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## **Meet The Superintendent**

by Daniel P. McCarthy

I attended the "Meet The Superintendent Night" at Normandy High School on July 21st. My very first impression of Dr. Graham was that he looks young, seems very confident, and appears to be well aware of the difficult challenge ahead of him, and intends to succeed. The question is, will the citizens in this community help him or just stand around criticizing every move? Dr. Graham faced a packed room full of very concerned citizens, who had a multitude of pointed questions, and I for one was impressed with the way that he handled himself. One of the main concerns of this audience early on seemed to be whether or not Normandy High School was slated for closing. Dr. Graham reminded people that a committee had been formed to consider all

of the options available to the district, was going through the process currently, and would most likely be making their recommendations sometime in January; until then, no decision had been made, no matter how many rumors were flying

Dr. Graham did not shy away from answering "yes" when asked if the failure of the levy could result in even more cuts. He pointed out that cuts were first made into the fat, then the muscle, and now we are down to the bone. In the end, we will ultimately have to focus on providing the best education that we can for the money we have, and that, he pointed out, will be his main responsibility. He made it clear that he would not spend any time passing judgement on decisions that



Dr. Jeffery Graham Starts The Meeting By Explaining His Background And Experience

#### happen next, and that, in my opinion, is the very best that were made in the past, as he we as citizens in this school was not here and did not have district can hope for.

Dr. Graham stated that he felt that far too often, people seemed to start with solutions even before they asked all of the important questions. He pledged to first build trust and maintain consistency, and that he would gather as much information as he could before making decisions. Dr. Graham revealed that upon examination, he came to the

the facts. He promised to be

focused on today and what will

conclusion that far too many great things were happening within the Parma City School District that people seemed to be totally unaware of, and his goal is to change that. Bill Mason, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and product of the Parma Schools, is a key figure in the effort to pass the levy, and he informed those assembled that much more help from concerned citizens in the District is badly needed in order to assure that the levy is passed, and he urged people to come forward and join the effort. I couldn't agree more, because

in the end, on Election Day, it will take the votes of those of us in this community to make the next step possible in our effort to rebuild our school system to the state of excellence that we know in our hearts it should be and should stay. We have met the Superintendent, and he is

To view a video of this "Meet The Superintendent Night" meeting, go to the Observation Deck on our website at www.parmaobserver. com. While you're there, sign up in the Member Center and write your story!

## New Park In Ukrainian Village

by Maria Kvit-Flynn

On Sunday, August 22nd at 2:00 p.m., a groundbreaking ceremony will take place to bless a plot of land across from St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral. This 40' by 120' lot has been allocated by the city of Parma to be the future home of Ukrainian Village's new "Heritage Park." Mayor DePiero, Eric Tollerup, Parma's Director of Community Development, members of Council, and of course the Ukrainian community will gather together for a formal dedication of the land for the future park. The mayor and Ukrainian community leaders will speak at the dedication. The Ukrainian clergy, including the bishops will bless the park sight. This is just the beginning of this wonderful project. Currently plans are being reviewed for the landscape design and the sculpture that will adorn the center of the park. The park will be a place for relaxation

and reflection for walkers by and visitors. The City of Parma continues to recognize the economic impact that Ukrainian residents, including the new wave of immigrants, have made on the City of Parma. Ukrainians are Parma's largest new immigrant demographic.

After the ceremony, the Ukrainian community will proceed and walk to St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral to celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day which is August 24th. This anniversary marks the 19th anniversary of Ukrainian independence from the former Soviet Union.

The celebration will culminate the following Saturday, August 28th, with a Ukrainian Village Festival which will be held at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Cathedral from 12:00 noon till 11:00 PM. Featured will be Ukrainian foods, dancers, arts and crafts, a polka band and a tour of the cathedral. All are welcome.

#### **Cox Program Aids Local Animal Shelters** By Introducing Pets To The Community

by Katie Sheridan

A few years ago, Cox Communications surveyed customers about what they wanted from local programming. Cox responded to numerous requests to support local animal shelters with Pet ConneXions. The program that airs on Cox's local channel 45, supports nine local animal shelters by introducing their homeless pets to the community.

"We have been honored to have our adoptable animals featured on Pet ConneXions," said Sharon Harvey, Cleveland Animal Protective League Executive Director. "We want people to think 'adoption first' when looking to add a pet to their family."

Since then, more than 170 of the animals they featured have been adopted.

"Pet ConneXions has allowed us to reach a large audience, and most importantly, has helped our animals find their new loving homes," said Harvey.

One of A Kind Pet Rescue has also used Pet ConneXions to help reach the community. According to Georjette Thomas, One of A Kind Pet Rescue Director of Organization Advancement, adoptions have increased since they began showing their pets on air, a little more than two years ago.

"We feel confident that

The Cleveland APL began Pet ConneXions has directly tions in the Cox area, as well as donations," said Thomas. "Donations and adoptions from these demographics can only be attributed to the exposure Pet ConneXions has afforded us."

> "Cox listened to the interests of our customers. We are pleased that we're able to support local animal shelters and in our communities," said Stacie Schafer, community relations manager at Cox.

> Cox subscribers can view Pet ConneXions on Cox Channel 45. ICox also uploads the most recent Pet ConneXion clips to Facebook.

#### Parma Observer

**Even More Silence** 

by Daniel P. McCarthy

This year's July 4th. parade was indeed a welcome sight, and it is difficult for me to imagine that any citizen doesn't feel even more proud to be an American at an Independence Day parade than they do every other day of the year. The sights are truly inspiring; uniformed members of the Armed Services, representatives of our Safety Forces, highly decorated floats and patriotic marchers, and the crowds of citizens on either side, cheering on the parade as they celebrate this most American of all American holidays.

Something was missing at the parade this year, however, and I for one was immediately struck by it, although some, I suspect, may not even have noticed. Absent from the parade were the marching bands from all three High Schools in the Parma School District. Having attended many parades, the obvious lack of marching music was ever so apparent to me, and I can only imagine how difficult it must have been to march in a parade without the familiar aid of a marching band to help keep everyone in step, but the participants did an excellent job, despite this peculiar handicap.

Why did this situation occur? I suppose, depending on whom is asked,

References

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15 years

experience

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there are undoubtedly several different explanations offered, but odds are most likely, all of them relate somehow or other to the recent failure of the school levy. Like it or not, this silent parade was a possible glimpse of what the future might be like if the trend of diminished expectations at election time continues. The question that voters and non-voters should be asking themselves is: Do I like what I am seeing?

How about football games with no cheerleaders? What about no football games at all, or any other sports either? Should we have classrooms in fields under the open sky in order to save

money on buildings? Candles instead of electric lights? Why not abolish schools altogether, like the Khmer Rouge did in 1970's Cambodia? Does apple pie without any apples sound right? Where does the confusion end? When do the solutions begin?





After







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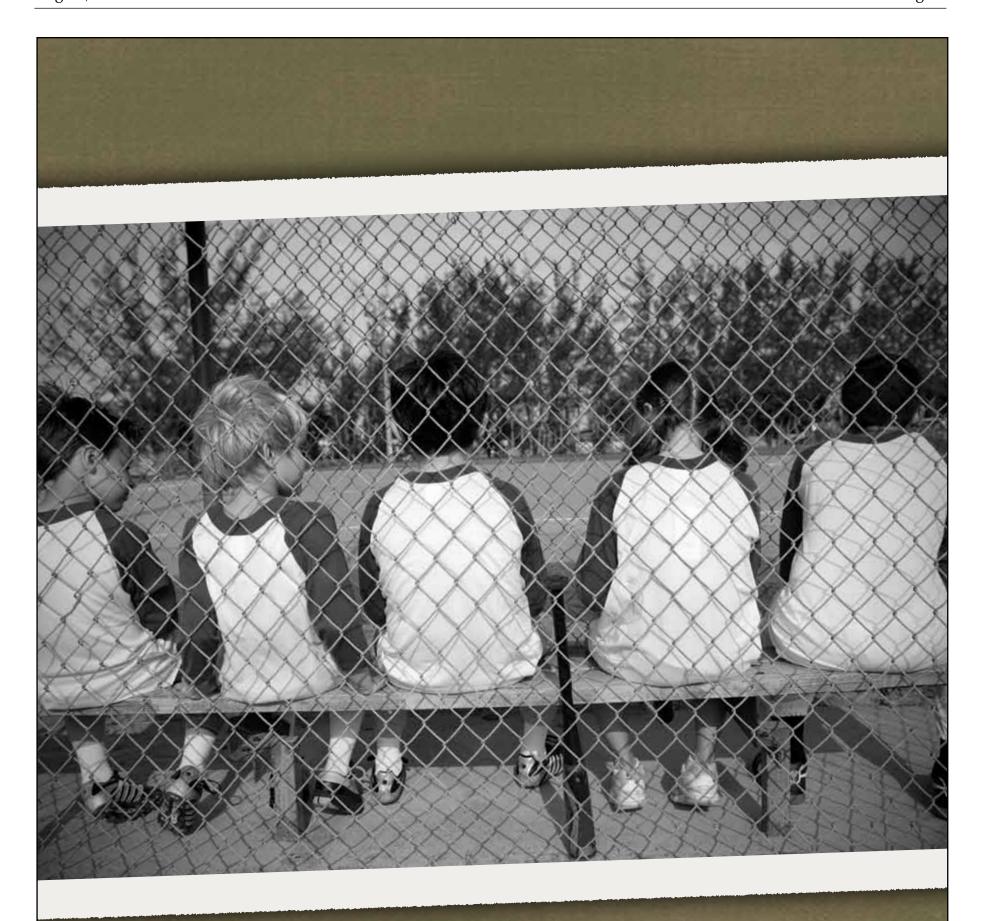


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# WE QUICKLY HELPED RICK WITH TWO HUGE ISSUES. HIS HEART ATTACK. AND BATTING PRACTICE.

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#### **Parma Health**

# That's Amore! Parma Hospital's Fund Raising For The A Izheimer's Association

by CJ Sheppard

The 11th Annual Spaghetti Cook-off to benefit the Alzheimer's Association served up its best start yet to the annual fund-raising campaign, pulling in over \$2,700 and a record number of diners.

A panel of celebrity judges spiced up the event held at Parma Hospital's Health Education Center on June 18. More than 400 people sampled 11 sauces with accompanying plates of pasta in a festive room decorated with checkered tablecloths. A bingo hall and the music of a Dean Martin sing-alike added further zest to the event, which raised \$2,747 and topped last year's totals by nearly \$1,000.

The Grand Prize went to Arden Courts of Parma, as selected by a panel of judges, including:

- \* Eddie Cerino, owner of Eddie's Pizzaria Cerino in Seven Hills;
  - \* Rick Haase, vice president of

Marketing for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland;

- \* Tom Mastroianni, owner of PJ's Pizza and the president-elect of the Parma Rotary Club; and
- \* Lori Stancato, president of Stancato's in Parma.

People's Choice awards, as voted by the diners, went to Brookside Estates in Middleburg Heights and Crystal Waters Retirement Community in Strongsville.

"For most people, this event kicks off the fundraising in a big way," says Laura Matthews, manager of Parma Hospital's ElderCenter adult day programs and chair of the fundraising committee. "This year, we had record proceeds and added a judges' panel to the mix. It made the event – where all materials are donated to maximize fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association – even more exciting than usual."

Other facilities participating in



Kathi O'Connor, vice president of operations at Parma Community General Hospital, is the honorary mission champion of the 2010 Memory Walk to benefit the Alzheimer's Association. She was among 400 diners at the Spaghetti Cook-off, which raised \$2,747 for the Alzheimer's Association.

the Cook-off were: Altenheim/Shurmer Place in Strongsville; Berea Lake Towers; Elmcroft of Sagamore Hills; Mount Alverna Village of Parma; Park Creek Center in Parma Hts.; Royalton Woods in North Royalton; Sunrise Assisted Living in Parma; and The Woods at Pleasant Lake Villa in Parma. Parma Hospital's Seasons of Life Hospice donated bakery sold at the event.

"We are so grateful for the wonderful support we have received from Parma Community General Hospital over the years," said Nancy Udelson, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland area chapter. "Not only has the hospital raised more than \$33,000 for the Alzheimer's Association, but the Spaghetti Cook-off has also helped raise awareness within the community of the programs and services we offer. We applaud the hospital's efforts and look forward to another great event next year!"



Parma Hospital's 11th Annual Spaghetti Cook-off to benefit the Alzheimer's Association featured a panel of celebrity judges. Pictured, from left, are: Tom Mastroianni, owner of PJ's Pizza and the president-elect of the Parma Rotary Club; Lori Stancato, president of Stancato's in Parma; Rick Haase, vice president of marketing for the YMCA of Greater Cleveland; and Eddie Cerino, owner of Eddie's Pizzaria Cerino in Seven Hills.

#### **Calling All Artists To Arts At The Center**

by CJ Sheppard

Artisans from all mediums are invited to submit work for the Parma Hospital Auxiliary's Fourth Annual Arts at the Center, a two-day juried arts and fine crafts show held in November at St. Michael's Woodside in Broadview Heights.

Judges are looking for work in various mediums such as acrylics, oils and watercolors, glass and metal works, and photography. They are especially interested in artisans who are potters and woodworkers.

"We look forward to another fabulous and fun event to showcase local artists," says Andrea Sack, Parma Hospital's director of Volunteer Services. "This is a great way to support community health and wellness and get your holiday shopping off to a fine start."

Tickets are \$50 for a preview party on Friday, November 19 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Attendees are invited to wear festive clothing to this "Blue Hawaii" party, which gives those in attendance an opportunity to purchase artwork. On Saturday, November 20, the general public is welcome to the free event from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call Andrea Sack at 440-743-2371.



#### Parma Hospital Acquires Imaging Center At Ridge Park Square

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Hospital patients now have another option for imaging services along the 1-480 corridor.

Parma Hospital has acquired the Ridge Park Square location of Spectrum Imaging. The facility is now known as Parma Hospital Diagnostic Imaging at Ridge Park Square.

"This growth opportunity allows our community members greater access to ambulatory and outpatient services especially along the I-480 corridor," says Terrence G. Deis, Parma Hospital's president & CEO. "It also provides another convenient location for physicians to send their patients."

Imaging services offered at Ridge

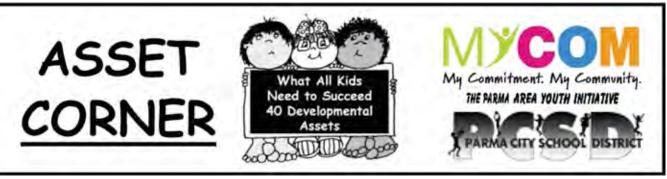
Park Square include: X-Ray, CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Bone Density, Ultrasound, Mammography, and Vascular Ultrasound. The 13 former Spectrum employees now work for Parma Hospital.

The office is located at 7575 North-cliff Ave., Brooklyn. Hours will remain: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.; Tuesday from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m.; and every other Saturday, starting July 24, from 8 a.m.- noon. For information or to make an appointment, call 216-398-5551.

Parma Hospital also offers imaging services at the main hospital, 7007 Powers Blvd., Parma, and at WellPointe Pavilion, an outpatient center at 303 E. Royalton Road, Broadview Heights.



#### **Parma Schools**



#### **Asset Corner #8**

by Gene Lovasy

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

**August's Asset Category:** Constructive Use of Time.

It being summertime, our focus during the months of July and August is on Constructive Use of Time, one of the four External asset categories. Since we presented some specifics about this particular asset category in last month's column let's talk a bit about External vs Internal assets.

#### We're all in this together

As young people grow and learn, they depend a great deal on the adults in their world to guide them. A strong community of caring adults-providing support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations, and opportunities for enriching activities—helps young people develop the internal qualities of commitment to learning, positive values, social skills, and positive identity. In short, young people depend on caring adults to provide the external assets that lead to a positive environment. External Assets include the first four 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 need certain external structures, relationships, and activities in place in their lives to grow up healthy. Search Institute has identified the following ingredients, known as the external assets, as keys to creating a positive environment for young people: Sup-



Future Orthopedic Surgeons?

port, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, and Constructive Use of Time

#### Tips for building these assets

Creating a strong foundation in a young person's life doesn't have to be difficult or overwhelming. Taking time, remaining patient, and giving a whole lot of love and caring will take you far. For most young people, their family is the center of their lives. Show your children you love them, and also value each one of them as individuals. Clearly communicate to one another your family's values, boundaries, and expectations (as well as those of the community). Give young people the appropriate amount of freedom to make their own decisions depending on their ages, but also offer options along the way.

Also try this:

In your home and family: Ask your children to name a few people who support them. If they don't name at least three adults, invite some of the adults you know and trust to get involved in your children's lives.

In your neighborhood and com-

munity: Advocate that your community develop meaningful opportunities for young people, such as creative youth programs or service projects.

In your school or youth program: Make a point to know every young person's name (no matter how many kids are involved). Smile when you see them and let them know you expect them to always do their best. Acknowledge their achievements and help them when they're struggling.

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.searchinstitute.org. This message may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only (with this copyright line). All rights reserved.

Who are the Asset Builders in our community? Adding to our list of the many organizations, businesses and individuals working with & for our youth, are the members of the Parma Area Morning Kiwanis Club, helping the children at Parkview Elementary make holiday crafts, and representatives of over 20 departments from Parma Hospital exhibiting their skills at the bi-annual Health Careers Day at Shiloh M.S.





#### Parma Civic Groups

## D.U.I. Checkpoint Not All That You Think It Is

by Sean Brennan

Recently, I was invited by officers from the Parma Police Department to observe a D.U.I. checkpoint held on State Road in front of the Basista Furniture store. I happily took them up on their offer and, to my surprise, it was quite a learning opportunity. Most would admit that when they think of a police checkpoint, it sounds of Big Brother and "guilty until proven innocent."

What I observed was far from it. First, I learned that the police cannot simply place a D.U.I. checkpoint wherever they wish. There are several very strict state laws that govern a legal checkpoint and where it can be placed. For instance, data must be gathered to prove that the area in question is one that has a history of D.U.I. arrests, as well as other motor vehicle citations. Further, the set up of the checkpoint itself must meet certain criteria. Also, a schedules sequence must be predetermined regarding which automobiles will get stopped at the checkpoint. For

instance, while I was there, every third car was stopped.

This state criterion ensures fairness. However, the police can pull over anyone with probable cause. It was interesting to see how courteous the members of the police force were to drivers and how they pointed out that they were there to raise awareness about the dangers of drunken driving. In fact, every driver stopped was provided with a flier explaining the dangers of drunken driving. This was their "ticket" through the checkpoint. Many who went through the checkpoint were laughing and found it enjoyable. In fact, the children in one vehicle that did not get stopped the first time, asked their parents to go around the block so that they could get flagged, which they did. The kids found it a load of fun. I also overheard a young daughter of a mother jokingly tell her mom that she was going to tell dad that she got "pulled over."

I was also amazed at the crowd of spectators that developed during the



course of the evening. Fathers brought their children, families sat in lawn chairs on the sidewalk and others simply stood and observed. Incidentally, for the nearly four hours I was at the checkpoint, six individuals were cited for offences including operating without a license, open container, lack of proper child safety restraints, expired license plates, etc. I was glad to see that no suspected drunken drivers were observed. As the brochure passed out at the checkpoints states, "Highly visible and well publicized checkpoints increase the perceived risk of arrest and make people think twice about drinking and driving."

In short, I was very impressed with the checkpoint. The members of our police department did a fine job of running it safely, efficiently, fairly and kindly. It should also be noted that nearly a dozen members of the Parma Police Auxiliary assist with each checkpoint.

These are the same folks you see helping out in our parades, church carnivals and many other events around town. Note that they are NOT paid. They are volunteers who are devoted to making Parma a safe city for your family and mine. Incidentally, the program is paid for through a grant from Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital.

A tip of the Ward Two Hat to the Parma Police Department, the Parma Police Auxiliary and the Hospital for a job well done.

If you spot a suspected impaired driver, call the police or dial 1-800-GRAB-DUI or \*DUI on your cell phone. Tell everyone you know that Parma is cracking down on impaired driving because we want everyone on our roadways to be safe.

## Rep. DeGeeter Appointed To Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission



State Representative Timothy DeGeeter

by Emily Tucker,

Legislative aide to Rep. DeGeeter COLUMBUS- State Representative Timothy J. DeGeeter (D-Parma) has been appointed by Ohio House Speaker Armond Budish to the Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission. He will serve as a non-paid, voting member of the Commission.

The Ohio Criminal Sentencing Commission meets to review Ohio's sentencing statutes and sentencing patterns in order to make recommendations to the General Assembly on any necessary statutory changes. The Commission is chaired by the Chief Justice and consists of 31 members.

"My appointment to the Ohio

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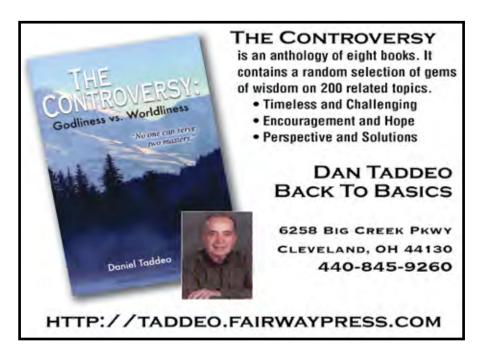
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Criminal Sentencing Commission will allow me to assist and provide input to ultimately find solutions that are cost-effective and will improve public safety," said Rep. DeGeeter. "I look forward to working closely with Commission members, especially with Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel, who plays an integral and active role on the Commission" said Rep. DeGeeter.

Representative DeGeeter is attending his first Commission meeting in Columbus next week, where he will also attend an Ohio Power Siting Board meeting. He was appointed to serve as a member on the Power Siting Board earlier this year.

Representative DeGeeter is currently serving his third term in the Ohio House after being appointed in December of 2003.



#### **Those Among Us**

# Those Among Us- Charles Phebus And John Shepherd, Great Americans Cut From The Same Cloth...

We who live in the Greater Cleveland area, so often seem to pay little attention to our central city of Cleveland, and oftentimes, (other than perhaps with some Friday night high school football games) we pay scant attention to the other suburbs around us. Many of my out-of-town friends and family are often amazed to learn that many of us know relatively little about our region, and it's rich history and heritage.

Sometimes, it takes an out-oftowner to come in, to remind us about some of that history.

Such was the case last week, when a Texan came to town.

Charles Phebus wears fancy cowboy boots and a big white ten-gallon hat. A man interested in his family's past, he had learned that his four times great-grandfather, John Shepherd, was buried in the municipal cemetery in North Royalton. On a visit to that cemetery last year, Phebus was dismayed at the condition of the gravestone, and ordered a new base to be made for it. He also felt that a special recognition needed to be brought forth for the man buried on that North Royalton hill.

It was like this: John Shepherd was the last survivor of Braddock's Defeat in 1755, and the longest-lived soldier of the American Revolution; living more than 117 years... and even cut two acres



of corn at his North Royalton farm, at the age of 112! One of the original founders of North Royalton, Shepherd fought through both the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. All in all, Shepherd survived at least eleven major battles, including Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Monmouth. He also wintered with George Washington at Valley Forge, and as Charles told me, he was indeed with Washington all the way.

Over the past year, virtually single-handedly, Charles Phebus has marshaled the forces of the City of North Royalton, the State of Ohio, and numerous historical, and civic groups and individuals in a great collaboration of materials and resources, so that John Shepherd could be recognized, and his memory honored and celebrated. On June 26-7, a stellar weekend, filled with activities and attractions, was held in North Royalton and Parma for John Shepherd, including pancake breakfasts, a travelling Liberty Bell replica, a parade, and a graveside dedication, as well as a 21 gun salute, that included reenactors of the American Revolution. As Shepherd had also been a military drummer, I was honored to be the drummer for his graveside ceremony. A beautiful state marker now rests at the entrance to the cemetery on route 82, telling the story of Shepherd's life.

Thanks to the vision of Charles Phebus, Parma, North Royalton and the rest of our region knows that a true American hero lies among us. You can go to the website, www.John Shepherd.US, to read more about this remarkable American patriot.

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

by Daniel Taddeo

Character consists of a combination of emotional, intellectual and ethical traits that distinguishes one person (or group) from another. A person with good character is accountable, caring, fair, honest, kind, loving, sincere, trustworthy and more. If practicing these principles produces positive results (and they do), then the consequences of doing the opposite most surely will generat negative results.

Character is much easier to define than live out. At the risk of oversimplifying, building good character is simply a matter of teaching and practicing right from wrong, and it doesn't happen over a short period of time. Nothing we could think, say, or do comes even close to being as important as good character, and there is a devastating price to pay for undeveloped character.

So when Does Character count? Character counts in the home. Character development is the primary responsibility of parents. If good character traits are not instilled in children early, often they are not learned at all. Here is where seeds of personal conduct and acceptable behavior are planted. Be responsible! Tell the truth! Respect your elders! Mind your manners! Treat others the way you want to be treated! And so on. Too often, parents place more emphasis on what children achieve rather than how they learn and interact with others. Good character development will not be quick and easy. It requires that children be closely supervised until maturity.

Character counts in school. Parents can no longer rely on the school system to teach good character as it once did. Character development is no longer top priority. The culture has replaced it with its own version. Much behavior once considered inappropriate is now acceptable. Situation ethics now dominate and dictate what is considered proper behavior. Many absolute standards have become obso-

lete- a thing of the past. Adults and children alike need to take advantage of every opportunity to determine the difference between right and wrong and expect to pay the price when they deviate from these principles.

Character counts in the workplace. As valuable as knowledge of the job and training are, character is even more important. For example, traits that employers look for in their employees are honesty, dependability, reliability, punctuality, and the ability to get along with other employees by treating them the same way they want to be treated. Proper conduct does matter because it is the number one reason employees are not promoted or are fired.

Character counts in leadership. Look at the present generation and you see the character of our future leaders. Our national character is an accumulation of the principles and virtues practiced in our personal lives, homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and positions of leadership, including the President of the United States. Leaders at all levels of society must set

the example and serve as role models for future leaders. The character displayed by each citizen contributes to our national character for better or worse.

Character building is a continuous process. It is important to know that even small character flaws left unchecked can have seriously negative consequences. Good character traits must be an active force in the lives of everyone. When this is not the case, someone will get hurt. Every person alive is affected by the actions of others at some time, in some way, in some place.

An upright character is of greatest worth. It cannot be bought. The formation of a noble character is the work of a lifetime and can only be the result of diligent and persevering effort. Good character is what we look for in others and it is what others look for in us. So, when does character count? Character always counts!

Daniel Taddeo taddeo.fairway-press.com



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#### **Green Parma**

#### Green Island In A Suburban Ocean

by Daniel P. McCarthy

During my 49 years of life in Parma, I have driven past Stearns Farm literally hundreds of times, and only in the past year did I ever actually take the time to stop in to check out what this fantastic place was all about. Simply stated, this is the last farm in Parma, a place that at one time was made up of nothing but farms like this one. Slowly, one by one, they all disappeared into 20th. century suburbia, leaving only this one to show what life was once like here. The original house is from 1855, and is warped and bent as only a house this old could be. The farm is 81 acres in size, and not until you walk past the Civil War era barn, beyond the animal

pens, finally gazing past the pond over the expanse of the property, are you really struck by the pastoral beauty of the place. I began to think to myself, in astonishment, that I really shouldn't have waited so long to experience a place so peaceful and visually satisfying right in the middle of the city I've spent my entire life in.

Well, no need to suffer the loss anymore; I have personally discovered it, and I shall be returning! The next time that you find yourself driving rapidly down Ridge Rd. south of Parmatown, do yourself a massive favor and stop in to Stearns Farm and see for yourself. Imagine encountering two groovy looking goats, one with an out-



Green Island In A Suburban Ocean

rageous Ghoulardi-like beard, offering greetings as though you were some long lost friend. There are full sized turkeys here that are just an awesome sight to behold. Pigs, sheep, sheep, geese, ducks, a bull, horses, several varieties of colorful chickens; you will find everything here that one would expect to see on any real farm. There is a farmer's market every Saturday during the summer, and many other scheduled events take place all year long. The dedicated staff really does an excellent job of maintaining the farm so that it always has

the appearance of a productive, working farm.

I feel as though I've stumbled upon a "new" oasis; a laid-back place where I can go to sit and relax, transporting myself, if only in my mind, back to a time when life was far more simple and far less stressful. I had always thought I needed to drive way out in the country for an experience like that, and all along Stearns Farm has been here patiently waiting, like a beautiful green island in a suburban ocean!



Some Of The Many Chickens To Be Found Here



Setting Up The Farmer's Market Next To Original Farm House Circa 1855



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#### **Parma Life**

## Joe The Coach: My View On Sports

by Joseph L. Finding

I thought that I might start this issue with our Cleveland Indians. I watched this weekend, and I think that they seemed to have picked up a bit, or at least they look like they want to win. Can you imagine how they might look if they hadn't traded or sold some of the better players? It is disappointing to me however, to look into the stands and see how few fans they draw. I am fairly convinced that the owners can plainly see that the fans don't show up as consistently when they peddle the best

players. I am glad to see that Acta is not afraid to run the suicide squeeze play; I found that enjoyable. Prior managers would most likely never have done this; I think that if he is given the right players, he could be the winner that we need.

Now, as for LeBron and the rest of his planned leaving, I couldn't care less if that self-centered young man is gone. I am sure that I am not alone in my thoughts on this. The NBA should investigate this whole situation. As for Dan Gilbert's understandable comments, who could fault him? this young kid (because he doesn't think like a man yet) did the ownership a great injustice by staging his own ESPN announcement. He left this team owner hanging during free agency. What kind of man is that? Gilbert was justified in his comments, and I feel that in my view it was completely unfair that he was fined at all! As for "Z" moving, it's O.K. with me; he gave us all that he had, and they traded him at the end of the season. Thanks "Z" for your hard work and efforts, and I wish you the very best of luck, most sincerely. I think that it is really going to be interesting to see how Dwayne Wade and Lebron work together. As for Bosch, I didn't think all that much of him before, let alone now. I hope that the fans boo LeBron back to Florida, because his home town of Akron doesn't want him now either. I know that booing from a coach probably doesn't look right, but those are

my feelings.

So enough about the pros- what's going to happen with our Public School athletes come this Fall? What about the cheerleaders, bands, etc.? A friend of mine who attended the July 4th. parade wondered why there were virtually no bands in the parade. What sort of justice are we giving to these individuals who will ultimately be running our world someday? I for one am completely "bummed out" about wholesale dropping of academic programs. Search your soul: what are you going to do? I know that we will see this school issue again this Fall. I for one feel that if I had to pay \$1000 for my kid to play, then he or she should play as much as any other player, even if he or she isn't as good. What's your take on this? Let me hear from you.

Coach Joe Finding coachjoe61@ cox.net

#### **Relay For Life**









#### **MyCom Summer Dayz Are Hot**

by Robert Mariner

Did you hear about all the fun and excitement going on at John Petruska Park and Walters Grove Park? MyCom Summer Dayz allowed children ages 3-12 to participate in creative crafts and games every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm.

The program started on July 6th, there were roughly 10-20 kids attending each park. The program expanded throughout the summer to 20 plus kids attending each park through word of mouth and excellent referrals. Due to how well the program went, a party will be held on the final day of August 12th. All of the kids will be able to enjoy free popsicles and some parents have even volunteered to bring food and drinks for everyone.

The program attendants of MyCom Summer Dayz were local high school and college youth and went above and beyond all expectation in their leadership and mentoring roles. While MyCom Summer Dayz was geared for giving kids a safe and fun environment to experience the summer, it also offered the older youth attendants an opportunity to hold a



MyCom Summer Dayz kids particpating in dodgeball and crafts under the pavilion.

summer job and give back to their community.

Both locations had three youth attendants that would manage the crafts and games. The interaction between youth attendants and younger children allowed for a great learning experience, resulting in kids wanting to stay past the 1:00 pm closing time.

MyCom Summer Dayz was funded by the Cleveland Foundation and Family and Children First Council of Cuyahoga County to Parma City School District. We also thank Mickey Vittardi, Director of Parks and Recreation of Parma, for supplying baseballs, softballs, basketballs, bases, and sports bags to the MyCom Summer Dayz.



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#### **Green Parma**

#### Community Gardens Sprouting Up In Your Neighborhood

by Lyn Stutzman

MyCom (My Commitment. My Community) Youth programs have been busy planting gardens in the community. The gardens began at Shiloh Café, an after school program, where they built a beautiful garden full of fresh vegetables and herbs. The YMCA Ridgewood Branch Youth Leadership Club took this concept and turned an unused bocce ball court into a beautiful sitting garden. This was made possible through grant funding from the Mott Foundation of the United Way and Parma City School District (PCSD) MyCom initiatives.

Each of these gardens were planted by the Youth in our neighborhoods. Training through the Ohio State Extension Program was offered to give guidance on proper gardening techniques. The YMCA has received many helpful gardening tips from their senior citizen members. Ohio State Extension Program also came out to share additional gardening tips and recipe ideas with the Youth Leadership Group. The recipes were based from their harvests



YMCA Youth working together to create a new garden for the community

and include items such as salsa, fresh salads, etc. Not only is the garden visually appealing but teaches healthy eating habits.

The YMCA continues to maintain the garden through daily watering and harvesting. The Youth Leadership Group will also be taking a field trip to the Cleveland Botanical Gar-

dens sometime in August. Plans will continue with the youth group as they develop a recipe book that will be based on fresh herbs and vegetables from the garden. The group will also be donating vegetables and herbs to local food pantries to allow families in our community to enjoy.

Please feel free to visit the garden located at the front entrance of the Ridgewood YMCA. While visiting, you can also see all of the other wonderful programs the YMCA has to offer. Also, if you know of any youth members of our community that would like to be involved with PCSD MyCom Program please call (440) 842-7043 for more details. The goal of MyCom is to have youth engaged in positive activities while developing leadership skills. Thanks again to all our youth for helping make our community a little more beautiful and healthy!

#### **Calling All Card Party Enthusiasts**

by Marge Ritner

If you enjoy playing cards with friends and winning prizes, we have the perfect afternoon for you. Seven Hills AARP Chapter 4229 is hosting its annual card party on Sunday, October 24th from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. It is being held in the Seven Hills Recreation Center located at 7777 Summitview Dr. A light lunch and desert will be served.

This social event has always been a success from its inception in 2004 and seems to get better every year. AARP members work hard to make sure everyone has a great time. This is our main fund raiser of the year and helps to finance our charitable contributions.

If you are not a card player, come and bring your friends and your favorite board game, such as scrabble or dominoes - whatever is your pleasure. Tickets are only \$6.00. For tickets or further information call Nancy at 216-524-3668. So keep your eyes peeled for our flyers around town and make sure you come to this very special event. Hope to see you there.

SUARDIAN







#### Parma Observer

## Say "Ahhh" To Nice Cop

by Jim Griffith

Open wide and say "ahhhhh". This use to be a phrase exclusive to the dental profession. Now you can expect to hear that from the next police officer that arrests you.

On July 1st, 2010, Senate Bill 77( S.B. 77) went into effect. This bill represents the State of Ohio's early attempts to bring Law Enforcement into the 21st century. The bill effectively changes the investigative component of Law Enforcement and how an investigator does their job.

There are three components to the bill. The DNA Component, the custodial interview component and the lineup component. Each component has either drastically changed the way investigators do their work or added totally new requirements that never existed.

The most invasive component is the DNA requirement. Starting in mid 2011, every person arrested and booked on a felony charge at a police station will be required to surrender a DNA sample to the booking officer.

The DNA then will be preserved by the department. It will also require Police Departments to retain DNA evidence for a much longer period of time than they do now.

The next component is the custodial interrogation. All interrogations are now required to be audio recorded. This requirement went into effect July 1st, 2010. A recording of an interview or an interrogation has never had to have any documentation other than a signed waiver of rights from the suspect and his signature at the end of a written statement produced from the interrogation.

It is probably important to note here that not every conversation with a police officer is a custodial interview. A short and quick definition of a custodial interview would be defined as, when a custodial interview is performed, that means you are not leaving the station on your own. Any time an officer interviews you and you are free to leave any time you want, that is not a custodial interrogation and it does not have to be recorded

The third component affected by the law is the lineup. Contrary to popular belief, a lineup is something rarely used in police work anymore. The most common lineup is called the photo lineup. This lineup was performed by taking a photo of the suspect, and placing it in a picture frame like setting with 5 other pictures. The person asked to look at the lineup would then point out the one in six that they felt committed the crime. All of those procedures have been thrown out the window.

Should you be asked to sit in on a lineup, you would be placed at a desk. An officer not involved in the investigation would hand you ten numbered envelopes one at a time. In nine of the envelopes will be a picture, one envelope has nothing in it (nobody has yet figured out a good reason for the empty envelope) and you would look at each picture by taking it out of the envelope, then putting it back in and going to the next one. When you were done you would tell the officer which envelope had the picture of the suspect in it by identifying the number of the envelope

In everyday life, change is always

difficult. When you change procedures that have not changed in 3 generations, life can be more challenging. Needless to say, the sudden change in these procedures has created several obstacles that law enforcement agencies must contend with.

For example, the collection of DNA from every felony arrest will be a challenge for every property room officer who already has trouble finding room for items, and now must find a place to store something that will be there long after they retire. The cost of purchasing the necessary supplies to retrieve the DNA will be an added monetary burden to already tight budgets that have resulted in the loss of services and layoffs in a lot of departments. Many departments did not have the necessary equipment to record interrogations and again must find the funds somewhere in their budgets to come into compliance with the new law

There are, however, advantages to the law, that will help streamline the process and should result in a greater conviction rate. One advantage comes from the fact that an officer does not have to show that a confession was valid. With everything now recorded, the burden is now on the suspect to prove that he did not give a voluntary confession.

The Database created by the DNA will become invaluable in the investigation of felony offenses. It is a very rare person that does not leave DNA of some type at a crime scene. Since most felony crimes are committed by repeat offenses, the large database will make it much easier to find the person

There has been a great change in how society functions in the last 30 years and S.B. 77 is an attempt to bring law enforcement in line with the technological and sociological changes that has occurred in our society. Since all of the law and procedures are new, they have not yet been tested by the appeals court system and it will be interesting to see if the bill still resembles it' self in five years when the courts are done ruling on it. But, are not those the things that make life interesting?

## **Omelettes Anyone?**

by Paul Woods

Multiple Sclerosis is a serious disease affecting the lives of millions of people. Happily, there are many, many people working as hard as they can in all kinds of different ways to fight and overcome this disease once and for all. During my journeys around the community, I have discovered a group of seriously dedicated individuals who are fighting their own fight, and would really appreciate some help from those in this area who feel likewise, and they have come up with what I feel is a very unique way to raise funds and awareness of the need to eradicate this illness.

On August 7th. and 8th. at the Total Nutrition Shop, 6873 W. 130th. St., from 9:00- 11:30 a.m., an omelette bar as well as a watermelon eating contest will be held. Anyone who likes omelettes and donating to this fabulous cause should not miss this event! There will be tasty omelettes made to order, side dishes, and what's more, a healthy cooking seminar will also be conducted at the same time. As for the



watermelon eating contest, those interested can pre-register on the website at www.totalnutritionone.com, or call at 440-345-5660. There is a \$3.00 entry fee. Prizes will be awarded for the winner and runners-up. T-shirts can be purchased all day.

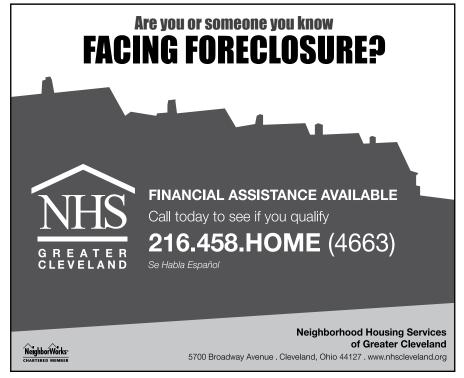
The reason that Total Nutrition Shop is holding this event is that they are taking part in bicycling 175 miles in Pedal to the Point For MS, and they thought that this would be a great idea to raise funds, and so do I! Don't miss this fun event for a great cause. Hope to see you all there!











#### Parma Observer's Back Page



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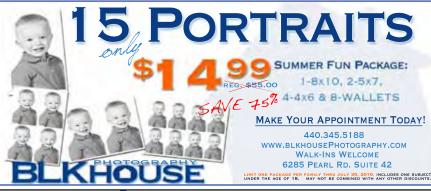
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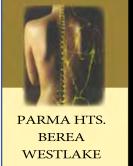
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