourage them to introduce identical ordinances in their cities in order to ensure uniformity within the school district,” Brennan added. “Word of this ordinance will, no doubt, deter this behavior in the future, saving our school district dollars and enhancing the learning environment for our District’s children,” he stated.

To read this and other ordinances by Parma City Council, visit the Parma City Council website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/citycouncil>.



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Parma Health Care

Go Red! Parma Hospital Helps To Combat Heart Disease

by CJ Sheppard

Heart disease kills more women every year in this country than anything else.

It's a cold hard fact, but one that Parma Community General Hospital's leaders and staff and women across the country meet with a passionate response: Go Red for Women – especially during the February celebration of Heart Month.

Parma Hospital – and its award-winning cardiovascular care – is helping to spread the word: Heart disease is, in large part, preventable. The

American Heart Association's Go Red For Women campaign urges women to band together to increase awareness of the risks and reduce coronary heart disease and stroke.

Over the past six years, Parma Hospital has donated over \$330,000 to the American Heart Association's public health campaign, through sponsorship of events and a plethora of fund-raising events at the hospital. This year's Heart Walk will be held August 21 downtown, beginning on Mall C. For those who cannot attend one of the signature

events, there is much that can be done every single day, including knowing your cholesterol and triglyceride numbers and seeing a cardiologist if you have concerns or a family history of heart problems.

Right in your own community, you have access to one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals® – and among the 30 best community hospitals – for cardiovascular care by Thomson Reuters. The winners named to this prestigious list have shorter, less costly hospital stays with fewer complications.

“Our heart program is a shin-

ing example of how our unique brand of excellent, personalized care yields outstanding results,” said Patricia A. Rufin, president & chief executive officer of Parma Hospital. “It's validating to receive national recognition for our high standard of care that is well known in the local community.”

Winning hospitals provide high quality and highly efficient services at a reasonable cost in comparison to peers across the United States, says Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and 100 Top Hospitals programs at Thomson Reuters.

For a referral to a cardiologist on the Parma Hospital Medical Staff, call 440-743-4900 or go to www.parma-hospital.org.

Leading with our hearts.



Left to right: Laurie Melvin, RN, Director, Acute Inpatient Care; Dawn Beljin, RN, Director, Outpatient/Critical Care; Patricia A. Rufin, President & CEO; Pam Yusz, RN, Director, Surgical Services; Pamela Falasco, RN, Chief Nursing Officer.

Parma Community General Hospital – a four-time winner of Thomson Reuters' 100 Top Hospitals for cardiovascular care award – is proud to Go Red for Women to help prevent women's heart disease. And when women are in need of excellent, personalized heart care that's close to home, Parma Hospital stands ready with a full complement of cardiovascular programs, surgeries...and a caring heart.



Because We Care

Parma
Community
General Hospital

440.743.3000 | parmahospital.org

Cuyahoga Public Library Events

All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is required for some programs.
To register, call the host branch or visit www.cuyahogalibrary.org.

by Robert Rua
Parma-South Branch
7335 Ridge Road / 440.885.5362

Wednesday, March 10th / 7:00 p.m.
The Power of Plant-Based Nutrition & Disease Prevention / Registration required.

This program will help you learn what you can do to look your best and feel healthier, for longer. Understand why fruits and vegetables are so essential in obtaining optimal health and building a strong immune system. Free food sampling included.

Wednesday, March 10th / 7:00 p.m.
Speak Up About Books
Ages 11 – 18 / Registration required.

Do you have something to say about a book you read and liked? Share your voice for Teen Tech Week. Come record podcasts of your favorite books that will be posted on our website for others looking for a good read. We'll help you create and record your review. But we need a form signed by a parent for you to participate.

Wednesdays, March 3rd, 10th, 17th / 7:00 p.m.
English for You & Me / No registration required.

Caregivers & their children ages 4 – 7 whose first language is not English are invited to come to a series of programs which emphasize English vocabulary through stories, activities and games

2010 Winter/Spring Parma Community Education

by Ken Ferguson
After a four year hiatus, Parma Community Education was restarted in the Spring of 2008. The subsequent set of offerings has grown from 24 to 43 to 85 to the current set of 120+ courses for the Winter/Spring 2010 edition. While keeping in mind that the goal of this initiative is to provide a niche to the communities of Parma, Parma Heights, Seven Hills and the contiguous areas, we have branched out to area establishments and are holding classes at their sites. These include, but are not limited to: Little Polish Diner, Rudy's Strudel, DelSangro's Ristorante, Luchita's, das Schnitzel Haus, Charm Thai, etc. And Body Sculpting and Rock City Dance are bringing their programs to us, in case you've decided that it's time to get those workouts started

again. Our extensive computer offerings range from online investigation to how to fix your computer to search engine marketing.

New course possibilities include, but are not limited to: Tea - Russian or from the Monastery; several automotive offerings; two photography classes; drawing, painting and cartooning; parent-child classes. You can also join us for trips both near and far – from consignment shopping in Cleveland to Gatlinburg, New York City or Washington, D.C.

Costs for the classes are very affordable. Register by going online at www.parmacityschools.org/cont-ed or by calling (440) 886-7601.

Classes begin February 23 and continue through May 20.

Workplace Education Program

by Susan Sheehan,
The Workplace Education Program of the Parma City School District offers basic skills training opportunities to area businesses. PCSD facilitators and instructors, with the employer's guidance, identify specific employee needs and provide the necessary training to meet those needs in an efficient manner. This team-centered approach to learning is the foundation used to implement the workplace programs.
Customized Workplace Education Programs available on-site for businesses include: GED Test Preparation and Testing, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) Preparation, English in the Community, US Citizenship Test Preparation, Computer Basic Skills,

Problem Solving Skills, Customer Service Skills, Fundamental Computation Skills, Effective & Dynamic Writing Skills, Powerful Communication Skills, Test Taking Skills, Study Skills, Employment Success Skills, and College Success Skills.

Why should employers invest in a Workplace Education Program? Important reasons include: improved productivity, employee retention, promotion of a supportive work atmosphere, decreased absenteeism, support of employees' personal learning goals, reduced job anxiety associated with work and family, display of employee appreciation, and convenience, cost effectiveness, and profitability.

Please contact Susan Sheehan at 440-885-8797 to find out more about PCSD Workplace Education offerings.

\Parma-Ridge Branch 5850 Ridge Road / 440.888.4300

Wednesday, March 3rd / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Excel Essentials / Registration required.

This introductory session provides a basic overview and common uses for spreadsheets. Learn basic Excel functions and build a simple budget spreadsheet. Prerequisite: Word Basics or some experience using MS Excel.

Tuesday, March 9th / 10:00 a.m.12:00 noon
Computer Essentials / Registration required.

This class, geared toward the computer novice, offers an overview of basic computer parts, using the mouse and keyboard and an introduction to the Microsoft Windows operating system.

Tuesday, March 9th / 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Generation Ready / Registration required.

Citizen's emergency preparedness for older adults, presented by the American Red Cross.

Parma-Snow Branch
2121 Snow Road / 216.661.4240

Tuesday, March 2nd / 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Career Planning / Registration required.

This program is perfect for anyone who is making a major career change or who is a job seeker in transition. It includes career assessment with a Career Counselor.

Wednesday, March 3rd / 10:00 a.m.
Play, Learn & Grow / Caregivers & their children ages Birth – 5 years old / Registration required.

Enjoy a special playtime with your little ones and learn how toys can help build language and literacy.

Saturday, March 6th / 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Carnival / All ages

Enjoy an afternoon of old-time fun and games at the library. E. J. Farbarik presents caricatures and comedy and The St. Ignatius Circus Company will provide juggling entertainment. Try your hand at carnival activities (both Wii™ and "real") like ring toss, skeeball, target shooting and more. Face-painting and refreshments too!

Parma City Engineer Honored By Professional Trade Association

by Jack Marschall
Parma Building Commissioner and City Engineer Paul Deichmann has been honored as Code Official of the Year by the North Central Ohio Building Officials Association. The non-profit group is comprised of professionals whose occupations include engineers, code enforcement officials, building tradesmen and architects.

"This is a tremendous honor and I sincerely appreciate it," Deichmann said. "However, it would not be possible had it not been for the work of our entire staff. This is not a one person department – we're a team. The award reflects on everyone who works in our department."

"The award speaks volumes as to Paul's leadership," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "His knowledge is beyond measure, ensuring that any and all engineering and building projects in our city are done to the highest standards set by the top professionals in the business."

The NCOBOA functions include promoting better public understanding of municipal zoning, housing and building construction. The association also helps to foster cooperation between all building officials, the construction industry and government, providing working relationships



Paul Deichmann, Parma Building Commissioner and Engineer

between the planning, housing, fire prevention, safety, health, sanitation and other governmental departments.

"Paul is an outstanding individual," said Tom Carleton, NCOBOA President. "His generosity is only exceeded by his knowledge of the building code. And being elected by your peers for this Award really says it all."

Paul Deichmann was previously Director of Engineering for the City of Solon. He also served in the same position in North Olmsted. He majored in Civil Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, and also has a Masters Degree in Construction Management from Case. He is a Professional Engineer, a certified Building Official and a certified Plan Examiner.

Tri-City Area Observed



C/B/S Advisory Committee 2009-10 Front row: Dave Guciardo-Normandy High School, Meghann McCall-City of Parma, Bob Verdile-City of Parma Hts, Lisa Zaremba-Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, Randi Hansen, Tri-C Back Row: Cyndee Bratz-Parma Council of PTAs, Susan Sheehan, C/B/S Co-Facilitator, Ken Ferguson-C/B/S Co-Facilitator, Rosemary Gulick-Parma Schools Board of Education, Phil Kish-KIKS Office, Gene Lovasy-Parma/Parma Hts. Kiwanis Not present: Lisa Draganic-City of Seven Hills, Charine Zsaludko-VFW, Bob Gillingham-Bob Gillingham Ford, PCSD students Mike Kirry-Parma High, Tim Liggitt-Valley Forge, and James Psarras and Matt Minor-Normandy.

Parma City Schools/ Parma Area Family Collaborative Provides A Wide Variety Of Family Supports

by Kristi Trunzo

Raising children can often be challenging. The many demands on parents can, at times, seem overwhelming. It can be an even more daunting task when a child has needs that go above and beyond what is typically expected. The Parma City School District Parma Area Family Collaborative offers a variety of support groups to families facing unique challenges.

“Strong Parents/Strong Families” support group offers parents and caregivers of children (ages 5-18 years old) with behavioral and/or mental health challenges a chance to receive support and information in a friendly, caring environment. Monthly meetings feature a speaker addressing topics such as behavior modification, bullying, area resources, and developing positive home/school relationships. The monthly meetings are FREE and offer childcare, raffles, food and refreshments. The next meeting will be held on February 23rd. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm at All Saints Episcopal Church located at 8911 W. Ridgewood Dr. Parma 44130. Evening meetings are also available at neighboring sites. Reservations are requested. Please contact Kristi Trunzo, Tapestry Parent Advocate at trunzok@parmacityschools.org, or 440.221.4014 for reservations or information. The support group is made possible by funding from a grant through the Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care.

“Kinship Caregivers” group continues to meet in the Parma area. The group has been established since 2007 and offers various resources for caregivers in a caring environment. The Kinship Group supports those who are raising grandchildren, siblings or other family members. This monthly group is FREE and offers childcare, food and refreshments. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18th. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month at All Saints Episcopal Church located at 8911W. Ridgewood Dr. Parma 44130

For more information or to register, please contact Lynn Stutzman, System of Care Supervisor for the Parma City Schools Parma Area Family Collaborative, at stutzmanl@parmacityschools.org, or 440.887.4873. The Kinship Caregivers support group is made possible by a grant through Cuyahoga County Commissioners, through a partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services.

Community /Business/Schools Partnership Shines

by Susan Sheehan

Parma City Schools District
Co-Facilitator, C/B/S Partnership
440-885-8339

The Community/Business/Schools Partnership was formed in 1991 when the Superintendent of Parma City School District, Carl Hilling, and the Director of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, Vicky Hawke, decided that an official collaboration would be beneficial to both organizations and to all three cities. The organization began with a handful of dedicated members, including Gene Lovasy-Parma Hospital, Ron Durkin-Parma Schools, Vicky Hawke-PACC, Carl Hilling-Parma Schools, Bob Bergstrom-Parma Schools, Jan Thomas-PSE Credit Union, Bonnie Baisch-Parma Schools, Sharon Akridge-Tri-C, Janet Wene-Parma Schools, Deva Simon-UCar, JoAnn Mason, PACC, Cynthia Hilling-PACC, Dave Nedrich-GM. Over the years, the organization has grown, boasting a current roster of 200+ members, including representatives from community businesses and organizations, government agencies, congregations, schools, civic associations, service groups, professional organizations, retirees, and concerned individuals.

At its inception in 1991 and to this day, the mission of the C/B/S Partnership has remained the same. Today's students must have a broader perspective than yesterday's graduates in order to meet the demands and realities of the global social and economic order of the 21st century. The C/B/S Partnership is the catalyst for ensuring that these students have the opportunity to experience relevant and timely assistance from community partners who share the same vision.

Both PCSD Superintendent Dr. Sarah Zatik and PACC President Chuck Germana firmly believe in the value

of C/B/S and continue to be avid supporters of the organization. Bi-monthly meetings are sponsored and held at various partners' locations in the district, including Parma Community General Hospital's Health Education Center, Parma City Hall, Holy Spirit Party Center/Catering by Wal-Tam's, ManorCare Health Services of Parma, Seven Hills Recreation Center/VFW Post 7609, Parma Heights City Hall, Broadview Multi-Care Center, and Cuyahoga Community College. Besides networking and enjoying refreshments, attendees share partnership information and gain valuable insights from presentations that assist in creating new collaborations.

C/B/S partnerships afford students invaluable experiences because partners believe that today's students will live in our communities, will become productive

workers in our communities, and will assure the leadership of our communities

for a better tomorrow. Ice cream sundae bars are provided by local businesses, such as KIKS Office Partners, Parma/Parma Hts. Kiwanis, and GFS, as incentives for excellent grades and attendance at many of the elementary schools. General Motors sponsors an engineering program called Wheels in Motion for elementary school students, and the PSE Credit Union supports a school banking program for elementary students. Bob Gillingham Ford hosts a financial literacy program for middle school students, while the Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office offers Forensics sessions for high school students. Parma Hospital gives a CPR demonstration for middle school students, and Parma Rotary provides a Four Way Speech contest for area high school students. Parma Area Morning Kiwanis has “adopted” the

First Step Program and works with the students on many projects. The City of Parma works with the PCSD Academic Services Department to provide a hands-on court experience for middle school students: The list of partnerships continues to grow as more and more members join this active organization.

The C/B/S Advisory Committee meets regularly between Partnership meetings to review progress, to market and recruit new members, and to adopt new programs. Advisory Committee members include: Dave Guciardo-Normandy High School, Bob Gillingham-Bob Gillingham Ford, Cyndee Bratz-Parma Council of PTAs, Randi Hansen-Tri-C, Lisa Draganic-City of Seven Hills, Rosemary Gulick-Parma Schools Board of Education, Meghann McCall-City of Parma, Gene Lovasy-Parma/Parma Hts. Kiwanis, Cahrine Zsaludko-VFW, Lisa Zaremba-Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, Bob Verdile-City of Parma Hts, Phil Kish-KIKS Office Partners, and four PCSD students, Mike Kirry-Parma High, Matt Minor and James Psarras-Normandy, and Tim Liggitt-Valley Forge.

The Community/Business/Schools Partnership has won many awards during the past 19 years, including the 2005 Friend of Education Award, the 2005 Pyramid Award, the 2005 and 2007 National Civic Star Award, and the 2009 PACC Pride Award for a Community Organization. The C/B/S Partnership is looking for individuals, businesses, and community groups to help enrich the learning experiences of the Parma City School District's 13,000 students in the elementary, middle and senior high schools. Please contact C/B/S Co-Facilitators Susan Sheehan or Ken Ferguson at 440-885-8317 to find out more about the C/B/S Partnership.

Parma Heights

Parma Heights Historical Society Starts Thinking About Centennial

by Jim Griffith

Parma Heights is getting old. 2011 marks 100 years since the historic vote which resulted in Parma Heights separating from Parma Township and establishing itself as a village.

Over the years, there has been some debate as to the reason the residents of the village made the decision to chart thier own course. The most commonly accepted explanation found in the literature of the time indicates that the residents of Parma Heights did not feel they were equally represented in the decisions made by the township trustees at the time. Today, the city of Parma Heights has been making its own decisions for close to 100 years.

This leaves the Parma Heights Historical Society in a rather daunting position. The Society, which is barely one year old, with only 12 members and a bare bones budget, must think about how to celebrate an event as big as a centennial.

Most members agree that the Parma Heights Historical Society, as it exists, is not ready for such a major undertaking. A traditional centennial

celebration usually involves multiple activities over a long period of time. That is large task for a small organization with little resources. The members have made the decision that it may be necessary to reorganize the organization for this event.

A decision was made to form a separate centennial committee to organize events and activities. It would be a separate entity than the Society it's self. The theory is that people who may not be interested in joining the Historical Society may be interested in getting involved in just this event. There is a large group of people who have an interest in the city and it's history but do not have the time to commit to one organization, but may have the time available to commit to one event.

No person who is a member of this committee would be required to join the Society. The only requirement would be an interest or pride in the community that would motivate an individual to put forth their best effort towards creating, building and hosting various activities and events that celebrate the city's past while at the same

time promoting its future.

With the city facing a deficit, the Historical Society is not expecting any financial help from the City of Parma Heights. The Society would not expect a city to finance a celebration at the same time it is searching for increases in revenue and hoping to hold on to all of the employees and the services it offers. This will be the first concern of any group that organizes any events or activities. Donations, fund-raising or the old concept of using what we have will be the themes in the planning stages.

Some people have raised the question "It's a year and a half away, we are you worried about it this early?" The answer would be, these types of events

and activity can take a year to plan and put together. The brainstorming, the planning, the acquisitions, the preparation and presentation cannot be done overnight. The goal is to put together events and activities that make you proud of your beginning and optimistic on building on the past to create a successful future. The Society hopes the residents of the City of Parma Heights step forward to make in 2010 to make the centennial year a memorable one.

If you are interested in being involved in a centennial planning group, send an email to jgriffith@parmaheightshistoricalsociety.org or call 440-886-4934 and leave a message.

If you are a member of facebook, and want to take a fantastic trip down memory lane, go the group "I was a Parma Heights kid...." A great page where people who grew up in Parma Heights share pictures, memories and nostalgia.

"Collecting For Cleveland" Giving Back To Our Community

By Lisa Vinarcik

Constellation Schools: Parma Community High means more than just educating our students, it means being involved in our community. This is what student council representatives 9th, 10th and 11th grade students did: they got involved in collecting two truck loads of canned/non-perishable food for the Parma Heights Food Pantry. The students were supervised by the following classroom teachers Ms. Stacey Schroeder, Ms. Lauren Mizer, Ms. Leah Vittardi, and Mr. Todd Luecke.

The community service project started on Monday, December 14th and ran through Tuesday, December 17th. Each day the students brought to school two or more canned/non-perishable food items. The cans allowed them to be eligible to participate in the day-to-day events at the school. For example if students brought in canned foods each day, they were able to dress down on Friday. Student council representatives worked hard to ensure that their fellow peers participated in helping the community. On Friday, December 18th, the student council representatives and four teachers took two truck loads to the Parma Heights Food Pantry, and they unloaded and stocked the food pantry area. It is always nice to encourage the students to do something for their community. As teachers we must not only teach the students math and English, etc..., but we also must teach them how to be productive members of society. Being a productive member means caring



Constellation Schools Parma Community High School Student Council Representatives delivered canned food items to the food pantry. (L:R Robyn C., Katelyn C., Alexis J., Arcelia G., Tianna C., Jhuvany C., Genevieve R., Alex C., and Sarah A.

about others who are less fortunate and helping people who are in need. As Ms. Schroeder stated, "I think that many of the students learned a lot from the food drive, and hopefully they will remember how great it felt to give back."

Parma Community Elementary is located on Day Drive and educates students grades K-3; while Parma Community Middle and High is located on West 54th Street and educates grades 4-11. This school is one of 16 Constellation Schools. Constellation Schools LLC is a developer and operator of high quality charter schools throughout Northeast Ohio. 7 of our schools were rated Excellent or Effective for the 2008/2009 school year by the Ohio Department of Education. For more information on Constellation Schools or Parma Community Elementary, Middle and High, please contact Lisa Vinarcik, Manager of Marketing and PR, at 440.845.4200 ext. 50107.

DeGeeter Announces Release Of State Funds For Graftech International In Parma

by Timothy DeGeeter

State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter (D- Parma) announced today that a Parma business, GrafTech International Holdings, Inc., has been awarded a grant from the Ohio Third Frontier Advanced Energy Program in the amount of \$915,000.00. This award will support the Development of Thermal Management Solutions for Lithium-Ion Batteries project. The State Controlling Board approved the funding request from the Department of Development earlier this week. The Controlling Board has approval authority over various state fiscal activities. The money will assist GrafTech to develop graphite thermal management products to improve the safety, durability, and performance of lithium ion batteries.

"I am extremely proud of GrafTech's breakthrough work in this field and we are grateful to have their world headquarters located here in the 15th House District" said Rep. DeGeeter. "This grant is proof that the state of Ohio values its effort to provide the latest technology and innovation to ultimately improve our power supply for generations to come." The Ohio

Third Frontier is an initiative that was created in 2002 within the Ohio Department of Development in order to place Ohio at the forefront of high-tech research and innovation. The program was created with a 10-year initial life and a \$1.6 billion commitment in investments to support technology in fields such as biomedical, advanced and alternative energy. The program is set to expire in 2012. In response, the House recently passed a resolution to place an issue on the May ballot that would renew the Third Frontier program with the issuance of \$950 million in research and development bonds. The Senate adopted its version of the renewal but cut the amount of bonds by nearly half the amount, with a cap of \$500 million. "I am hopeful that a measure similar to the House version passes and is met favorably with voters so that companies and small business such as GrafTech can continue their great work as leaders in advanced technologies and have the ability to take on new high-tech research projects." said Rep. DeGeeter. The Third Frontier ballot issue now goes to conference committee for further consideration.

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Parma Schools



by Gene Lovasy

Developmental Assets – 40 individual assets in 8 Categories....
February’s Asset Category: POSITIVE VALUES – Young people need to develop strong values that guide their choices. The more a child develops positive values that guide her or his behavior, the more likely it is that she or he will make positive choices and grow up healthy.

- POSITIVE VALUE Assets Include:**
- #26. **Caring** - Kids place high value on helping others.
 - #27. **Equality & Social Justice** - Kids place high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
 - #28. **Integrity** – Kids act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs.
 - #29. **Honesty** – Kids tell the truth even when it’s not easy.
 - #30. **Responsibility** - Kids accept and take personal responsibility for their actions and decisions.
 - #31. **Restraint** - Kids believe that it’s important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.

Let’s focus on #26, CARING....
People can help and care for others directly or indirectly. Direct help is when you spend time and interact with people who need care. Indirect help is when you collect money, food, or other items to give to people who distribute the items to those in need. It’s important for young people to be involved in both direct and indirect caring. Caring is Asset 26 of Search Intitute’s 40 Developmental Assets, the qualities, experiences, and relationships that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

Here are the facts:
Research shows that young people who place a high value on caring are more likely to promote and model positive rather than negative behaviors. About 50 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they place a high value on helping others, according to Search Institute surveys. If everyone cared for one another, the world would be a safer, happier, more peaceful place.

Tips for building this asset:
Caring about others includes caring for a lot of different people: those in your family, neighborhood, school, community, state, country, and the world. It can also include caring for animals and the environment. Volunteering—whether for a group or an individual—is an excellent way for young people to show they care. But the easiest, quickest way to demonstrate you care? Simply smile at those around you.

Also try this:
In your home and family: Do volunteer work together as a family—at an animal shelter, a nature center, a food bank, or for another cause you care about.
In your neighborhood and community: Have a neighborhood garage sale. Use the proceeds to purchase necessities and gifts for a local family in need or donate them to a local charity.
In your school or youth program: Facilitate a reading circle in which middle and high school students spend one hour a week reading to—and interacting with—elementary school children.
Visit www.parmacityschools.org/assets or www.search-institute.org/assets for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them.

Developmental Assets® are positive factors within young people, families, communities, schools, and other settings that research has found to be important in promoting the healthy development of young people. From Instant Assets: 52 Short and Simple E-Mails for Sharing the Asset Message. Copyright © 2007 by Search Institute®, 877-240-7251; www.search-institute.org. This message may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.



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Parma Life

Restaurant Review:

One Nation Worth Visiting



by Daniel P. McCarthy

Where is the smallest nation - Asia? Europe? Africa? No, it turns out that the smallest nation is right here in Parma Heights; Sandwich Nation opened for business on September 16, 2009. This is one nation that no passport is required to enter, just a healthy appetite and a strong desire for delicious sandwiches made by hand with great care and attention to detail and quality that seems, sadly, to be missing at too many other establishments these days.

First of all, the menu at Sandwich Nation is straightforward and easy to understand. There are nine sandwiches presently, and they are all priced at \$6.00. The bread is super fresh ciabatta, with a choice of toppings, cheeses, and condiments. Each sandwich is made individually, and unlike some other locations, here you literally watch your sandwich being created in full view. I myself have experienced five of the nine sandwiches so far, and I was absolutely delighted each time. With a choice of a side dish and a beverage, pay only \$7.50 and that should satisfy you for the duration of the day. There are fabulous cookies, only \$1.00 for two, which make a fine dessert if you have room for it.

Owner Greg Porach spent considerable time in the restaurant/food business as a young man, followed by a career as a Dispatcher for a major trucking firm, but he always held on to his dream of having his own business doing what he loved to do most- create unbelievably tasty sandwiches for people to enjoy. He also had a strong desire to run a business in which he could involve his two sons, Andrew

and Nick. Together they have brought a real family business to our community, and we are extremely fortunate that they chose here.

I don't know about you, but I have nothing against the many huge corporate chain stores doing business all over every city, except for the fact that little of the money spent there actually stays in the community, and the personal touch offered by a local business seems to be totally absent from their business plan. With a true local business like Sandwich Nation you can talk to the owner in person anytime you like; if you wished to speak to the owner(s) of one of these big box stores, you would no doubt have to take a long plane trip to some far off location, deal with Security and endless "gatekeepers" at some giant Corporate Headquarters, and in the end most likely never succeed in meeting Mr. or Mrs. Big at all.

At Sandwich Nation, it is obvious that you have walked into a proud family owned business, and you can see for yourself what that means to you the customer and the community in which we live, and more importantly, you can taste the difference. Trust me on this. Try this new business in Parma Heights, and I'll bet that you will be back. Make room for one more nation- Sandwich Nation. They are located at 6168 Pearl Road. Phone 440-845-2922 Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, Friday and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Go there soon, and leave your passports at home!



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“The Praying Mantis” Opens

by Rand Hansen

The Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Western Campus Theatre Department presents The Praying Mantis, a dark comedy about three sisters and their secret in the cellar of a Chilean manor house.

This production will run February 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. and February 21 and 28 at 2 p.m. in the Western Campus Theatre located at 11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma.

The Praying Mantis will challenge perceptions while keeping audiences on the edge of their seats. As the drama unfolds, confession, intrigue and escape foreshadow an unexpected

ending. This production is directed by Western Campus Theater Coordinator Robert Ellis.

General admission is \$10; students, seniors and staff are \$8; and Tri-C students get in free with valid ID. Group rates are available for parties of 10 or more.

For more information, please call 216-987-5536. Parking is available in the B lot (enter via Pleasant Valley). All other lots will require permits— parking is available in designated visitor lots on each Tri-C campus for \$1 for a two-hour time block, or a hangtag permit can be purchased for 75 cents.

Crile Archives Film Promotes History Channel Project

by Randi Hansen

Two reels of color film shot by an American officer in Europe during the Word War II's Battle of the Bulge made the journey from war-ravaged Europe to the Crile Archives at Cuyahoga Community College and into the annals of the History Channels World War II digitized film archives.

Ohio veteran Herm Graebner is a neighbor of Dr. James Banks, director of the Crile Archives and knew, when he discovered the 65-year-old reels in his basement that Banks might be interested. Graebner no longer remembers where he purchased the 8 mm film, nor when or where he was able to get it processed. He donated the film, along with photos and other mementos, to the Crile Archives in 2005.

Banks was delighted to add Graebner's memorabilia to the Archives' collection. Located at Tri-C's Western Campus, the Crile Archives preserve the legacy of Crile Army Hospital, upon whose grounds the Western Campus now stands. The hospital, which became a VA medical center after World War II, treated more than 20,000 patients between 1944 and 1964. Its "temporary" structures continued to serve as the first home of Tri-C's Western Campus until they were removed in 1974 to make way

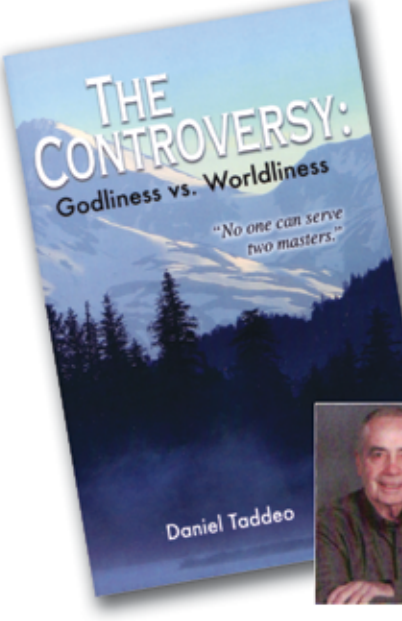
for the construction of new campus facilities.

Fast forward to last fall, when the History Channel contacted Banks about a series it was putting together that would focus on the "lost films" of World War II. Banks told them he had a 16 mm film produced for home consumption by Castle Films about the "Yanks of North Africa," then mentioned the two Graebner reels, shot in 1943-44 while Graebner moved through Europe as a field artillery captain in the U.S. Army's 5th Armored Division.

The History Channel seized the opportunity to digitize the film, preserving it from almost certain loss as the film deteriorated, then shot a promo featuring Graebner and Banks for its "Film Corps" project.

"Film Corps," a History Channel initiative to locate and preserve color home movies shot by World War II soldiers, is in a race with time. The United States loses 1,000 WWII veterans every day, and the film itself will deteriorate if not carefully stored or preserved.

You can view clips from Graebner's film, with commentary by Banks, in a promotional video about the Film Corps on the History Channel's website, or simply Google "At the Battle of the Bulge with Jim Banks."



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"No one can serve two masters."

Daniel Taddeo

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Pulse of the City

“Groundparrot Gilligan”

Our Companion Animals...Our Friends Indeed!

by Gary Rice

Those of us who own pets share a unique experience of living with animals. I am, of course, referring to real animals here, and not your college roommate. Whether you have a cat, a dog, or in my case, birds, these lives intertwine with our own in ways sublime and wonderful.

“Groundparrot” Gilligan got his nickname one year by predicting six more weeks of winter for Lakewood; much in the same fashion as certain groundhogs around the country do on February 2nd. Over the years, Gilligan regularly saw his shadow, (or not).

Gilligan came to me in mid-1983. I had just lost my grandmother to an insidious form of bone cancer in the leg, and so Gilligan provided a welcome diversion for our family. (For those who do not know, macaw parrots can live a long, long time) We purchased Gillie “used” from a pet store. Supposedly, he had been owned by a little old lady. We began to suspect the veracity of that story when, on the way home, Gillie chewed his way out of his cardboard transport box, climbed up on Dad’s shoulder, and began a string of salty epithets that would no doubt cause cardiac arrest in some preachers. Turned out, we heard later that Gillie’s former home had been a bar, and that he’d learned his expansive vocabulary from the patrons there.

We got him into the house while riding on Dad’s shoulder, swearing all the while, and put him on a T-stand, as we went out to the dining room for lunch. Almost immediately, we heard the flapping of a 2-foot wingspan, as Gillie landed on the table and helped himself to my french fries, with language even saltier than the fries were.

That night, the family was hosting a group of distinguished company. We warned Gillie against speaking out of turn, and the bird was as good as gold while they were there. After they left, I told him “Good job, Gillie!” and I received a disgusting response from him that would have stopped a clock.

Over the years, other birds came and went, but Gillie was a fixture at our home. A favorite of our friends, he almost never talked in the presence of company, (parrots seldom do) but once the company left? Whooo boy!

We had Gilligan for more than a quarter of a century. About a month ago, we noticed a growth on his leg. We took him in for surgery from a leading avian vet, but ironically, like my dear late grandmother, a nasty cancer was also well-developed on that leg, and Gilligan did not survive the surgery. He died just a few days before Christmas.

Dad and I are doing pretty well now, all things considered. Gilly had been going downhill for several weeks. Bird metabolism is much faster than human metabolism is. It was shocking to see Gillie’s devastating problem develop as quickly as it did.

In later years, Gilligan had also



developed epileptic seizures, and that kept Dad and I from going on overnight trips. It was worth staying home though. It always is when you are close to those whom you love, and who love you.

We are discovering that animals share quite a bit of our own DNA make-up. They are a great deal closer

to us than we probably realize. Unlike some of those theologian types, I do want to think that animals also have souls, and also would like to think that Gilly’s will go on and on and on.

I’m also honestly getting closer to the point of vegetarianism pretty quickly these days.

Well, Groundparrot Gilligan won’t be seeing his shadow this year, but we do have two new, incredibly sweet little parrot babies who are keeping us busy, along with two other great birds that we’ve had for many years.

I guess that you might say that, instead of seeing his shadow, Lakewood’s beloved Groundparrot Gilligan simply saw the Light.

Here’s to all of our great companion animal friends living in the pulse of our cities!

Happy Groundparrot (or dog, or cat, or fish or ????) Day to all of you!

Sincerely,

Gary, with Bob, Bandit, Hans, Baby, and BB (along with a few dozen other deer, chipmunks, sparrows, blue jays, field mice, possums, raccoons, and whomever else happens to live around the Rice homestead)

Dad and I want to thank Dr. Jamie Lindstrom and the staff of Animal Clinic Northview for doing so much for Gilligan, and for so many other needful pets, as well.

RTA Needs Change More Than We Do

continued from page 1

that I remember is that the fare went from over \$1.00, which was a lot at that time, to 25 cents. Ridership soared, and the new RTA was a vast improvement over what has existed before.

Fast forward some 35 years later, and it would seem to be what Yogi Berra famously referred to as “dejavu all over again”. RTA appears to be caught in a vicious downward spiral of revenue loss, which lead to cuts in service, which leads to further revenue loss, which leads to...you can see what I’m getting at. RTA has squandered money when they did have it, and can’t seem to produce solutions for the challenges it faces that don’t involve cutting vital service to the very Public it was created to serve the transportation needs of.

This brings me to my own personal awakening. For the past 17 years I have engaged in an early A.M. Saturday walk which starts at my home in Parma and ends at Tower City on Public Square. Then it’s a short walk across the bridge to the West Side Market. From there I take RTA back home; what couldn’t be more ideal is that the bus stop is but three doors down from my house. I should say “was three doors down from my house”, because after another round of down-spiraling cuts to basic service, the bus I have depended on for 17 years has been “combined” with another route, and now it will drop me off over 1 mile from my house. Believe me, after walking for 10 plus miles, an extra mile is a lot to ask of these 49 year old legs.

I must say that despite this discomfort, I can take it and will no doubt adapt, but it made me think of the elderly lady in my neighborhood who takes that bus- will she be able to walk a mile in the snow? How about the guy who’s car won’t start, but he needs to get

to his job on time? Remember, you are only one mechanical breakdown from needing RTA, and besides, you pay for it, whether you use it or not. I wonder if those decision makers made any personal sacrifice before they decided that cuts to service are the only way to balance their budgets. What do you think? After all, most of us have had to tighten our belts again and again. Keep in mind that RTA was created to provide public transportation for the people, not high paying jobs for executives.

2010 is the best year for voters to make changes for the better at RTA, as the new County Government will be taking shape. We must make it abundantly clear to all of the new County Council members that RTA is not to be spared the dramatic reform that the voters so ordered. Being held accountable is not nearly enough. Performance must be reviewed from top to bottom. and reorganization, restoration, and replacements are in order.

The City of Lakewood has had an

ongoing battle with RTA over disastrous cuts afflicted on that fair city, and the Lakewood Observer has been instrumental in leading that fight. I propose that the City of Parma and it’s citizens, including the Parma Observer, join with them this year to see that when the new Cuyahoga County Government is in place, one of the issues at the very top of the agenda is the complete overhaul of RTA. If the time has come, as it did in the 1970’s, to create a brand new system that works, then so be it.

I do not feel that even one dime should be taken from transportation services until the bloated bureaucracy at RTA has been trimmed down to the bone. That’s the reality that most people live with these days. Everyone it seems, has had to accept less and yet still make it work. Why should RTA be any different? The answer always seems to be that change is needed. I for one think that we have had about as much change as we can stand. RTA needs change more than we do!



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Parma Observer

Inspiration Corner:

by Patty Knox

Wise words. We trust certain types of people around us to provide them. Children, their parents and grandparents. Students, their teachers, counselors, and ministers. adults, our mentors, elders, people of accomplishment in the world whom we admire, and perhaps the Good Book. And Seniors, who have incubated the wisdom of the years, distilled its principles and passed on their words of wisdom in an effort to help those farther back on the path make the most of life. Daniel Taddeo, a retired guidance counselor for the Parma schools draws on all of these as sources of material for his latest book, *The Controversy: Godliness versus Worldliness*.

Short essays on many topics of interest as well as inspirational quotes from well-known people in many spheres of life fill this 200-page book with many thoughts to chew on. Something of a modern-day Pilgrim's Progress, I found myself hearing the voice of Charles Swindoll while reading it. Daniel Taddeo is a man of principle, and stands by what he believes. You will find yourself nodding your head in agreement as you read the many tried and true maxims. That is, if you are a

person of firm morals and strong faith.

It is interesting that compassion and involvement with students and families have driven more than one educator to spiritual truths and a helping professions retirement career. James Mayer, retired theatre and arts seminar teacher at Parma Senior High, conducts a special twelve-week training program for pastoral care aides each Fall to attend to the spiritual needs of patients, their families and other visitors at Parma Community General Hospital. Both Taddeo and Mayer each saw a deep need and sought to fill it utilizing their talents. Our community is all the better for it.

The seismic shift of society in the 1960s led to today's vogue notion of rejecting any moral absolutes such as the Ten Commandments. Any legal professional knows that American law was founded on the Ten Commandments, as evidenced by the many U.S. courthouses carved with Moses and the timeless tablets. As moral relativism flourishes philosophically, anarchy has likewise gained a following politically. Taddeo cites many thinkers who call America back to greatness with words such as: "We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles," quoting

Jimmy Carter, a statesman of peerless intestinal fortitude and rock-solid faith. Yet forging ahead is also stressed in the sage words of John F. Kennedy: "Change is the law of life, and these who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

Taddeo is instructive. The essays elaborate on the themes of a multitude of virtues. For instance, in *Matters that Matter, Volume II*, Taddeo implores, "We need to restore the moral and spiritual values we cherish in our society – in our families, neighborhoods, schools, churches and government." Those of us with children and grandchildren can certainly understand the urgency of the message. Taddeo's compelling voice may seem a bit preachy to some, but it's hard to argue as we watch the boat in which society floats approach the brink of the waterfall. Disaster can still be averted. Complacency or apathy make no sense to those who desire a better world for their descendants. Or, as Taddeo quotes Dr. Edwin Leap, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto your children." A depth of mercy is implicit.

Many sources of common-sense wisdom are as pleasantly surprising as they are succinct:

"He who sees a need and waits to be asked for help is as unkind as if he had refused it. ~Dante

"If we pray for help to do the next

right thing, everything will turn out the way it should." ~local philosopher Dick Feagler

"If you're healthy, you're a millionaire." ~Polish proverb

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." ~Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Don't make a baby if you can't be a father." ~New York City Board of Education

"People need more to be reminded than instructed." ~C.S. Lewis

"With God there is no mutual ground. One chooses to be godly or worldly. ~Rev. Daniel Wegrzyn

Another brilliant quote of C.S. Lewis which brings us full circle, "When we become so preoccupied with this life and lose the value of eternity, then we lose this life as well." It is as though Taddeo is asking the reader, "Who is your God?" He quotes concentration camp survivor Corrie ten Boom, who likewise asks an even more telling question, "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"

Taddeo challenges our character. This is not light reading, but rather a book to step up our game in our morning devotionals by committing to be more spiritually proactive. Expect, even in retirement, to be reinvigorated with a sense of purpose.

Remembering The Mountains of Parma

by James McCarthy

Maybe it's the time of year, or maybe it's the recent bit of rough winter weather we are having lately, but I find myself remembering another particular winter in Parma. It was a rough one, really cold and tons of snow, and the Cleveland Press back then called it the worst winter ever. It was the winter of '77, and I was a sixth grader growing up in the snowy wonderland of Parma. Like most kids, I loved to play in the snow, and my passion was building snow-forts...which I considered myself an expert at doing. The cold didn't bother me much then, as I dreamed up new conquests, while delivering my Cleveland Press paper route. I would pass the time daydreaming of snowy adventures yet to come, waiting only for enough snow to build the masterwork

of snowforts. That winter I didn't have to wait long for the stuff of my dreams, Parma was repeatedly buried with tons and tons of snow all winter long.

I lived just down the street from a shopping center. It was the anchor of our neighborhood back then, and it had the biggest parking lot around. That massive parking lot was kept plowed for all the minions of Parma to shop at Pick-N-Pay, and Cunninghams, Famous Recipe, and Happy House, Glamour Boutique, and all the rest. For my best friend Scott and I, this fact was the gateway to a virtual paradise. The piles of snow accumulated from the plowing of that large parking lot were usually pretty big, but that year they were huge! So much snow had fallen over the course of that winter that large front-end loaders were finally used to stack the piles to save space. Those snow piles, back in

that winter of '77, were like vast mountain ranges, huge peaks of white pushing twenty feet or more into the freezing skies of Parma. To my friend and I, they seemed even higher...gigantic in fact, and perfect for carving out the ultimate snow-fort.


We would scamper around those white mountain cliff edges almost every night. Our mothers always wanted us to stay home though, likely fearing that it was too cold for us kids. The unbridled lust for snow mountain conquest kept us from even caring about such things then. Bone chilling cold, biting wind, two feet of snow, so what...there were mountains to climb that year in Parma, forts to dig, snow boulders to roll over the cliff edges. Sometimes, while sitting in Mrs. Blake's sixth grade classroom at Hanna Elementary, I could scarcely keep my mind on schoolwork, as I dreamed of that night's coming adventures in the mountains. It seemed as though the night couldn't come quickly enough some days. The schools in Parma were buddied up that winter, in a thing they called split sessions. The arrangement was designed to save heating fuel, I guess. My friend and I were on the second shift, so we got out of school around six. I would deliver my paper route later than usual, get home and have dinner, with just enough time to head back out for the adventure.

The world was mine, and I was all set. Two layers of clothes, double socks inside my snow-boots, hat, gloves snorkel parka, and I was out the door to meet up with my best friend for a night's climb in the temporary mountains of Parma. Sometimes, we couldn't resist the temptations to throwing snowballs at cars in passing traffic.

We had the high ground, and nobody could ever see us in our fortress in the sky. A couple of times though, we were chased from our parapet, when things went wrong. It was the kind of harmless, even careless things that kids will do. One time, on a Saturday afternoon, we were photographed by a Cleveland Press photographer at the mounds. We were told that the pictures might make the paper. I remember my excitement as I looked for them to appear everyday for two weeks in The Press.

Fame was not to come that year, the pictures were never published. We had never seen snow piles that big before, Parma had never seen a winter quite like that before either. So many years have passed now, since those days of my youth. I am sure that many of us will never forget that terrible winter of 1977, and I know that I will never forget the power of those mountains in Parma.

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Parma Seniors

Helpful Hints for Nursing Home Donations

by Sharon Alexander

If you are like most of us, spring cleaning means some of your possessions will soon be donated to your favorite charity—a tradition that feels good and helps others at the same time. Yet when we part with our favorite stuff we want more than clean closets. We want it to be valued by the person who receives it. Here are some suggestions to help you decide which items would benefit your favorite nursing home and which ones would be more appreciated by another organization

Books. Large print books are best for older people. Even people who can normally read standard print may not feel well enough to enjoy a normal-sized book if they are in a rehabilitation unit for a short term stay before returning to their own homes. Paperback books with their tiny print would be most appreciated by a women’s shelter or an organization serving

younger people, while beautiful coffee table books would be a great contribution to any nursing home.

Magazines: New ‘zines in good condition are always welcome at nursing homes but please be sure they are less than three months old. Information in old magazines can confuse a person with dementia. This writer was thrown off balance momentarily when scanning a donated magazine with Tom Selleck on the cover and an article about Princess Dianna and her children inside. Try to imagine how confusing this would have been to a person struggling with memory impairment. It’s also a bit mean to donate a magazine with pages removed, however neatly you have cut out that coupon or torn out that recipe. All magazines you give to another person should be intact and free of coffee rings or corners that were chewed by your new puppy. After all, the main reason for giving the gift is

to brighten someone’s day.

Pianos and organs: Every few months our nursing home receives a phone call from someone who wants to donate a piano or an organ. “I will donate it for free but you will have to pick it up,” the caller says. On the surface this seems reasonable, but the issues are many. Sending a maintenance crew and truck to pick up a donated item means those associates won’t be on campus to meet residents’ needs. If a hallway light bulb needs to be replaced or an electrical circuit should be checked, knowledgeable associates must always be available. Maintenance staff are a critical part good care and need to be close by at all times. Sending them on an errand, even for a few hours, can create a hardship for a resident who might have to wait for them to return. Another issue is that most nursing homes have already accepted several donated pianos and organs, leaving no

room for more. You can always ask, but please don’t be offended if the facility cannot accept your generosity when you are giving larger items.

Medical supplies: The saddest calls we receive are from recently widowed people who want to donate unused medical supplies and medications. These products are expensive, and it is heartbreaking to have to tell people that we are prohibited by law from accepting these items. Some advocacy groups are working to have these laws changed but for now, there is no legal way in Ohio to transfer prescriptions from one person to another. Nursing homes may not accept open packages of medical supplies and even unopened packages can be a challenge if they are a product that associates are not trained to use. Sadly, the best thing to do with these things is to throw them away.

One item that is always welcomed at Mount Alverna Village on State Road in Parma may surprise you: clean, used plastic grocery bags. Mount Alverna uses these bags to dispose of incontinence products. It is an effective, efficient way to promote an odor free environment and clean bags are always needed. The Parma-Parma Heights Evening Kiwanis Club has collected these bags for Mount Alverna since the eighties, but the demand is great, and they will be joyfully accepted from anyone who wants to drop them off at the front desk.

When in doubt, call any charity before dropping off your unwanted goods. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District also publishes a terrific handbook called Pass It On, which lists all kinds of products from building materials to craft supplies along with the phone numbers of agencies that are most likely to want your gift. The book can be ordered by calling 216-443-3749.

Wandering Elderly Require Precautions

by Patty Knox

Recently, I received the following email:

Dear Alzheimer Annie,My mother is at the stage now where she wanders, any time of day or night. No matter how carefully I watch her, there are times while I am cooking, doing laundry or sleeping, that she may go out the front door, down to the basement, or up to the attic. Sooner or later, she’ll get disoriented and forget where she is and call for help. I’m so afraid she’ll fall or lock herself outside. The locks and the alarm on the front door don’t stop her. In case of a fire, I don’t want to restrain her or lock her in. What to do? Susan M., Seven Hills

Dear Susan,Visual cues have been proven to help in some institutional settings. For instance, an octagonal red stop sign on the back of the door often keeps an Alzheimer’s patient from opening the door. Years of driving earlier in life have ingrained caution in the memory, which lasts deep into the late stages. Make your own with cardboard and red spray paint, press on white stenciled letters. Another trick is using a black or navy blue bathroom rug in front of the door. To a person suffering from dementia, it appears to be a deep hole, which they most likely will not cross. While these techniques are not totally foolproof, they may work in your mother’s situation. But this stage is nerve-wracking, so I understand your concern. Get an engraved medical alert bracelet for your mother, in case she is found by someone else who wants to help her return safely home. There are many instances of those affected who can’t remember their phone number or where home is, and it is uncanny how quickly they can move when our back is turned for a minute! Be encouraged. On the last presidential election day, my Dad was bound and determined to get to the poll early and do his

patriotic duty as always. He woke up much earlier than usual, slipped out the door silently while I was asleep, walked outside without a coat toward the polling station at the end of the street, slipped when he was half a block away, fell, and was brought back by a kindhearted soul who knew who he was, thank God! Nothing was broken, but Dad was cold, scraped up and bruised. We were very fortunate. You have to do everything possible to keep your loved one safe. Since then, I have taken every precaution I hear of. Oh, and I did drive Dad up to the polls to cast his vote once I fed him breakfast! Being an Irish family, St. Patrick’s Day at the Noonan homestead is always celebrated by watching the parade and eating corned beef and cabbage. This has become problematic for Dad to chew and to keep from choking on, but he loves it and our annual meal is one thing he never forgets, so I stay right by him the entire meal and am up to date on CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, just in case. I also use the Crock Pot (those brave souls who prefer the pressure cooker can accomplish the cooking in a fraction of the time) to cook the corned beef and cabbage overnight, ‘til the meat is easily cut and shredded into short strands, and the cabbage and yellow onion slivers meltingly dissolve in the broth. Potatoes and carrots add more nutrition. The flavor of the corned beef is the thing Dad remembers. Shaved corned beef lunch meat just doesn’t satisfy Dad. Here’s our family recipe:

Irish-American Corned Beef & Cabbage 1 small bag pre-cut skinless baby carrots1 brisket pre-brined corned beef1 big yellow onion, chopped4 Yukon Gold potatoes, quartered (or 1 can drained small Irish potatoes) 1 small piece of peeled horseradish or ginger1 small cabbage, cored and chopped1 teaspoon mustard seeds1 pinch salt¼ teaspoon finely ground

black pepper½ teaspoon grated nutmeg1 teaspoon dried thyme or one large sprig fresh thyme1 teaspoon dried parsley or 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley. Place a layer of bite-size carrot pieces in bottom of a Crock-Pot. Rest corned beef brisket on top. Add vegetables, herbs and spices. Cover meat with water and set on low to cook overnight or all day (5 to 8 hours). Add more water after 5 hours if soup is desired. When corned beef is fork-tender, shred with fork. Before serving, discard horseradish or ginger piece and thyme sprig, if used. Make sure corned beef strands are sliced to bite-size for elderly or small children. Enjoy. And may you be blessed with health and good humor ‘til next St. Paddy’s Day!

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Getting Involved Has Never Been This Easy

by Brian O'Donnell

Right here, right now in the year 2010 with all the modern technology we possess, it has become increasingly harder to be lazy. This thought occurred to me while lying in a bed recovering from lower back surgery. My rehabilitation bed is hardly comfortable, as no bed would be after back surgery. I share this bed with a guitar, the television remote and my trusty laptop computer. I waste multiple hours each day just surfing the web, playing games and passing on forwarded emails. Recently I became involved with the Facebook culture.

For the purposes of this column I do not want to discuss Facebook. If you do not know what this phenomenon is simply ask a co worker or family member who uses Facebook for a quick primer. While engaging in this virtual society I stumbled upon a group called "I was a Parma kid". Again, for those not in the know, Facebook has personal pages for the individual and also group or community pages for people with some common interest or connection. I came across the "Parma kid" group and joined. The various posts were strangely comforting, provoking thoughts and memories of my childhood growing up in Parma. If you are on Facebook and you are (or were) a

Parma kid I suggest that you check out the page. But, as I stated previously, I am not here to write about Facebook.

Most of us at one time or another have felt like prisoners of the clock. Balancing career and family while trying to squeeze in some leisure time has left the majority of us longing for just a few more hours in the day. We would like to become more active in our communities. We wish we could let our voices be heard. We would like to make a difference, there just is not enough time. I work hard for a living in the construction industry. Sometimes the hours are long and the jobs can be dangerous. So the fact that I can not attend city council meetings or canvas door to door for my pet causes or my favorite politicians after working a eight, ten, or sometimes twelve hour shift hardly makes me lazy. Not volunteering at a homeless shelter or donating time to a church group does not make me apathetic. As much as I would like to get involved or do something to make my world just a little better, I just do not have the time. At least I did not think that I had the time. While laying in bed trying to take my mind off of the pain of my surgical incision, I was able to read, in its entirety, a proposed bill that may or may not be voted on and enacted into law by the Congress of

the United States. I was able to draft and send a letter to my elected representative urging a quick and decisive "yes" vote on this issue. The particular content of the bill is, for our purposes here, irrelevant. What is of utmost importance is the fact that I was able to accomplish all of this from my bed. No typing paper needed, no pen or pencil, no envelope, no postage stamps, no car, no burning of expensive fuel. Not too long ago any one of these elements could have been a potential roadblock effectively keeping me from my ultimate goal of getting involved.

On a more local level there is a great vehicle for getting involved. If you are reading this column you have it in your hands right now. The Parma Observer is a great source of news and information. The Observer is also a way for you to get involved directly with your community. The paper allows for anyone to write and submit opinions and information concerning the community in which we live. Perhaps you want to honor a group or individual in the tri city area. Maybe a club you belong to or an individual within the club has achieved a milestone. Any story is welcome. Maybe you are just proud to live in Parma (or one of its many surrounding cities) How about a favorite childhood memory? How

many residents and former residents might be moved by a tale of days gone by. Jot down your thoughts and submit a short opinion piece. Perhaps you feel strong opposition for a decision being made by our elected officials. What better way to get your "water cooler talk" to a larger audience. Your idea or opinion may be read by a councilperson, or perhaps the mayor himself. Your voice can be heard. Go to the website: www.Parmaobserver.com On the left hand side you can log in and follow the easy instructions for submitting material.

Now more than ever there is technology that allows one to become an active voice and positive force in society on a number of different levels. Even under the most adverse conditions the individual can make his voice heard. I urge all to become more actively involved in their own communities. In the midst of a very busy and very chaotic day, one may find a calming therapeutic effect on one's own personal life by sitting down for a few minutes and putting thoughts into words on paper (or a computer screen). You will definitely feel better getting these thoughts out and at the same time you can make a real difference right here in Parma. Now you can be socially and politically active without leaving your house. You can even do it from your bed.

Civic Journalism In The Age Of Financial Giants

by Margaret Brinich

Here at the Parma Observer, we leave the editorializing up to the community. We want the content to come from you, so we tend to just stay behind the scenes to make sure there is a paper every two weeks. The PO is designed to be a tool of community empowerment and our goal is to help anyone in the community to get their words into print. The paper exists to serve and inform Parma residents about their community- a noble cause to be sure (or at least we think so). But on Thursday, January 21st, 2010, an event transpired that threatens to alter the face of media across the country, a change so enormous, I can not even begin to understate the importance of civic journalism as we attempt to preserve some semblance of our democracy. This is not just a shameless plug to entice you to share your stories with the community by writing for the paper (although, I do highly encourage you to do so). Rather, I write to argue that we have hit a serious roadblock on the path to a more just, open, truly representative political process in this country and that you hold the key to defending and overcoming the newly unleashed, legalized version of corporately funded politicians with financially driven policy agendas.

The monumental decision to which I refer, affords corporations an unfettered right to spend money to promote their chosen candidates, and as a result, the politicians' policy decisions while in office. Ironically, the 5-4 decision handed down by the US Supreme Court hinged entirely on the first amendment right to "free speech." In effect, corporate entities are granted the same rights as an individual citizen to speak their preferences aloud and share them in the public sphere. Additional irony can be found in the



President Barack Obama's recent trip to Lorain Community College underlined the change in media. Almost half of the media covering the event came from non-traditional media projects. When George W. Bush ran for re-election, we had to explain to everyone what "civic journalism" was. Now the Observers are invited to most events.

majority's "free speech" argument, as in the case of corporations, their expressions of speech is anything but free. Although, the money will not be given directly to political campaigns themselves, corporations, unions, and other financial giants, are now allowed to shamelessly plug candidates and their pet issues, no matter what the cost. Coupled with their ability to finance massive independent advertising campaigns, these corporate entities also have access to TV, newspaper, magazine, radio and billboards at a level of ease most of us could never fathom.

As the corporations begin to exercise their right to "free speech," individual voters may find themselves grasping for

kernels of truth. In an age of media saturated lives, how are voters to be expected to choose between the constant pressure of corporate advertising campaigns and the rare advertisement promoting the little guy? With the help of constant repetition and high cost dramatic performances, these corporately funded campaigns bashing a candidate whose policy preferences may actually favor those of their constituents and thus challenge the company's financial interests, will undoubtedly influence the election results.

As mentioned earlier, a key piece of these high cost campaigns will actually involve no actual monetary transactions at all, i.e. accessibility. This is where you,

as citizens of Parma, as citizens of Ohio, as citizens of the USA, come into play. Parma is unique in that we already have a built in check to attempt to balance out these slippery slope scenarios that are likely to come to fruition sooner rather than later.

Enter - civic journalism.

In Lakewood and now Parma and a growing number of communities around Cleveland, the Observer remains an independently owned media company that depends entirely upon the community in which it is located for its content, administration and production process. The playing field is open to everyone, but only if you write it down. To some, the writing process is scary, to others, the thought of seeing their words in print and distributed to their friends and neighbors is nerve wracking. Regardless of what your concerns may be, remember that no matter what the response, you have added something to your community. You made the effort to stick your neck out and say something in a way that no one else could have ever expressed, or perhaps, in some cases, a sentiment that without you, would have never been expressed at all. You have started a dialogue and because of that, you have added a piece to the dynamic nature of the community around you.

To get involved, just access the Member Center (our online submission mechanism) by going to www.parmaobserver.com and clicking on the "Member Center" tab on the left-hand side. Creating a user name and password is as simple as providing your name and an email address. You will then be able to submit and receive credit (your name is associated automatically with any of your Member Center submissions) for both text and photos.