

# Parma Rocks - Ribs And Finds Idol!



Parma Area Idol, Angela Rocco

## Parma Mayor Receives Prestigious Award From American Legion

by Jack Marshall

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero has received the Red, White and Blue Award from the American Legion's 13th District representing all of Cuyahoga County. "I am both honored and humbled to receive what is considered to be one of the most prestigious awards of the American Legion," said Mayor DePiero. "It reflects our community's strong partnership with the American Legion and other veteran and civic organi-

zations across the region." According to the American Legion, the Red, White and Blue Award is presented to groups or individuals who provide a true spirit of patriotism and who are instrumental in supporting and showing by example patriotic leadership to area citizens. The award was presented by 13th District Commander Bob White. "The patriotism of which we speak has been put into action by Mayor DePiero," said Commander White. "The most recent example is the groundbreaking for Parma's soon-to-be-built VA Health Clinic on Brookpark Road that will serve thousands of veterans in need. The mayor was definitely instrumental in making that happen."

The award presentation to Mayor DePiero came during the organization's annual summer convention. Commander White says the American Legion's 13th District currently has approximately 8,500 members.



Parma Mayor Dean DePiero receives the prestigious Red, White and Blue Award from District 13 American Legion Commander Bob White.

by Lisa Zaremba

Celebrating the 20th Anniversary, guests at The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce 2010 Rib 'N Rock got the best of both worlds – food and music.

With 8 rib vendors competing for Best Ribs and Best Sauce along with a variety of entertainment and plenty of ethnic foods and specialties there was something for everyone.

The Festival started with a special live TV broadcast of "All Bets are Off" with Bruce Drennan, sponsored by Sports Time Ohio and COX. Entertainment-

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## Parma Walkabouts All About Neighborhood Safety

by Jack P. Marshall

Parma, Ohio has its own version of the Australian Walkabout. But the tradition in Ohio's seventh largest city is in stark contrast to the wilderness of the famed Outback. Parma's Walkabouts are all about safety and awareness.

Take, for example, a picture perfect early evening in Parma. The weather is ideal, neighbors are out cutting their lawns and the kids are providing some typically inexpensive entertainment by riding their bikes up and down the sidewalks. It may not be a contender for a Norman Rockwell look-a-like painting, but it definitely fits the bill for a snapshot of Americana. And then without warning, neighbors are distracted from their seasonal chores by a line-up of cars parking by the curb on Gabriella Drive.

There is an unexpected appearance of a Parma Police cruiser and a small parade of Parma Police, Parma Auxiliary Police. Parma city officials soon appear out of nowhere. Mayor Dean DePiero, Safety Director Gregory Baeppler and Parma Ward One City Councilwoman Mary Galinas are handing out flyers and whistles. They look as if they're walking



Parma City Councilwoman Mary Galinas chats with Police Captain Wayne Schmigel, Mayor Dean DePiero and neighbor Doris Norris

a beat. Mayor DePiero is wearing shorts. And the neighbors are smiling and shaking hands. So where are the blaring sirens and flashing lights? What the heck is going on? "Hi, I'm Mayor Dean DePiero," the mayor says to unsuspecting neighbor Doris Norris. "How are you tonight? We're checking on residents as part of our Safety Walkabout with Councilwoman Galinas. How are things in the neighborhood?" Mrs. Norris is pleasantly surprised by the entourage of the city's top brass. A police car cruises by as she gives Councilwoman Galinas an update on the Norris family, neighborhood events and her personal pride surrounding the

decades the Norris' have called Gabriella Drive home. "It's great to see you," says Councilwoman Galinas. "How are the kids? What have you been up to?" The scene is unique as is the purpose of those who strategically mobilized to this location at 5:30 p.m. sharp. Their on a mission that is seldom seen in cities across Ohio, not to mention the seventh largest city in the state. In reality, this is business as usual for Parma. It's that time of the year again – Safety Walkabouts in all nine Parma Wards – police and members of city council banging on doors and chatting with neighbors.

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## Silent Night

by Daniel P. McCarthy

For me, nothing is more exciting about the Fourth of July than seeing and hearing the fireworks; it is the perfect way to end such a great day. Now, of course I love the parades, and the picnics, but there is just something about the boom and flash of fireworks in the sky that causes me to remember that our country was founded not by peaceful arrangements

and heartfelt pleas for freedom, but more rather by a violent, unprecedented revolution, and fireworks are an indispensable symbol of that accomplishment. Let's face it, the fourth of July without fireworks is like Thanksgiving with no turkey, or Halloween with no candy, or Christmas without a Christmas tree! I am well aware that holiday fireworks are not a

necessity to a city as far as a budget is concerned. I have praised our city's leadership in past issues on their performance in getting the most from revenues in what few would argue is the most difficult economic time that most of us have ever lived through, and I stand by my remarks. I most certainly understand

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# Parma Observer

## Parma Walkabouts All About Neighborhood Safety

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They talk about safety and resident's concerns while the visitors and those living here make sure their streets stay safe, clean and user friendly.

For the past three years, Parma has been walking the walk, literally, in an up close and personal program started in 2007 by Mayor DePiero in cooperation with the Safety Director, Parma Police, Parma Auxiliary Police and members of Parma City Council.

Teams of two or three individuals start their door-to-door routine in early May, continuing every Wednesday evening through mid July – weather permitting. The aim is to talk with neighbors in all nine Parma wards. Each team is escorted by a member of the Parma Auxiliary Police Unit and a cruiser manned by auxiliary police officers.

Residents say they're impressed Mayor DePiero, police and members of city council would take time out of their personal schedules for a personal visit. The mayor responds by saying the positive reaction generates important public participation necessary for creating an even safer and more secure city.

"We tell our residents how to keep their streets safe while hearing about their concerns first-hand," said Mayor DePiero. "People tell it like it is, and quite frankly, discussions like this are both enjoyable and invaluable."

Folks like long-time resident Laverne Colombo have been right at



Parma City Councilman Sean Brennan talks to Bradley Avenue resident Nancy Nekoranec.

home on Gabriella since 1956. "I think this is wonderful," said Colombo. "I like the one on one with the city officials. It's a great reminder about safety, and it shows our city leaders are truly interested in our safety and concerns."

"I would say that the Walkabouts are a fantastic way for the safety forces, the administration and council to reach out to residents in a unified way," said Ward One City Councilwoman Galinas. "We demonstrate that we are working together to keep Parma one of the safest city in the country – and communication is key."

The scene changes to another Safety Walkabout on another relatively quiet Wednesday night. This one covers

a handful of streets including Bradley Avenue in City Councilman Sean Brennan's Ward Two. "This is just another example of their dedication to Parma and its residents," Brennan said, referring to Mayor DePiero, Safety Director, Baeppler, Police Chief Dan Hoffman and other participants. "There's no doubt this is another one of the reasons why we remain such a safe community."

Safety issues and other neighborhood concerns always top the priority list residents across Parma, including those in Ward Eight. Tonya Piper lives on Kelsey Road. She said she welcomes the Walkabout because of its high visibility approach on nights like this, when the norm for homeowners is cutting grass and keeping their yards neat and clean. Tonya admits she was shocked to see Mayor DePiero come knocking on her door.

"It's really cool," Piper said. "It's not every night you see your city leaders going door to door asking what's on

your mind. Meeting Mayor DePiero and sharing ideas and concerns is awesome. My husband and I agree it makes you realize these guys don't sit behind a desk all day. They really care about us."

"This program so unique and rewarding," said Ward Eight City Councilman Scott Tuma. "Residents know we can't solve all the problems all the time, but it's reassuring to them that we keep open the lines of communication in a very personal way."

The popularity of Parma's Safety Walkabout is universal among city council members. They're all on board when it comes to creating a major impact on community safety relations.

"The Walkabouts are a great way to stay in touch with our citizens," said Ward Six City Councilman Larry Napoli. "It reassures them of the commitment to their safety and well being."

"The Parma Safety Walkabout Program is a perfect example of the proactive philosophy that Mayor DePiero, his Administration and Parma City Council believe in," said Ward Four Councilman Brian Day. "It gives us the opportunity to touch base with our residents and address any issues or concerns they may have."

And the boss seems more than pleased with the reaction and results from the Parma Safety Walkabout over the past three years. He says the concept is part of the job, and then some.

"In all honesty, this is something we enjoy doing – we look forward to it," said Mayor DePiero. "Time is one of our most valuable commodities. Spending time with your neighbors, sharing good information and hearing their concerns is why we're here. It makes the Safety Walkabout well worth the effort."



Parma City Councilman Scott Tuma talks with Mayor Dean DePiero and Kelsey Road resident Tony Piper.

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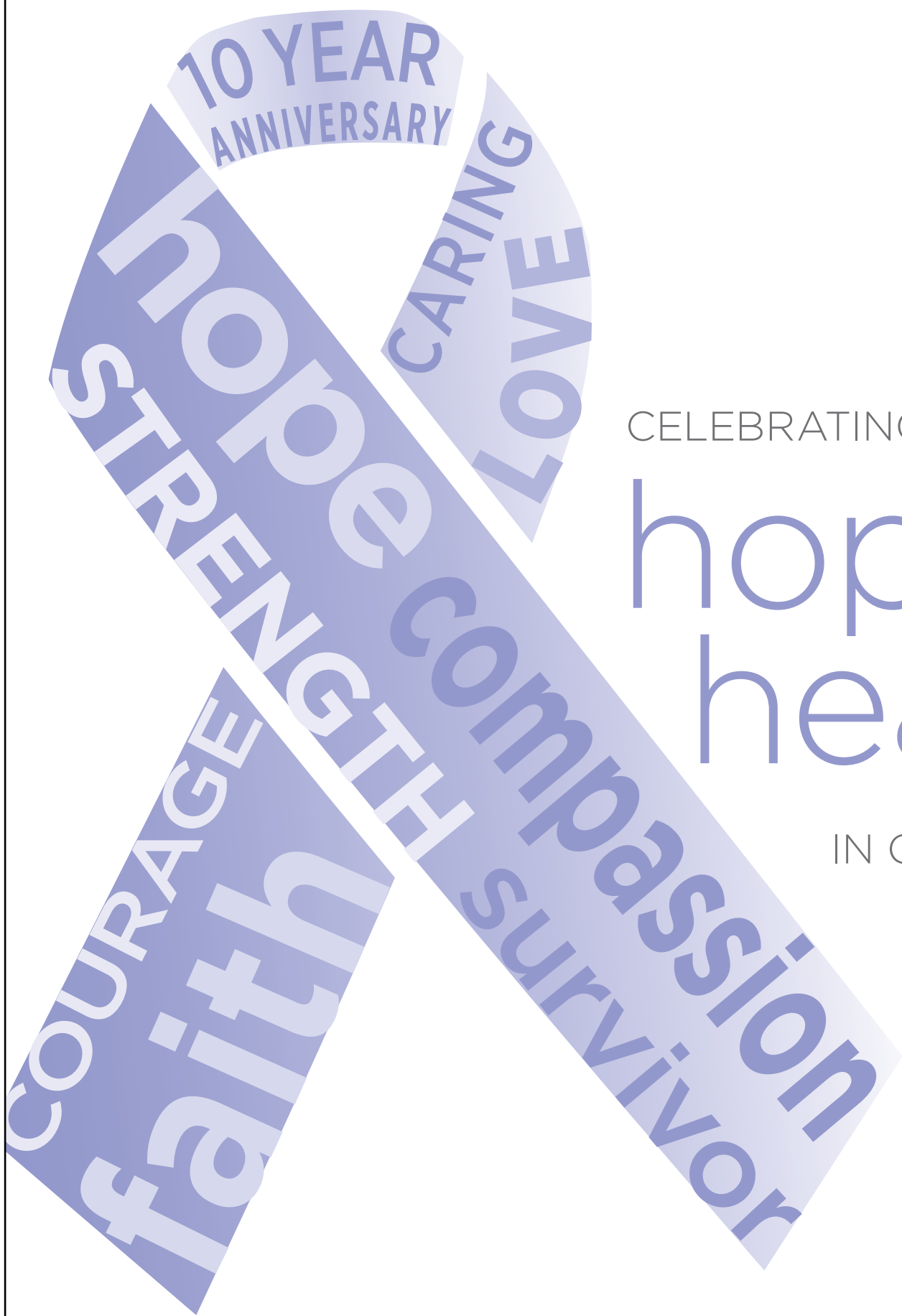
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Parma Health

# Kilt-Clad Doctor To Open Band Fest At Parma Community General Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Three local bands and a bagpipe-playing physician will present a lively, entertaining evening of music at Parma Hospital's Second Annual Band Fest on Friday, July 9.

The outdoor event brings together the diverse musical talents of longtime Parma Hospital employees in Pastoral Care, EMS, Creative Services and Cardiac Services, plus an opening act by a kilt-clad cardiologist with 25 years of experience caring for the hearts of area

residents. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Parma Community General Hospital Health Care Foundation's drive for improving the facilities of the hospital's nationally recognized Adult Day Services to better serve participants, their families and the community

"Last year, the Foundation helped sponsor Band Fest in gratitude for the creativity and generosity of employee donors," said Marcia Ferguson, the Foundation's executive director. "This event also created a model for 'Friends

of the Foundation' giving circles, where our supporters can bring their talents to bear for philanthropy that enriches the community."

Cardiologist James Sechler, MD, wearing a kilt and marching with his bagpipes, will kick off the festivities with a medley of Scottish dances and well-known songs like "Amazing Grace." While Dr. Sechler's medical expertise is well-known in the community, he debuts his musical prowess with his first Bandfest appearance.

The Top Cats, a five-member rockabilly band featuring The Rev. Jon Paulus on the upright bass, will play their special brand of vintage rock 'n' roll from the '50s and '60s. The hospital's director of Pastoral Care jams with his band to tunes by such artists as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Eddie Cochran and the Stray Cats.

The Dave Parsons Band, formed in 2001, will perform contemporary Christian rock with Marty Pytel, manager of Creative Services, on keyboards and EMS Education Manager Joe Toth on drums. The five-member band also covers songs by James Taylor, the Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. They currently have two CDs and are working on a third.

Second Time Around, with a rich and storied tradition of bringing classic rock to local fans since the 1970s, will complete the line-up. Cardiac Catheterization Lab Manager and bassist Steve Neylon started the four-man band decades ago with his brother, Dave. The group covers songs by power rock bands such as Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones and Journey.

"Band Fest 2010 is truly an employee grassroots event that raises funds for our Foundation's philanthropic support of Parma Hospital, and the managers whose bands are participating are playing for free," said Chief Nursing Officer Pam Falasco. "It's a fun, engaging event that contributes significantly to the Foundation. Talk to anyone who attended last year. We all had a blast!"

Band Fest 2010 takes place on July 9 from 5-9 p.m. outside the hospital's SurgiCenter, 6115 Powers Blvd. Tickets are \$8 if purchased in advance at the Healing Grounds coffee shop in the main lobby of Parma Hospital, and \$10 at the event. Each ticket includes one complimentary, non-alcoholic beverage. Beer, wine, pop and pizza will be sold at the event. Kids 12 and under are free. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and plan to have a rocking evening! In the case of inclement weather, the rain date is Friday, July 16.

## Joint Camp Awarded Certification From The Joint Commission

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital's Joint Camp has earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ for health care quality. The Joint Commission recently awarded Parma Hospital Disease-Specific Care Certification for total hip and total knee joint replacement. Parma Hospital is among seven hospitals in Ohio certified for these procedures.

To earn this distinction, a disease management program undergoes an extensive, on-site

evaluation by a team of Joint Commission reviewers every two years. The program is evaluated against Joint Commission standards through an assessment of a program's processes, the program's ability to evaluate and improve care within its own organization, and interviews with patients and staff.

"This certification means Parma Community General Hospital does the right things and does them well for joint replacement patients," says Jean E. Range, M.S.,

R.N., C.P.H.Q., executive director, Disease-Specific Care Certification, Joint Commission.

Many of Parma Hospital's total joint replacement patients participate in Joint Camp, a comprehensive program that begins up to six weeks before surgery to prepare patients for the adjustments necessary for a complete recovery. The voluntary program encourages active participation by patients and their "coaches," who attend these educational sessions.

"Parma Hospital voluntarily pursued this comprehensive, independent evaluation to enhance the safety and quality of care we provide," says Blane McCoy, MD, director, Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Parma Community General Hospital. "We're proud to achieve this distinction."

About The Joint Commission:

The Joint Commission – the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care – launched its Disease-Specific Care Certification program in 2002. It is the first program of its kind in the country to certify disease management programs. A list of programs certified by the Joint Commission is available at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

## Cardiologist To Present A Women's Heart Health Scorecard At June 28 Talk

by CJ Sheppard

Cardiologist Christine Zirafi, MD, will present an informative talk on women's heart health at an American Heart Association fundraiser on Monday, June 28.

"Women: Heart Health & Keeping a Score Card," covering topics such as hypertension, cholesterol and diabetes, will be presented to guests at a luncheon held from 1-2 p.m. in Parma Hospital's John A. Nelson Auditorium. Dr. Zirafi is Parma Hospital's medical director for Cardiac Catheterization Services and a recent

finalist in Crain's Cleveland Business Health Care Heroes for championing a Code STEMI process that has set records for a team approach to heart attack treatment.

The cost is just \$10 at the door, which will go toward research for education and prevention of heart disease at this fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Lunch will be provided by Pleasant Lake Villa, a Legacy Health Services Facility.

To reserve a spot at this insightful talk, call 440-743-4027.

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# Parma Schools



## Asset Corner #7

Developmental Assets – 40 individual assets in 8 Categories....

**July’s Asset Category:**  
**Constructive Use of Time**  
All work and no play can be boring and stressful....

The pace of everyday life varies depending on the activities young people participate in. These fluctuations are normal, even healthy. As long as young people don’t consistently have too much to do or not enough to do, they’re right on track. Problems arise when the balance begins to tip too far to one side or the other. Too much involvement can lead to stress or anxiety. Too little involvement can be a sign of depression or isolation. Ensure that young people constructively use their time for both fun and learning. Constructive Use of Time is one of eight asset categories that make up Search Institute’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 are more likely to grow up healthy when they have opportunities to learn new skills and interests through both struc-

tured and unstructured activities.  
Constructive Use of Time Assets include:  
#17 Creative Activates – Kids spend 3 or more hours/week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts.  
#18 Youth Programs – Kids spend 3 or more hours/week in sports, clubs or organizations at school and/or in the community.  
#19 Religious Community – Kids spend 1 or more hours/week in activities in a religious institution.



Pleasant Valley Elementary Annual Fishing Outing at Pine Hills G.C.

**Tips for building these assets:**  
Playing and spending time alone is important for everyone. But so is structured activity with other people. Help young people find the right mix by offering them a variety of choices: music, art, youth programs, and spiritual organizations that help them tap into their creative energy, provide new experiences, and teach new skills.  
**Also try this:**  
In your home and family: Periodically, take an “activity inventory.” Check

are stimulating and challenging; if they’re making friends with caring, thoughtful adults and peers; and if they’re learning new skills, and more about themselves.  
In your neighborhood and community group: Help create a safe, inviting place where young people can meet for clubs or other structured activities, or just hang out. For example a park, playground, or community center.  
In your school or youth program: Provide constructive before- and after-school programs for young people who would otherwise spend the time unsupervised.

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/assets](http://www.parmacityschools.org/assets) or [www.search-institute.org/assets](http://www.search-institute.org/assets) for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them.  
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Who are the Asset Builders in our community? Adding to our list of the many organizations, businesses and individuals working with & for our youth, is the very active partnership between Parma Hospital’s Adult Day Services Elder Center and Dentzler Elementary and Parma Area Rotary Club which. among other things, sponsors & coordinates an annual fishing outing at Pine Hills G.C. for 100+ students from Pleasant Valley Elementary School.

## Parma Scholarship Winners Announced

by Sean Brennan,  
Councilman Ward 2  
The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce their 2010 scholarship awardees. Each of the winners is a Parma resident who will receive \$1,500 from the Foundation to help begin his or her college career.  
Sophia Viglione, from Padua Franciscan High School, will be attending Baldwin Wallace College and is pursuing a career in Secondary English Education and will also be taking online courses through Dayton University pursuing a certificate in catechesis. Nicholas Boros, from St. Edward High School, will be attending Franciscan University of Steubenville and will be pursuing a career in Theology. Chad Radke, from Trinity High School, will be attending Kent State University and is pursuing a career in Architecture. Katy Rapnicki, from Normandy High School, will be attending Miami University and is pursuing a career in Pre-Medicine. Paul Martin, from St. Ignatius High School, will be attending Ohio State University and is pursuing a career in criminal justice. Finally,

LeAnne Kienast, from Bowling Green State University, will be in her sophomore year and is pursuing a career in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. Ms. Kienast was also one of last year’s recipients.  
“My father would be very proud of all of our winners again this year,” said Timothy Boyko, a Parma attorney and the son of Andrew Boyko. “I am positive that all of our recipients will continue to make all of Parma proud,” he added.  
The Scholarship Selection Committee, made up of Parma resident Michael McGinty, local attorney Paul T. Kirner, Assistant Superintendent of Parma City Schools Tina Dincklocker, as well as Dave Nedrich and Patricia Moore of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, completed the process of awarding the scholarships in a blind fashion. “I am very proud of the hard work of the members of the Selection Committee,” said Sean Brennan, a member of the Foundation Board and Parma Councilman. Brennan added, “They had a tough job, as all of the students who applied this year were very well qualified, but completed it in a timely and fair manner.”  
The City of Parma Andrew Boyko

Memorial Scholarship Foundation was created in 2006 by the Board of Trustees, which includes President Timothy Boyko, Dr. Jeffrey Boyko, Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck, and Parma Councilman Sean Brennan. The Foundation was created in memory of Andrew Boyko – a Parma resident who served the Parma community for over thirty years as a municipal judge, law director

and assistant prosecutor. The Scholarship Foundation was established in an effort to assist high school seniors who are residents of the City of Parma planning to further their education and is funded by private donations only. Those interested in making a donation may send checks, payable to the City of Parma Scholarship, to 6741 Ridge Rd # 102, Parma, Ohio 44129 or call (440) 886-3800 for more information.

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# Parma Civic Groups

## St. Charles Borromeo Homecoming Carnival

by Sean Brennan

St. Charles Borromeo Parish, 5891 Ridge Road, Parma, will hold their 78th annual summer carnival from Wednesday, July 14 through Sunday, July 18, 2010. Carnival hours will be 6:30 - 11:00 pm. This year's carnival will once again begin with a kick off parade. The parade will take place on Wednesday, July 14, at 6:00 pm and will proceed north from the historic Parma Circle to the new St. Charles Wilber Avenue parking lot. The theme of this year's parade is "Honoring Parma's Veterans." In fact, all of Parma's veterans are invited to serve as the marshals of the parade. Other groups participating include the Parma Safety Forces, dads

and daughters from the Ridgewood YMCA Adventure Princesses group, Friends of the Parma Libraries, vehicles from the Parma General Motors Plant, as well as several local officials, among many other groups and individuals.

This year's carnival will feature much from the past and many new attractions, including great food, a children's area, an ice cream tent, a Texas Hold 'Em room, instant bingo, a Guitar Hero Booth, and a 3-point shoot-out contest. An International Village will include food selections from Parma's own Antonio's Restaurant, Chuppa's Markerplace, Das Schnitel Haus and The Little Polish Diner. There will also be a wine tent featuring Ohio's fine

wines. An old-fashioned roast beef dinner will be served from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Saturday.

The entertainment schedule is as follows: Wednesday – Brigids Cross, Thursday – Tom Mroczka and The Music Box, Friday – Shout!, Saturday – Beatles Cover Band, The Liverpool Lads, and Sunday – The New Barleycorn.

Raffle tickets are being sold for a fully loaded 2010 Chevrolet Malibu LS, a 30-year roof from Second to None Roofing and a seven-night Caribbean Cruise by The Travel Connection. Free admission to all and good family fun!! For information about the carnival or to participate in the parade, please call Sean Brennan at (440) 884-0489.

## Parma Celebrates Christmas in July

by Jack Marschall

It's that time of the year again. Parma Mayor Dean DePiero is organizing a major food drive to benefit the Parma Hunger Center. The community effort will continue from now until July 4th. The third annual program officially ends with what has now become a traditional food collection at Parma's July 4th parade. This year's parade will be held on Saturday, July 3rd at 10 a.m. Residents are being encouraged to bring

nonperishable canned and boxed food items to the parade that can be handed to members of CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. "The reality of our tough economic times speaks for itself," said Mayor DePiero. "We all know countless people are desperate and in need around the country, many of them right here in our own community. We're obligated to step up and take care of our own, and this is one of the best ways we can offer to help." Food



Food donations to the Parma Hunger Center are collected along the parade route by a Parma Service Director employee and volunteers accepting non-perishable food items from local residents.

## City of Parma Tennis Registration

by Jane Regas

The City of Parma will be conducting tennis lesson registrations on the following dates:

- \* Tuesday, July 6th and Wednesday, July 7th from 7:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
- \* Registrations are held @ the Recreation Dept. in Parmatown
- \* Prices per session (3 weeks) - \$25.00
- \* 6 years of age and up.

Days and times for the sessions are Monday/Wednesday afternoon or evening or Tuesday/Thursday morning. All classes are at the Veterans Memorial Tennis Courts. For further information please contact the Recreation Department @ 440-885-8144.

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St. Charles Parade

collection boxes donated by Welch Packaging will be placed at Parmatown Mall, Parma/Parma Heights County Library Buildings, Parma City Hall, the Parma Justice Center, the Donna Smallwood Activities Center, Parma Community General Hospital, Ridgewood YMCA on Ridge Road and the western campus of Cuyahoga Community College. A portion of food collected at Tri-C and the Parma Heights Library will be donated to the Parma Heights Food Pantry. Residents can also drop-off non-perishable boxed or canned food items at the Parma HungerCenter, 5280 Broadview Road. It is operated by an all-volunteer staff at Parma LutheranChurch, serving residents in Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn Heights and Seven Hills. "The summer food drive by the City of Parma always comes at a time when we need it the most, said Parma Hunger Center co-director Arch Stevenson. "Our donations always drop during the summer months, but our work never ends because hunger never takes a vacation." Organizers say The Parma Hunger Center's total distribution has been overwhelming, increasing by about 40 percent in

2009 from the previous year. So far in 2010, demand has risen by another 12%, keeping the Center on par to serve more than 35-hundred families that represent nearly 13,000 individuals. Food distributed by the Parma Hunger Center is obtained through cash and food donations and the Cleveland Foodbank, serving more than 450 regional hunger centers a six county coverage area. Last year, the Foodbank distributed more than 20 million pounds of food. Parma residents and other northeast Ohio donors help to provide enough food to serve more than 15 million meals to hungry individuals in our community. But typically, the demand is far greater than the supply of donated food. "What we're doing is pulling together as a community to lend a hand," said Mayor DePiero."Ultimately, that best defines community. This is the least we can do for our neighbors in need." The Parma Hunger Center has been serving the area for nearly forty years. Food is distributed on Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning. For more information on assistance criteria, call the Parma Hunger Center at 216-351-6376.

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# Parma Safety Fair

## A Teaspoon Of Sand

by Natalie Smollen

When I watch the news at night, it's just one story after another about how terrible things have become. It seems as though the scales have tipped the wrong way. I know the problems that humanity is facing can seem overwhelming. A good friend of mine told me once that if everyone gave just one teaspoon of sand, the scale would eventually tip the other way. Whether it is his quote or from someone else, he's right, and it has stuck with me ever since. I know we're a society that wants everything yesterday, but nothing happens overnight. It takes time for the good to build up, just like it took time for us to get into the pickle we're in now. So I'm asking everyone to bring their teaspoon to the scale. There are many little things we can do in our community to help the good build up a little bit faster. I began by putting small bins in the kitchen for glass, plastic & aluminum. I put the biodegradable stuff in a compost bin out in the yard. This spring I used that compost to plant a

vegetable garden. Now, not only are the plants making oxygen, but I also have fresh, chemical-free produce. My next step is to put in a rain barrel. For more info on those visit the West Creek Preservation Committee's website at [www.westcreek.org](http://www.westcreek.org). The smallest acts can make the difference. If you see that fast food bag on the ground five feet from the trash can, and I'm sure that's not an unfamiliar sight to many of you, put it in the can. Don't flick your cigarette butts out the window of your vehicle. Get into the habit of not littering up your city. Plant your own "teaspoon" garden. Even if it's just a few flowers. The bees will thank you and your neighbors by pollinating the state's crops and gardens. Walk to the corner store for your paper or milk rather than hopping in the car. It's good for you, your wallet, and the environment. Patronize a local small business and spread the word. Encourage others to do the same. We have a great opportunity with the Parma Observer for our voices to be heard. So



use it. Share some of your ideas on other things we can all do to make our community a better place. Visit their website at [www.parmaobserver.com](http://www.parmaobserver.com). When we start doing the small stuff, we'll begin

to see that things aren't as bleak as some would like us to believe. It really does start with each one of us, things won't be fixed if we're not willing to try.

## What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The family is the very foundation upon which Society rests. It is the first and often the only place where children are nurtured, loved and accepted for what they are, in an environment where they can learn principles and values that will help equip them for adulthood. Children can sense when family comes first and this will bring out the best in them. They thrive when parents exercise strong leadership; this tells them they are loved and thereby more receptive to instruction and guidance.

Children's minds are like sponges, absorbing whatever touches them. For better or worse, everything a child them experiences in those formative years stays with them for the rest of their lives. Some people speculate that half of what people learn about living happens during the first six years of life. How difficult is it to remove stains from a sponge?

Parents are the first and most influential teachers their children will ever have. Informal learning takes place in the home through experience and example. "Train (instruct) your children in

the way they should go, and when they are old (grown) they will not turn (stray) from it." (Proverbs 22:6) If they choose to do otherwise later in life, chances are they will return to the original, learned behavior. Whatever children learn in the home, RIGHT or WRONG, tends to remain with them throughout life. They will insist that whatever they learned is right even when it is wrong. It is very difficult for them (and us) to change.

Many modern cultural trends continue their devastating effect on the family: unhappy marriages, rising divorce rates, absent fathers, working mothers, the negative impact of increased television viewing, increased promiscuous sex, more single-parent households and unwed couples, violent crime up, test scores down, increased use of drugs and alcohol, millions of school-age children home alone after school, increased depression and suicide, accessibility of pornography to young children via the Internet, life without restraints, situational ethics replacing long-standing moral virtues, the need for emphasis on immediate gratification- and the list goes

on. Many kids are going off the deep end because their parents are not there to stop them, or choose not to.

History is filled with great civilizations that have come and gone, all experiencing moral decay from within. Historian Edward Gibbon (1737-94) listed five major causes for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire:

• The rapid increase of divorce: the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.

• Increasingly higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

• The mad craze for pleasure: sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

• The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.

• The decay of religion- faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming less important to guide the people.

History does not document one civilization that survived without a

dominating number of morally strong families. How would you rate the moral state of America today?

Parenting is one of the greatest challenges most adults will ever encounter. This is the first time in history that parents are no longer the main influence in child rearing; they must compete against the entertainment/advertising industry, television, Internet, research studies, and surveys. The amount of time, effort, and sacrifice (often unappreciated until later) required for children's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs (especially by mothers) are beyond one's imagination, unless you are a parent.

The opposite, however, is just as true. The parenthood experience is one of life's most gratifying and rewarding accomplishments. Nothing is more satisfying than seeing your grown children living independent, constructive and responsible lives. Animals leave their young only to get food and water and when their young are grown, they force them from the nest. Their job is done. No looking back. No guilt feelings. No regrets. Life moves on. In the human experience, the short-lived sacrifices parents need to make are more than worth the price.

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Parma Life

# Any Danger, Any Time

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The Southwest Enforcement Bureau Bomb Unit is part of a multi jurisdictional law enforcement agency encompassing several suburban police departments, Parma's being one of them. The story of how Parma's police department became part of the Southwest Enforcement Bureau is, like many stories concerning the beginnings of public institutions, an interesting tale of lessons learned over time. So often, one particular occurrence causes a moment of clarity which results in a profound change being implemented. Such was the case, when in 1987, as Captain Schmigel tells it, a bank robbery suspect in Parma left behind a briefcase which he told everyone contained a bomb. Having no way of knowing whether this claim was true or not, police at the scene were not quite sure how to proceed. After some debate, a veteran "old school" officer decided to attach one end of a rope to the handle of the briefcase, with the other end tied to the rear bumper of a police cruiser. He then proceeded to pull it with the car until something happened, like maybe a huge explosion! (let's face it, this sounds like something in a skit from the Big Chuck and Little John show). When there was in fact no explosion, the officer did what Captain Schmigel says today would never be done, and that is, he opened the case to look inside. Fortunately, the claim of the bank robber turned out to be a lie, and no one was injured.

All too apparent to key members of the Parma Police Department was that our city needed a policy concerning incidents involving the threat of explosives, and even more importantly, our city needed a trained squad of officers that could capably deal with such situations in a swift, safe, and effective manner. Captain Schmigel was one of the first officers sent for training in Huntsville, Alabama. When the training was completed, what the city discovered was that we would need to provide a certain minimal level of equipment and support in order to meet the standards of the bomb unit training, which was simply too expensive, even for a city of our size. That is when the decision was made to join the Southwest Enforcement Bureau, which had been formed in the 1970's. The city also learned that a police department had to combine all of it's special units into the Southwest Enforcement Bureau, not just it's bomb squad.

As far as I've been told, the unit has just gotten better and better ever since; all of the participating cities have officers trained in the areas of expertise that one would expect to see as far as SWAT and Bomb Squads are concerned. Wherever an incident occurs in the affected area, the member officers are summoned to a central location where they quickly assemble. Their equipment is waiting for them,

and they waste no time deploying rapidly in order to face whatever challenge that may be presented. The reason that they are so confident is that they are constantly trained in the use of the very latest techniques and devices, and they are drilled on their knowledge of this material relentlessly. They are taught that a person doesn't really rise to the occasion, but more rather falls back to their level of training.

This brings me to my personal involvement with this unit- I was invited by Franco Lanza, the Unit Commander, to an "undisclosed location" in order to witness a training session that involved blowing up a car, and then carefully processing the "crime scene". Of course I would never miss a chance to see something like that, so I made the journey to the site, found the unit, and before long they were preparing the auto for destruction. Really, it wasn't a bad looking car at all, and I offered to substitute it with mine at the last second, but they declined. After the necessary preparations, there was a countdown, and the classic "fire in the hole" was yelled. What followed was a shocking explosion, which although expected, was still very unnerving. To actually see a car blown to pieces will make you realize just what a dangerous job this really is, if that wasn't abundantly clear already. The devastating aftermath was truly something to behold, and I took many photos of the unbelievable wreckage. The unit in training approached the smoldering aftermath as it would an actual crime scene, and it was quite impressive to watch the procedures associated with this. They find the farthest bit of debris, and that is where they extend the familiar yellow crime scene tape to. Further procedures will have to be left to your imagination, as for obvious reasons, I am declining to disclose them here.

In light of recent events in Times Square, and the all-too-frequent occurrences in other notable places, the importance of training and increased preparedness in order to deal with this sort of situation cannot be overstated. I for one hope that we never need the specialized services of this unit, but if we ever do, I am extremely confident that this unit is in the highest state of readiness, and it is good to know that they are always doing more and more training, so that they are prepared to face any danger, any time.

Go to our website at [www.parmaobserver.com](http://www.parmaobserver.com) to view a video of this controlled bomb explosion.



# Christmas In July Is Almost Here

by Ruth Teper

Parma Area Relay for Life is just around the corner – Friday, July 23 from 1:00 p.m. through July 24, 7:00 a.m. The theme this year is Christmas. Come and join in the fun and excitement to combat cancer. Opening ceremony is at 5:00 on July 23 at the CCC Western Campus, 11000 Pleasant

Valley Road, Parma, OH. After the opening ceremony survivors and their caregivers will take the first lap around the track and then have dinner. There will be a contest for the best costume. Entertainment is by Stelvis and the Graceland Band. The Luminary walk will be at 9:00 p.m. and if you have never seen a Luminary walk it will blow

you away. All survivor names and those we have lost will be projected on a campus building while the names are read. Other contests for the evening will be best tent decorations, best banner and the introduction of Ms. Relay. Come and enjoy an evening of fun and entertainment and help raise a lot of money for a great cause.

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# Parma Outdoors

## Parma Rocks - Ribs And Finds Idol!

Continued from page 1

ment coordinator Michael Zaremba brought together an outstanding line-up. The main stage featured such acts as the Girls Band, the Brothers Blues, Fayrewether, who played to a sold out crowd, Ted Riser, and Come Together and let's not forget the Honky Express Polka Band.

On Sunday, the winners of the rib competition were announced. Taking the Best Ribs award was Texas Pit BBQ and the Best Sauce award went to Two Fat Guys BBQ.

One of the high-lights of the Rib 'N Rock has become the "Parma Area Idol" contest. This year, sponsored by Steele-Kidd State Farm, Dairy Queen

– Ridge Rd., Tri-C / Western Campus, and Buffalo Wild Wings, 30 talented singers came out to compete for the title of Parma Area Idol. Contestants were narrowed down to 5 finalists and the Parma Area Idol was announced as 19 year old Angela Rocco from Parma and runner-up was 19 year old De'Andre Peterson from Garfield Heights. The Parma Area Idol, Angela Rocco received a prize of \$200 and will begin recording a demo CD at Advanced Audio Design Studio. She will also make special appearances at other Parma area events.

It is because of the support from sponsors such as Parmatown Mall, Brunswick Auto Mart, Parmatown Spinal & Rehab, Mueller Family,

SCENE Magazine, Coke, Giant Eagle, Bud Light, COSE, and Best Buy that the Parma Area Chamber is able to bring this annual event to Parma.

The success of this event could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of the commit-

tee members, co-chaired by Dave and Scott Smallwood, and the countless volunteers. As Chamber Director, I am proud to say we all worked very hard to bring a fun, entertaining and quality event to the community and show visitors to the festival that Parma Rocks!



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# Parma Observer

## Joe The Coach: My View On Sports

by Joseph Finding

It's tough trying to find a spot to start this week. My wife and I have been following the college "Girl's N.C.A.A. College Fast Pitch Softball World Series". These games are great, and more entertaining than any fast pitch hardball over-hand games. We are getting set to watch the first game of the final three game series between U.C.L.A. VS ARIZONA. This should be great; anytime I can get my wife to watch a sporting event is a miracle, even being married to a coach for nearly 50 years.

My next concern is LeBron James; well actually I really don't care. I think

that he would be much better off if he stayed here. I guess getting rid of Coach Brown was okay, but I hope it's wasn't by the urging of LeBron. They need a coach who will take a firm stand with all, and is not swayed by the players. As for Danny Ferry, I am sorry to see him go. Danny is a great G.M. and I am sure another team will pick him up. As I said before, the Cav's just quit; why, I wish I had an answer.

It's time to get down to our local problems, and that is a failed school levy, and how does it affect our kids. I understand from talking to people in the system that it will be placed on the ballot in September. How will it

fare, and if it does pass, when would the monies be available? Not right away, I am sure. What do we do and how are some things going to be handled? These are questions that should be asked of the Board of Education. I did some probing on my own and asked one of the Athletic Directors at one of the three High Schools, and I will share with you what he told me. I will not mention his name or school because he would not be able to handle all of the questions and phone calls he would receive. The following remarks are what I got from him:

"Hi Joe"

Sorry I didn't get back to you sooner. I have been swamped this week with the usual end of the year stuff... plus we decided to not use Byers Field for soccer games, so I had to redo the schedules for B/G J V and Varsity soccer games this week. We will save over \$28,000 at each school by not playing soccer at Byers Field...what a crime. All custodial overtime costs.

The B.O.E. has implemented total self-funding for every sport. When people say they should cut sports...well they already did! The B.O.E. isn't paying for them at all...they are just allowing the

families to pay for them. The families and programs are paying for all salaries...coaches,AD's,trainers,athletic secretary... all busing...all building/custodial costs."

Varsity Football is \$48,295 with JV being \$20,184...we definitely won't be able to afford a freshman team." END HIS QUOTE.

As I said, this is a quote from one AD. We talked mostly about football, but what about the total picture. Band, cheerleaders, security, ticket takers, pom-pom girls, flag lines, cross country, homecoming, soccer; this list could go on and on. How will it affect the academics total picture? How about choir, theater, orchestra, special, academic talent classes, etc.? If it weren't for sports and all these other activities, I would never have gotten my 4-year football scholarship.

WHAT ARE YOU AND I GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS SITUATION? SEARCH DEEP INTO YOUR FEELINGS AND GET INVOLVED. I GUESS THE OHIO SUPREME COURT DOESN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED.

Questions or comments? coach-joe61@cox.net

## Savvy Salon

by Brandie Shackelton

Looking for a salon where you can receive professional service at a reasonable price? Search no more. Savvy Salon is Parma's best example of a chic and stylish hair salon. The company has undergone many changes since it first opened its doors about 4 years ago. It's new management, new interior decor and new pricing make Savvy an incomparable salon.

Savvy Salon's experienced and dedicated staff ensures that customers leave happy and confident with any service. Your stylist will create a unique look that compliments your lifestyle and enhances your image. The staff will also recommend a product that will best fit your needs. Haircuts, waxing, makeup application and various color services are offered. Savvy also has a reception service that is available Monday through Saturday to take appointments!



dent, beautiful and ready to begin the big day. Savvy also offers off site appointments for bridal parties within a reasonable distance from the spa.

Other various events that can be housed at Savvy are candle parties, Pampered Chef parties, and make-up parties.

Without exception, Savvy Salon will provide you with great service at prices you can't beat!

Savvy Salon is located at 5784 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio. Open Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit the website at [www.thesavvysalon.com](http://www.thesavvysalon.com) or call Savvy Salon at (440) 842 - 6256.

There is also variety of high quality products available here including, Aquage, Joico, BedHead, and ISO. Occasionally, Savvy will hold special promotions that you can take advantage of upon visiting the salon. By becoming an exclusive member of the Savvy Loyalty Reward Club, you can earn "Loyalty Points" which will add up to nothing but savings!

In addition to full salon services, Savvy also offers customers the opportunity to use the salon for bridal parties! Savvy proudly boasts a large and tastefully decorated section of the salon for this purpose. The bride and her bridesmaids are welcome to enjoy a delectable catered breakfast and full access to dressing rooms for the entire bridal party. Airbrush makeup and stunning up-dos will have the bridal party leaving the salon feeling con-

## Chapter 4229 AARP

by Marge Ritner

Among the active senior groups in Seven Hills is Chapter 4229 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). This is an organization comprised of men and women 50 years of age and over who like being involved in civic projects and want to keep abreast of national and local happenings. They help with many of the projects going on in the city such as passing out flags during the Memorial Day Parade. They donated a protective vest to the Seven Hills Police Department for Rocky (the police dog). They help out at the annual Health Fair put on by the city, and during their meetings, donate to an area Hunger Center. They also sponsor a youth baseball team, but there is

also a fun side to being a member of this AARP Chapter; there is a picnic in the summer and a Christmas party during the holidays, along with socializing before the monthly meetings. In October the group hosts their annual card party which is always a huge success. Our meetings are held in the Community Room of Seven Hills City Hall on the 3d Tuesday of every month. A light lunch is served, and there is a speaker on a topic of interest to seniors - always a learning experience. For more information on this group and membership, call Al Lesti at (440) 842-0169. New members are always welcome, and we do have members from surrounding communities. So feel free to come as a guest and check us out.

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# Parma Business

## Small Businesses Fuel Our Economy

by Bill DeMarco

As I was driving through my old town, Parma Heights, I was looking at the buildings and businesses and started reminiscing how it appeared 9 years ago. I lived in Parma Heights most of my life. Our family moved out in July of 2001, but still come back for family and friends, and for the businesses in town. For some reason during this drive, I found myself paying more attention to the business landscape. I saw new businesses and old ones, but what was upsetting to me was that there were many vacant buildings and establishments that formerly had been thriving small businesses.

Of course, given our current economy with over 10% unemployment, one would expect to see this throughout the United States. Still it's heartfelt when you see it in your own home town. Unfortunately, in a down economy, we seem to be pressed to cut expenses in business and in life. We tend to get caught up in searching for only price and not value when shopping. That's why the large discount companies like Walmart are growing. But is saving a few bucks saving our economy? Is the product or service at the lowest cost truly a good safe value? I don't believe so. Just listen to the news when it comes to product recalls and lead tainted toys. How about that great service! What service? You are lucky to find someone who is informative or even cares about you when trying to make an educated purchase. If you are among the 10% unemployed or are struggling to put food on the table, then Walmart is a great choice, because you really have no choice but to go for only price. But the 80 to90 percent that have good jobs, you have a choice to patronize the small business. I believe more often than not, the small business will offer the best value for your money and will save our economy. But don't take my word for it, here is what The Small Business Administration had to say:

The Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced the top 10 reasons to love small business, what the SBA's Office of Advocacy calls "the heart of the American economy."

10. Small businesses make up more than 99.7% of all employers.
  9. Small businesses create more than 50 percent of the non-farm private gross domestic product (GDP).
  8. Small patenting firms produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large patenting firms.
  7. The 22.9 million small businesses in the United States are located in virtually every neighborhood.
  6. Small businesses employ about 50 percent of all private sector workers.
  5. Home-based businesses account for 53 percent of all small businesses.
  4. Small businesses make up 97 percent of exporters and produce 29 percent of all export value.
  3. Small businesses with employees start-up at a rate of over 500,000 per year.
  2. Four years after start-up, half of all small businesses with employees remain open.
  1. The latest figures show that small businesses create 75 percent of the net new jobs in our economy.
- The SBA's Office of Advocacy, the "small business watchdog" of the government, examines the role and status of small business in the economy and independently represents the views of small business to Federal agencies, Congress, and the President. It is the source for small business statistics presented in user-friendly formats and it funds research into small business issues. Source: U.S. Small Business Administration]
- Since people who own and operate their own business take "pride" in their work, it is common for their quality and efficiency to be much higher. In many cases small businesses are known for providing their customers personalized and customized high-quality products and services. If you had to pay \$80 per hour to have your computer serviced by IBM, but you knew a small business owner could do the same job for \$25 per hour, you'd be more than happy to pay the small business the \$25. So the next time you are in need of a product or service for your company, or for you and your family, consider your options from a small business. You will find a much

better value from someone who really cares about your satisfaction and you will be improving our economy.

Bill DeMarco, Remembered Expressions, Ph. 440-236-6282, Email bill@rememberedexpressions.com.

## First Time Is A Charm



by Craig Czepczynski

As I am forever seeking out new experiences with food and restaurants, Charm Thai in Parma has become a family favorite. Located at 7426 Broadview Rd near Giant Eagle, this place is a winner. Operating out of what once was a tavern, the space has been transformed into a beautiful Thai restaurant with a Sushi bar that is very unique to the area. Upon walking in, you can feel the tranquility through the authentic

decor. Shades of burgundy, mustard yellow, olive green and midnight blue are accompanied by beautiful artwork and accents. This warm vibe instantly greets you and says "relax and enjoy.... you have arrived." The food is authentic and fresh as all dishes are made to order. This is apparent in both flavor and presentation. Each dish reflects attention to detail and quality. The plate is the canvas to the Chef's work as each menu item appears to be a work of art. Flavor does not lack at Charm Thai and it is important to note that the balance of ingredients is spot on. The Sushi bar is also very good which makes Charm Thai a destination location (sorry Giant Eagle!) While waiting for my carry out, I've enjoyed perching over the granite counter top watching ESPN and peeking at the Sushi Chef working his magic while sharing golf stories with the wait staff. It is quite a buildup to a delicious dining experience. The cleanliness is second to none and the staff is courteous and attentive. (I unknowingly left my sunglasses on a recent visit only to have them handed to me a week later while picking up a "to go" order..... Thank you) Dishes can be ordered with three degrees of heat (spicy, not warm!) I enjoy the Pat Pong with 2 stars of heat. Try this gem of a restaurant, you will not be disappointed.

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# Parma Observer's Back Page

## 4th Silent Night

what a difficult decision it is to cancel such a popular event as holiday fireworks, for the second year in a row. My question is, how do other cities that are smaller than us still manage to provide their citizens the luxury of holiday fireworks, and what options do we as citizens of this community have to do something about it?

As I understand it, in the past, private donations from businesses have actually paid for the fireworks themselves, with the expense to the city being

that of overtime pay for the police, fire, and other city workers needed to make sure that safety is maintained throughout the event. The cost of this expense ranges from between \$10,000-\$30,000. The way that I see it, if we are to find the missing funding needed so that the fireworks can go on, there are two distinct options up front:

1. Ask the businesses who have so generously donated money to pay for the fireworks in the past to see it in their hearts to donate just a little bit

more so that the full amount necessary is available for the show to go on.

2. As citizens of a city with more than 80,000 residents, surely we can raise the money amongst ourselves. If everyone gave just one dollar each, that would be more than enough to cover the costs associated with the security of this event; let's be honest, that would be enough to cover the cost of the entire affair, most likely.

I am not saying that I know exactly what to do about making sure that next

July Fourth is not another silent night, but I'm suggesting that if the citizens of Parma care about having fireworks on the Fourth of July, then they should come forward and contribute whatever they feel is necessary to move the effort forward to make sure that the goal of having fireworks in our city on the next Independence Day is accomplished. What does that mean exactly? It means that during these challenging economic times, we cannot always rely solely on our government to ensure that each and everything we enjoy in a free nation is provided using public money. Since the fireworks themselves have been paid for in the past by donations from private businesses, we scarcely noticed. But now, when finances in the city are tight, suddenly the extra money that is needed to pay for the safety part of the fireworks show has become an issue.

If the businesses in our community that have been so generous as to finance most of the cost of the fireworks feel that it is worth it to contribute enough to make up the difference, I'm sure that the people in our community would be ever so grateful. If helping any further financially is just not possible, then I believe it is necessary for the people themselves to take the responsibility of raising the money, most likely by setting up a fund whereby people can contribute as much as they can afford. Remember, if only half of our citizens in Parma contributed just one dollar, the amount raised would be approximately \$40,000.

As I said, I don't know all of the details of what it would take to get this done, for instance, what would the legal issues be, if any, concerning the raising of private funds to pay for services normally paid from the city's budget, but I remain convinced that there must be someone who knows how to navigate our way through the process so that we can achieve the goal of ensuring a fireworks show next year in Parma. I just feel deeply that the citizens of the seventh largest city in the state shouldn't have to become fireworks refugees, wandering the land on the Fourth of July searching for fireworks. Please remember how thrilling it was the first time that you experienced fireworks on the Fourth of July, and then consider whether or not it is worth preserving this tradition for your children and grandchildren. For those who think strictly in terms of money, since so many residents are without a place to go on the night of the Fourth of July, many of them resort to staging their own illegal fireworks show, significantly adding to neighborhood noise, crime, and general mischief, which ultimately will result in the inevitable police and fire overtime anyway!

I am asking for citizens to come forth and lend their time and talent to begin an effort to raise the funds, in as many ways that are practical, for the sole purpose of presenting a fireworks show in celebration of the Fourth of July Holiday for the hardworking citizens of Parma, who so deserve it! Let's see to it that July 4th., 2011 is not another silent night.

## When Old Becomes New Again

by Penny Schultz

There's a real gem in Parma Hts.: Greenbriar Square Mall on Pearl Rd. Some recognize it by the original name "Old Towne". Many residents in our community don't know about the well hidden mall connected to the Arabica Coffee House. In 1974, Stumph Rd. ended at Pearl Rd., and a creek ran where York Rd. is today. The decision was made to reroute the creek, and then York Rd. was extended through to Stumph Rd. Soon, what had been a motel was converted to a shopping center, with a brand new mall built on the rear of the structure. Business was good,

but as years passed, the mall transitioned from retail to more offices and professional services.

Several years ago, the mall resembled a ghost town. Many original retailers left, and many suites sat empty. In recent years however, people began to recognize the uniqueness of this space and have moved their businesses here. Retailers have nicknamed it "German Town". As you walk in, you are transported to another time, one that doesn't exist anymore. The "streets" are brick pavers. The walkways are well lit with "streetlights" and park benches. All of the storefronts resemble houses in a Ger-

man village. Each one is painted in inviting bright colors, like some charming Bavarian town. Several offices have "porches" complete with porch lights at the door to welcome you. As you stroll down the German streets, you are in a different world, one that has all but disappeared with the arrival of the big box stores.

Thankfully, Greenbriar Square Mall is on a spectacular comeback, filled with hardworking small businesses, and their ever increasing customers, who just can't get over the fact this treasure has been languishing right in their midst. Our businesses have grown as more and more business owners have realized just how unique this little gem of a mall really is. The future is indeed bright for us, as many more businesses are planned, including restaurants, medical offices, gift shops, and more.

When you are in the area, stop by the Arabica Coffee House, grab a beverage, and take a stroll down the streets of "German Town". Sit on one of the park benches, relax, and enjoy a trip to the past, contemplating all that we have to offer. Massage Therapy, Dental Offices, Insurance Services, Photography Studio, and much more. This Fall, a food and wine event is planned, the proceeds from which will benefit the Parma Hts. Food Bank, also in the Greenbriar Square Mall. This incredible organization does a fantastic job of providing to those in need on a monthly basis. If you or someone you know is interested in helping this extremely worthwhile effort, please call 440-342-0489. I urge everyone in this community who has not yet experienced the magic of Greenbriar Square Mall to come by soon and see what you've been missing!

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