

**“ Many thinking people believe America has seen its best days”
- Continental Congress Delegate James Allen in a letter written in July, 1775**

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Volume 2 • Issue 11 • November, 2010

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Congressman Kucinich Re-Elected

Chuck Germana Wins County Council Seat

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Parma City Council President has become the first County Council Member for District 4 as part of the new Cuyahoga County Government. The vote was closer than many had expected, and supporters of challenger Pete Draganic were hopeful of an upset, but in the end, the long serving Charles Germana will leave his post as Parma City Council President and make history as the first representative from our newly designated District 4, and we hope that he will have the support of all citizens in our district as he works with the other 10 Council Members and the new County Executive, Ed Fitzgerald.

Congressman Dennis

Kucinich was reelected after what has to be one of the closest races he has been in for some time. Voters in Parma undoubtedly made the difference for him in this contest, and we hope that he keeps that in mind when he returns to Congress during the next session. His challenger Peter J. Corrigan certainly made his mark in the 10th. District during the campaign, and he should feel satisfied that his message was heard and felt throughout the district.

State Representative Timothy DeGeeter has been reelected for another term; no surprise, as he was unopposed on the ballot. Clearly this must be an indication of how effectively he has served the residents of this area

since he has been in office.

The levy for the Parma School District has failed yet again, by the same 3,000 votes as in other attempts, it would seem. Only the future will tell what the impact of this decision by voters may be, but surely even more painful decisions are forthcoming concerning our schools and their effect on our community.



Cuyahoga County Council Representative For Dist. 4 Charles Germana

Parma's Business Friendly Attitude Producing Positive Results

by Jack Marshall and

Eric Tollerup

The Great Recession has made sure these are not

the best of times for any city in America. On the other hand, creativity has become the mother of survival. Cities such as Parma have been busy building upon existing partnerships with businesses while finding new ways to persuade companies to stay and expand. Mayor Dean DePiero says watching successful companies pack their tents and move to greener pastures, shaking the foundation of the city's tax base, is not an option.

"We're extremely lucky to have a diverse community in both our population and the personalities of our business partners," said Mayor DePiero. "I have no doubt that cities are pulling out all the stops in order to maintain economic stability for the smallest business partner to the biggest corporate taxpayer."

The good economic news for Parma's fabricating plant at the General Motors facility has fueled optimism for the city's bottom line. GM's decision to keep the Parma plant operating created a core of stability for the future. In addition, high-tech equipment from shuttered GM plants was shipped to Parma, positioning Parma Chevy on an enviable track for the next generation of automobile manufacturing. Parma's other large employers like GrafTech, Parma Community General Hospital, Marc's Deep Discount stores

and the western campus of Cuyahoga Community College are maintaining or expanding their local workforce. Both GrafTech and Marc's are headquartered in Parma. Most noticeable might be the growth taking place at Parma's smaller businesses, pockets of prosperity according to Community Services/Economic Development Director Erik Tollerup. He calls them well-oiled machines helping to drive and stabilize Parma's economy in a positive and prosperous direction. "Our city maintains an aggressive attitude in offering local or state grant assistance to keep our smaller business partners in town," said Director Tollerup. "I sometimes feel like a matchmaker, using the economic tools we have available as an incentive to complement smart decisions by local business owners."

One such example is the recent announcement that Constellation Schools, LLC has purchased the former Pat Catan building on Snow Road to house its administrative offices. The deal retains 48 full-time jobs with an additional eight full-time positions planned over the next five years. Sealing the deal was Parma's Commercial Revolving Loan program. "Having the ability to loan money at a 2 to 3% interest rate in this economic climate is a lifeline for

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What A Year A Difference Makes!

by Daniel McCarthy

One Year has passed since we launched the Parma Observer, and I must say that it has been so much more of a learning experience than I knew it would be. What is greater even still, though more than 130 people have signed up to write for the paper during the past year, with a combined population of almost 120,000 in the tri-city area, I realize that we have merely scratched the surface of the surface, and I am continually amazed at the sheer amount of writing talent in those citizens who have chosen to share their views with the rest of us; if any doubts existed as to whether or not people in the Parma area would take part in this new form of hyper-local citizen journalism, they have all but vanished.

What makes our form of journalism different from every other source is that rather than coming from outside the community and trying our best to cover local news here, as everyone else does, we feature stories and opinions from the very people who call this place home. For example, when last month someone wanted to communicate to voters here just how important

it would be to pass the emergency school funding levy, the Superintendent of the Parma City School District chose to step up and write the story. Compare that to other papers in this area; they can feature stories about the same topic, they can quote the Superintendent, they can use their vast resources to saturate our city with their product, but they are unable to even contemplate the participation of real local people, as we enjoy. One story may be written by the Superintendent of Schools, another by a Mayor, still another by an average citizen, or your next door neighbor, or hopefully, you. See the difference?

We are extremely thankful to every person who has chosen to contribute their writing talent and help to inform and entertain the residents in our community, and I am personally most appreciative of our advertisers. Let's face it, without advertising support, this publication could not continue to exist, and the fact that these advertisers have chosen to support our publication so that the rest of the community can have a place to air their views and find out what their fellow citizens are thinking is utterly fantastic, in my humble opinion.

ion. Please, please remember to patronize our hyper-local advertisers with your hyper-local dollars, and by all means, don't hesitate to tell them so.

With the addition of Mr. O'Donnell, our new Editor, and an increased sales staff, our plans for growth in the second year of the Parma Observer's existence appear more favorable than ever, and I can't wait to see what happens as more and more people in Parma, Parma Hts., and Seven Hills discover that communicating with their fellow citizens has never been easier, and is more important than ever before in these challenging but exciting times that we are living in.

Expect to see an increase in the page count of the paper, more copies printed and available at even more locations, lots of additional citizen journalists choosing to publish their thoughts, dreams, and visions, and I really hope that includes you. I want to personally thank the writers, advertisers, and readers for our first year, and we are so looking forward to the Parma Observer continuing to grow in its role as Parma's only truly local paper!

Parma Observer

Parma’s Business Friendly Attitude Producing Positive Results

continued from page 1

small business,” said Director Tollerup. “The pool of money is part of our annual Community Development Block Grant allocation from the Department of Housing & Urban Development. This \$80,000 loan will be our largest ever, and likely our most successful to date.”

Other smaller corporate success stories include Melin Tool, Japanese-owned OSG/Sterling Die and Chelm Properties. Melin Tool has plans to expand into the Venture Drive plant now occupied by Sterling Die. Sterling is moving to a larger space on nearby Commerce Drive. In fact, Sterling Die was recently contemplating what it considered a cost-savings relocation move out of state to its corporate headquarters in Illinois. Director Tollerup says the company’s decision to stay put was swayed by incentives offered by the City of Parma.

“The key is our Payroll Tax Rebate program where we share a portion of their tax revenue,” said Director Tollerup. “Few communities in Cuyahoga County understand that 50% of something is better than 100% of nothing. We used this tool to extend our Payroll Tax Rebate Agreement with Sterling from 2011 through 2026 at 50% a year. Melin

is renegotiating with the City at this time. They’re Payroll Tax Rebate program expired in 2009 after a six year, 50% agreement. With their planned expansion in Parma, they are eligible for a new deal.”

Mayor DePiero says the primary benefit of using Payroll Tax rebates is to avoid touching property tax revenue needed for schools. In addition, he says the bigger issue in partnering with Sterling Die and other businesses is the impact the global recession is having on companies both large and small. “With a weak U.S. Dollar against the Yen, coupled with our incentives, it made more sense for Sterling to buy their own plant here in Parma and expand operations,” said Mayor DePiero. “It’s likely we may see ‘outsourcing in reverse,’ with Japanese-based production being moved to Parma. This is a prime example of our aggressive, yet business-friendly approach to bolstering our local economy.”

In the meantime, construction continues on the \$7 million VA Outpatient Health Clinic on Brookpark Road, a project that will create nearly 300 jobs upon completion in the fall of 2011. The newly-built Third Federal Saving and Loan on Ridge Road is scheduled to open the first week of November. “Grand Opening” ceremonies have recently been held at the

new Select Staffing office and Walgreen’s, both on Rockside Road, as well as Babies ‘R Us on Day Drive and Big Lots on Pleasant Valley Road.

“We want the message to get out that Parma is willing and many times able to help existing businesses grow, as we assist new businesses relocate

to our city,” said Mayor DePiero. “Parma has the economic tools, creativity, infrastructure and the right attitude to make good things happen for any business looking for growth opportunities. We welcome them to call Parma, Ohio home.”

Pay It Forward Cafe’ Hosts Classic Car And Motorcycle Show

by Laura Muller

The “Pay it Forward Café”, an outreach program of the Church in the Woods (Parma Park Reformed Church) 11001 W. Ridgewood Drive, Parma Heights invites all community members to join them at their first combined motorcycle/car show and Family Fun Day.

If you have a special vehicle or bike to show off come and join us on November 13, 2010 for a day of family fun. The day starts at 10 am with a ride and continues with family activities starting at 11 am. A spaghetti dinner, music, magicians, bake sale, face painting, balloons, games and other family activities are on the agenda for this fun filled benefit fund raiser. This event is free for those who come to view the vehicles, a small entry fee will be charged for exhibitors.

The “Pay it Forward Café” is available each Saturday for families, single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren and relatives of deployed military who would like positive social time with their children. It provides a hot meal as well as educational and/or entertaining programs each week without charge. The Café has adopted a deployed military troop located in Afghanistan . The



children and adults write letters and send care packages to support their soldiers each month. Items for the care packages are donated by community businesses, friends and members. If you are interested in participating in these activities please call Laura @ 440-887-1792 or Kathy @ 440-781-2588.

Chamber Of Commerce Seeks Pride Award Nominations

by Lisa Zaremba

The PACC is seeking nominations of individuals, businesses, and / or organizations that deserve to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments, and contributions to the Parma area.

The “Pride Award” is a prestigious honor that is presented annually during the PACC Pride Award Gala. It is the Chambers way of recognizing those exceptional individuals, businesses, and organizations that have made a significant impact in our area,

above and beyond their employment responsibilities. “We look forward to celebrating their excellence and show our appreciation for their contributions to our area,” says Lisa Zaremba of the Chamber. “This year the awards banquet will be held January 29th 2011 at Holy Spirit Party Center in Parma”.

Please fill out the Pride Award Nomination form and return to the Chamber Office.

For more information, please contact the PACC at 440-886-1700

PARMA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2010 PRIDE AWARD NOMINATION


Please Include

Name of Nominee: _____
Individual _____ Organization _____ Business _____

Nominee Contact Information:

Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Business Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____
Email _____
Nominated by: _____ Date _____
Phone Number _____ Email: _____
Alternate Contact _____
Phone Number _____

REASON FOR NOMINATION: Include supporting documentation up to 2 pages.
Please return this form by FAX: 440-886-1770
Or mail to: Parma Area Chamber of Commerce – Pride Award
7908 Day Drive, Parma OH 44129
Visit the PACC Website at www.parmaareachamber.org
All nominations with paper work must be submitted no later than
5:00pm, Monday, November 22, 2010




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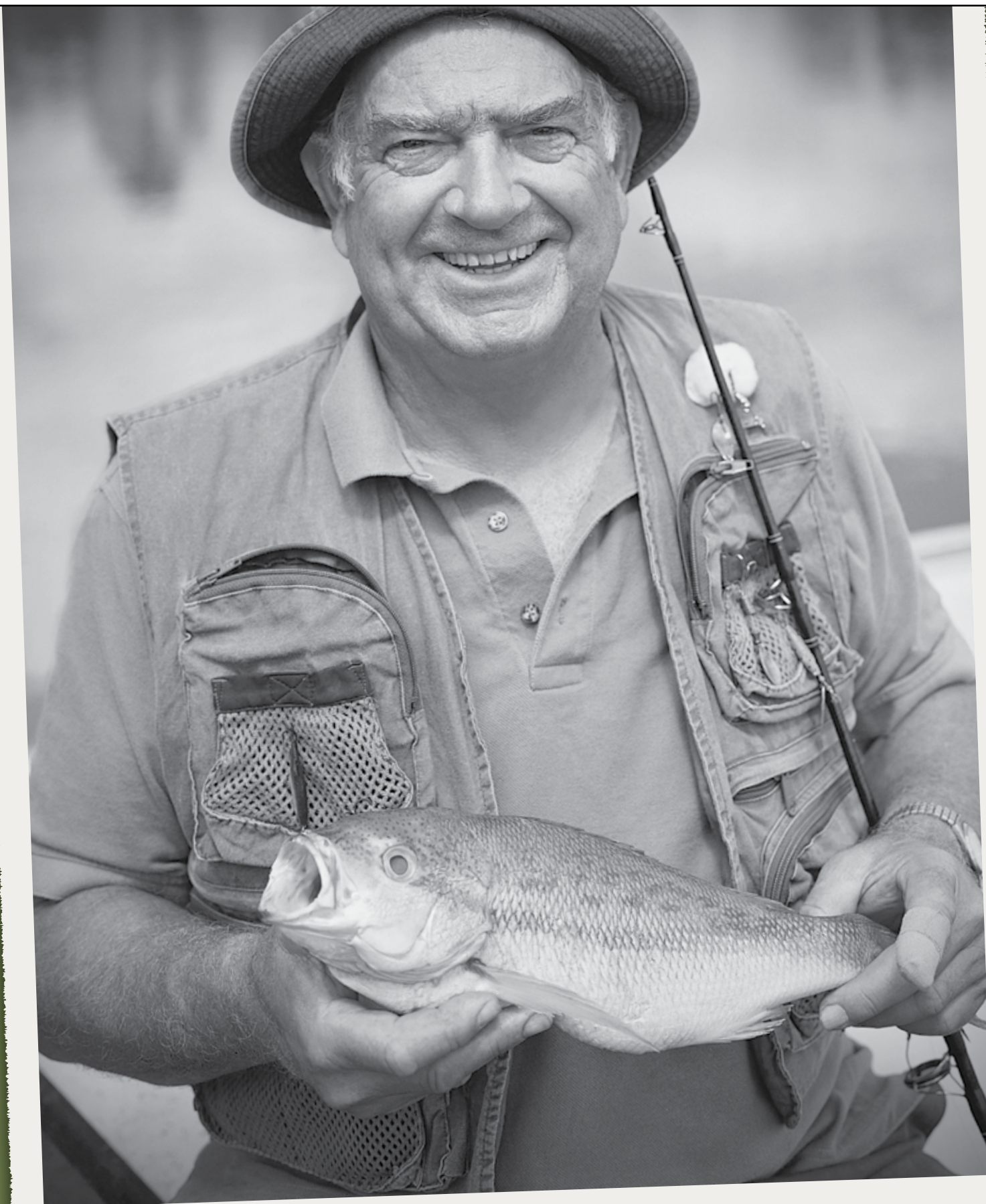
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Parma Health

Support Group, Compassionate Nurse Guide Patients With Diabetes

by CJ Sheppard

One out of every four Americans over 60 – and one in 10 over 20 – lives with diabetes. At Parma Hospital, there is a certified diabetic educator devoted to showing patients how to make those manageable, quality years.

Parma Hospital's diabetes education program has been recognized by both the American Diabetes Association and the Centers for Disease Control as a model quality diabetes program. Karen Krauth, a nationally certified diabetes educator, is at the helm of this support network.

On the second Thursday of every month, the Diabetes Support Group meets in the hospital's Auditorium. Krauth invites informative speakers, including podiatrists, dietitians and other experts. She has even cooked an entire meal from appetizers to the main course to dessert to demonstrate that preparing low-sugar, low-fat foods is not only possible but delicious.

Meetings take place September through May from 7 to 9 p.m. The group does not meet in December. An average of 40 people attend meetings, and nearly 70 people went to the first

meeting of the group's 15th year.

According to the American Diabetes Association, one out of every three children born today will face a future with diabetes if current trends continue. Endocrinologist Richard Koletsky, MD, a physician liaison for Parma Hospital's diabetes program, says physicians cannot properly manage the health of diabetic patients unless they are educated in a structured program.

Krauth meets individually with patients to provide one-on-one counseling on checking blood sugar, taking insulin and managing life with diabetes. She notes that the terms juvenile diabetes and adult-onset diabetes

have been replaced with simply Type 1, or insulin-dependent diabetes that requires daily shots, and Type 2, in which the body makes insulin but supply in insufficient. If diagnosed early, Type 2 diabetes can typically be controlled with diet and exercise.

People face pre-diabetes if on two separate occasions they register a fasting blood glucose of 100-125.

November is American Diabetes Month. Parma Hospital's Diabetes Support Group meets on Thursday, November 11 for its final session of the year. Meetings will resume in January.

To reach Karen Krauth RN at Parma Hospital, call 440-743-2348.

Festival Features Locally Made Arts, Fine Crafts, Benefits Patient Care At Parma Hospital



Rosemary Crisci of Crisci Designs displayed her unique handpainted pieces at the Parma Hospital Auxiliary's Arts at the Center last year. The event showcases the talent of local artisans.

by CJ Sheppard

How often can you go shopping and truly benefit a great cause? At the Parma Hospital Auxiliary's Fourth Annual Arts at the Center on November 19-20, you can commence your holiday shopping and help advance patient care at Parma Community General Hospital.

At this juried art and fine crafts festival, you will find one-of-a-kind gifts, including handmade jewelry, framed photography and unique pieces in glass, metal, acrylics, oils and watercolors.

Give your holiday season a classy start at a celebration of local artistic talent that begins with a Friday evening reception called "Blue Hawaii." This preview party gives you an opportunity to purchase art in advance of Saturday's public show, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guests at the casual but classy cocktail reception on Friday evening are encouraged to wear their favorite Hawaiian attire to enjoy a luau-themed menu and music by Akin for Jazz. The event will be held at St. Michael's Woodside,

5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Heights.

Perhaps best of all, you can rest assured that your attendance matters in improving the health of your community. The event will support the acquisition of digital mammography at Parma Hospital. Digital mammography offers superior image clarity and a quicker and easier patient experience. These high-resolution images give the radiologist the ability to zoom in and recheck areas of concern. Computer-aided detection (CAD) serves as a second pair of eyes to reduce the need for callbacks that require patients to return for additional images.

Tickets for the Friday preview event are \$50. For tickets, call 440-743-2371. The Saturday show, held from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., is free and open to the public.

"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."

Shredding For A Cause

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital is hosting a Shredding Day on November 9 to benefit the Parma Lutheran Hunger Center.

Safely dispose of old documents such as medical records, tax forms, bank statements, cancelled checks, envelopes, brochures and junk mail. The Shredding Network's mobile shredding truck will provide quick, confidential destruction of old financial documents and other paper. All donations will benefit the Parma

Lutheran Hunger Center.

Simply drop off material to be shredded at the hospital's main parking lot on Tuesday, November 9 from 1 to 4 p.m. Shredding can be done while you wait, or papers can be dropped off for your convenience.

Parma Hospital has been recycling paper since 2005. In 2010 alone, the hospital has already recycled more than 106 tons of paper and 48 tons of cardboard. The hospital also collects used batteries, scrap metal and used kitchen grease for recycling.

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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #11

by Gene Lovasy

November’s (and April’s) Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT: Feeling valued and appreciated is important to all of us. For young people, this means feeling safe and believing they’re liked and respected. These feelings can go a long way toward empowering children and youth. Providing opportunities and recognizing accomplishments helps young people build self-esteem. This in turn, gives them the confidence to share their ideas, knowledge, and creativity by volunteering and working in paid jobs. By paying attention to young people, you show that you value them. The assets associated with this category include:

#7 Community Values Youth – Kids perceive that adults in the community value them;

#8 Youth as Resources – Kids are given useful roles in the community;

#9 Service to Others – Kids serve the community one hour or more a week;

#10 Safety – Kids feel safe at home, school and in the neighborhood.

I explained the Empowerment category in April’s issue (Observer Vol 2, Issue 4) and, in December (Observer Vol 1 issue 2), Asset #7, Community Values Youth was the focus. This month, I’ll shine the spotlight on....

Asset #8, Youth as Resources

Give young people meaningful roles....

“Having a voice” means more than making a sound when you sing or shout. The ways people express ideas, energy, and insights make each person unique. Helping young people find their voices is one of the best ways to help them be a positive force in their families, schools, clubs, teams, or neighborhoods. This is good for them—and for your community. Young people have a lot more to contribute when their opinions are respected and their talents are tapped. Listen closely to the opinions of young people around you,

and you’ll all benefit.

Here are the facts:

Research shows when young people have useful roles in their community they feel good about themselves and their future, do better in school, and get into less trouble. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard and appreciated. Only 26 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they’ve been given useful roles in their community, according to Search Institute surveys. Allow all young people to have a voice in issues and decisions at home, school, and in the community.

Tips for building this asset:

Building this asset means valuing young people’s talents, skills, interests, and opinions. It means setting aside the belief that adults know more than the younger generation. When you see children and youth as valuable resources, they feel more empowered to contribute to the community, and at school, and home in meaningful, thoughtful ways.

Also try this:

In your home and family: Invite your child to help you plan a party or other event. Ask for her or his opinions about the theme, menu, and guests.

In your neighborhood and community: Choose a community issue important to you and gather the opinions of both young people and adults. When the time for action arrives, enlist the help of those who share your passion.

In your school or youth program: Ask students and participants to find newspaper stories or images that grab their attention. In groups, talk about the topics they identified. Brainstorm ways for them to get involved and use their voices in positive ways, such as writing or e-mailing a letter to the editor, calling a legislator, attending a meeting, or forming a group.

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.

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WHO ARE THE ASSET BUILDERS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

Bob Gillingham from Gillingham Ford, conducts financial literacy programs for students at Shiloh & Greenbriar Middle School, sponsored the Kiwanis Builders Club at Hillside & is an active participant in CBS (Community/Business/School Partnership) and sits on its Advisory Committee. If you’re in the neighborhood, stop by and thank him for his support of our kids.

ASSET BUILDING IDEAS FOR THE WORKPLACE.....

- * Adopt a school; encourage employee involvement by allowing them to mentor/tutor students, judge science fairs, etc.
- * Offer discount coupons to family-friendly events;
- * Provide financial support or volunteer workers to an after-school program;
- * Offer scholarships for youth who do exceptional community service;
- * Add games, books and other activities to your seating area to let customers feel welcome.

IDEAS MORE TO COME.

Money Saving Programs, Part 3 Home Performance Solutions Program

by Sean Brennan

This is part three of a series meant to inform you of money-saving programs that many residents may not be aware of.

I recently found out about the Home Performance Solutions Program available from Columbia Gas of Ohio. Anyone in the Columbia Gas service area is eligible for the program. In fact, soon after finding out about the program, my wife, Deena, and I took advantage of it and we are happy we did.

The Home Performance Solutions Program will inform you of how much money and energy you can save by completing any of the following projects: attic and wall insulation, air sealing, high-efficiency gas furnace or boiler replacement, programmable thermostat and high-performance energy-efficient shower-head. In fact, for a limited time, substantial rebates of up to 70% are being offered by Columbia to assist residents in saving money on qualified energy efficiency improvements.

Here is how the program works. First, you call 1-877-644-6674 or visit www.ColumbiaGasOhio.com/HPS to request a home energy audit. The cost of the audit is only \$50. Our audit took about four hours and Deena and I were impressed with how thorough it was. The auditor went through every nook and cranny of our brick bungalow. He even used an infrared camera to show us where we had leaks, as well as where insulation was needed in our walls. As an added bonus, the audit includes a totally free programmable thermostat and energy-efficient shower-head, if needed.

At the end of the audit, the auditor puts together a report of the suggested

projects for your home. If you take advantage of any one of the suggestions, you get your initial \$50 back, as well as a \$250 bonus. Further, you get bonuses back for each project you complete. Finally, if you complete two or more of the suggested projects, you get extra rebates on top of the first one.

Next, you contact the approved contractors on the list provided by Columbia. We eventually selected the company we felt most comfortable with and completed all of the suggested projects on our home. We were amazed that the original cost would have been over \$3,000, but, with all of the rebates, it cost us only a little over \$1,000. Best of all, we will save this much money on our gas bills within the first 12 to 15 months. In fact, Deena has already commented on how “tightened up” our home feels, as it is less drafty. Best of all we received our bonus rebate check in the mail only a couple of weeks after the jobs were completed.

Other benefits of the Home Performance Solutions Program are that Columbia Gas sets the prices of the projects and Columbia will come back and check the work that was completed. If what they find does not meet their standards, the company that did the work will be asked to return to make further repairs. The companies in the program have a vested interest in doing the work right, as they do not want to be removed from Columbia’s list of approved contractors.

All in all, we are glad we took advantage of the Home Performance Solutions program and recommend it to anyone wishing to save money on their gas bill.

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Wednesday - Club 3 - \$5 match for 1st \$20 purchase 3 or more

Thursday - Ladies Night \$5 match for 1st \$20 purchase 3 or more

Friday - Grab Bag \$\$\$ plus Free Large Beverage with 1st \$20 purchase

Saturday - Grab Bag \$\$\$ plus Free Medium Beverage and Free Pastry with 1st \$20 purchase

Sunday - \$\$\$ Grab Bag

Parma Observer

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Dan Taddeo

What is truth? Webster defines truth as the quality or fact of being true, honest, sincere, accurate, etc. More specifically, it is an agreement with an established standard or rule. For example, if you ask three different people what the temperature is, you will get three different answers. But if you want the truth, check the thermometer yourself. There are all kinds of truth out there. As someone so aptly put it: "There are three truths: my truth, your truth, and THE truth." The definition of truth as used here is God's

word, the Bible- the pillar and foundation of belief in absolute truth, where hundreds of references speak words of truth always in love.

Godly truth is determined by God's word (God-centered), the Ten Commandments in particular. Worldly truth (self-centered) is determined by the culture. All truth is relevant; Bible truth never changes- it is the same "yesterday and today and forever." Worldly truth is the opposite; it is in constant change. Nothing is absolute- anything goes. Whenever these differences are ignored, negative consequences are sure

to follow. "The Parable of the Sower" is a short, simple, worldly story that teaches Godly truth. Jesus said, "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop a hundred times more than was sown."

Jesus' disciples asked him what this parable meant. "This is the mean-

ing of the parable: Those along the path are the ones who hear, and the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for awhile, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Which soil best describes you? Does this parable imply that only one out of four people can be counted on to tell the truth and abide in God's word?

The 9th Commandment says, "You shall not give false testimony." Do not be disloyal toward others by withholding or distorting the truth with intent to deceive. Remember, God loves every person equally. In the words of J. Grant Howard, "Truth is not limited to the Scriptures, but it is limited by the Scriptures." When it comes to what is really true, we must admit that certain truths never change. If it is true, it's true, whether people believe it or not. Truths are timeless. They provide guidance when making tough decisions. They add meaning and give purpose to life. They have served us well in the past. The more people stray from Biblical principles, the more disheartening the present and future will become.

Now we are beginning to ask ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong; and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. If we only would take the time to really think about it, we might improve ourselves, and our behavior would be an example to others. If not, then we have no one to blame but ourselves when we sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in. We reap what we sow.

"To love our neighbor as ourselves is such a truth for regulating human society, that by that alone one might determine all the cases in social morality." - John Locke

The Candle Of Memory Shall Never Be Put Out

by Maria Kvit-Flynn

On Sunday, November 14, the Ukrainian community in Parma will be commemorating the Holodomor, Ukraine's Famine-Genocide of 1932-33, by accepting the "Candle of Memory," which will be coming from Kyiv, Ukraine's capital. This action was started by the Ukrainian World Congress of Toronto, Canada. On June 19, 2010, at the Holodomor Memorial in Kyiv, a memorial service was said for the victims of the Holodomor-Genocide, and a candle was lit under the slogan, "We will never put out the Candle of Memory!" And thus, the Ukrainian World Congress started an international quest called the "Candle of Prayer."



On this day in Kyiv, representatives from all the regions, together with representatives from the Ukrainian diaspora, were given the "Candles of Prayer," to take back to their respective regions and cities. A candle was also brought to the United Nations in New York City and a memorial service will be held at St. Patrick's cathedral on November 20th sponsored by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. A candle will also visit our community here in Parma, on Sunday November 14, and

will be presented to Mayor DePiero at 2:00 PM at Parma's City Hall. The candle will then be given to Ihor Diaczun, the president of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, who in turn will light a torch, which will be carried by runners to St. Vladimir's Holodomor Memorial on State Road in Ukrainian Village. At 3:00 PM, the clergy from the Ukrainian community will hold a memorial service, after which the newest "Holodomor" film, a Hollywood documentary, will be shown at St. Vladimir's grand hall at 3:30PM. The general public is invited to view this historic film. An exhibit will also be on display at the grand hall. This 100 color panel exhibit was a joint effort between Ukraine and Canada. Both are amazing opportunities to learn about this dark period in Ukrainian history during the Stalin era which was hidden from the world for so many years. The film and exhibit are most informative and educational.

The "Candle of Prayer," will honor the memory of millions of innocent victims who died tragically by this forced famine-genocide. It is especially important now to acknowledge this tragedy since the newly elected pro-Russian Ukrainian government denies that

the Holodomor was an act of genocide although fourteen countries, including the United States have acknowledged this crime as a genocide. The United Nations, UNESCO, OBCE, and the European Parliament have also acknowledged the artificial famine as a genocide.

November 27 th, marks the official Holodomor Memorial Day, and Ukrainians throughout the world will be commemorating this important day, as will the Ukrainian-Americans in Parma.



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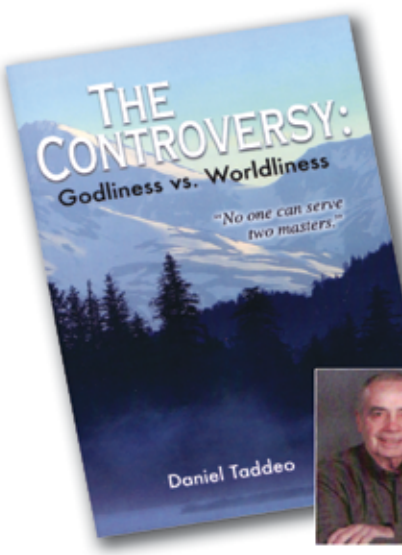




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Parma Heights

Diverting Children

by Jim Griffith

Growing up means making mistakes and learning from those mistakes. The mistakes we learn from while growing up make us the successful adults we are today. The secret is to not make the life changing mistakes that can take a lifetime to deal with. Everybody knows somebody who did something as a young adult that has haunted them ever since. Dealing with the criminal justice system as a juvenile has the potential to make a life harder for these children as adults.

With that principle in mind, the juvenile diversion program was developed. The Parma Heights Police Department is a participant in this program. In this program, first time juvenile offenders are offered a chance to participate. Successful completion means there is no criminal charge on the child's record. This gives the child an opportunity to make a mistake and not be punished for years for a bad decision they made. To understand how the process works, let's look at how a case would progress through the system

Johnny is caught sending threats to a friend via his phone and on facebook. The parents of the victim child file a police report. The detective does the followup and the paperwork is forwarded to the Juvenile Intake Officer at the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors office to determine if the child is eligible for juvenile diversion. If the child is eligible, the case is returned to the Parma Heights Police Department for the scheduling of a diversion court.

In the diversion court (which is held at Parma Heights City Hall) the child admits to the facts of the case and is “sentenced” to number of hours of community service and a fine. The community service is then scheduled and the child works the required number of hours. As long as the hours are completed and the work is satisfactory, they are released from the program and they will have the original charge dismissed, meaning the child does not have a criminal record.

Not all children are eligible for diversion. Most felony crimes are not eligible. Some violent misdemeanors are not eligible, as well as most sex offenses. Thefts of large amounts of money or property will usually keep you out of diversion also. Some drug

offenses are eligible, some are not.

The diversion court is operated by Sgt. Ron Arpajian. He is the magistrate. He received special training to be qualified to be a magistrate. Under the guidelines of the program, the magistrate must receive the training in order to conduct the court. With the help of Secretary Kathy Hriczo, he organizes the court. He sends out the “summons” to appear, hears the accused children explain their crime and then determines the amount of community service they will be sentenced too, as well as the amount of the fine.

The files are then transferred to Detectives Steve Scharschmidt and Dave Kunker. They have the daunting task of developing activities for the diversion children to participate in, then sched-

uling all the children, then supervising them in those activities. (sometimes the number of children they are required to schedule can be in the teens) They keep track of the hours and the parental contacts, and determine when a child has met the requirements laid down by the diversion court.

It is important to note that the program is only for first time offenders. The guiding principal behind the program is to allow a child to learn from a mistake, make amends for the bad decision and then move on. If the child commits a second offense, it is assumed the child did not learn and is then processed through the criminal justice system. Any child that does not complete the requirements of the program is also returned to the criminal

justice system to face the charges of the original crime they committed.

Most people do not view the criminal justice system as a proactive system. Rarely do you hear of a criminal justice agency involved in programs attempting to keep people from becoming criminals. Those programs do exist. The fact that most programs like this operate behind the scenes, with very little exposure to the general public, results in most citizens being unaware that programs like this exist. The system does operate in a way which attempts to benefit those willing to take responsibility and put the effort forth to show they are appreciative of the fact that one's mistake can be forgiven. That is a life lesson in and of itself.

Parma Heights Library Relocation Still Open To Debate

by Mayor Michael Byrne

Mayor of Parma Heights

The Cuyahoga County Library Relocation Meeting was held at Parma Heights City Hall on Thursday, October 7, 2010, and I want to acknowledge and thank the residents of the City of Parma Heights, Congressman Dennis Kucinich and all concerned citizens who came, to show their passion, commitment and support of our Parma Heights Library Branch and to voice their concerns about the planned downsizing and/or relocation of our branch.

I know by the overwhelming number of phone calls to City Hall that many more would have attended if they were able or if our newsletter containing meeting information had reached every home in a timely fashion. However, there is still time to voice opposition to the current plans and I strongly encourage you to phone Cuyahoga County Public Library Executive Director Sari Feldman at 216-398-1800 or go online to www.cuyahogalibrary.org to state your concerns.

It is common knowledge that our Parma Heights Library Branch was conceived and funded by the citizens of our town. So great was the determination of residents to have a full-service library in our community that the building and establishment of the Parma Height Branch required historic procedural precedent to be set in the

State of Ohio to enable public libraries to operate in publicly-owned buildings. Other communities throughout the state have used our city's plan as a template for the establishment of libraries in their neighborhoods by constructing library buildings on public land and leasing the buildings to the libraries for nominal sums. The Parma Heights branch leases the building from the city for \$1 a year.

With your continuing support, and the support of City Council, Congressman Kucinich, State Representative Mike Foley and State Representative Mike Skindell, I make a pledge to do everything in my power to convince the Cuyahoga County Public Library administration and board members to keep our historically significant, full-service Parma Heights Library Branch at its current location in the Greenbrier Commons.

Parma Hts. Senior Citizen Activities

by Tom Moran

Beginning November 2nd, every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM-11 AM we will offer wii games, cornhole, ladder golf, bocce ball and coffee at no charge. Come join us at the N.E.O. Soccer facility located in the Greenbrier Commons (6200 Pearl Road). Have fun and stay fit all at once!

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Sports

Joe The Coach- My View Of Sports

by Joseph Finding

It's tough today to try to start this article with subjects I think are important because all areas are important. Sorry last month about no article from me; had eye surgery on both eyes. I think I can manage now. The past few weeks I had the opportunity to watch some of the Parma area football games. I am glad that all the varsity teams had a team, but I don't know how they will be able to

keep it up. I overheard a few people making comments, like "I told you the board would come up with money to field a team, levy or not." They are kidding themselves, because they didn't read that each school had to fund their own programs, and congratulations to all those who worked so hard. It was very obvious that the bands and flag lines cheerleaders also took a hard hit. I guess people can't read or listen to what things are going

to be cut. If they think the State coming in to take over the schools will be a good thing, they are also kidding themselves; the State would cut even further. Once again, all of you players, football, cross-country, tennis, bands, dance lines and cheerleaders, and any I missed, you are the greatest kids in the world. I know what it takes after playing for 4 years of division 1 football and pro try outs, and 46 years of coaching; and by the

way, when I started in coaching we didn't get paid, it was an after-school assignment.

I also had a opportunity to talk to many parents with kids in high school, and ever so many with kids in grade school or younger, and I was amazed how freely they talked about not voting at all. You mean to tell me that all those Vets down at our VFW Post 1974 [Parma] fought, died or were wounded for this attitude. It's your right and duty to vote. Don't talk to me if you don't vote. My grandson who goes to a middle school in another system who doesn't pass levy's can no longer take AP. classes because they were discontinued.

When will you people with kids in school get smart and vote? It doesn't matter to me how you vote, that's up to you, and I would never ask you who you voted for. There are just only so many of us seniors out here, and if all of you voted, maybe things could get done. I realize that I may be in the minority when it comes to seniors voting, but we seniors get out, and most on fixed incomes being depleted by what's happening, think about it. The Ohio State Supreme Court has to get off their butts and do something. They have already ruled our way of funding schools as unconstitutional. You are not lawyers in most cases, but pick up the pen and let them know how you feel about their inaction.

I guess that I had better get off of my soapbox for now. All of our teams have represented themselves well. Because of lack of numbers some teams who have made the state playoffs won't do so this time. And, we have had teams that played in the state tournament within the last 10 years; give them a chance. Parma Senior High is hanging in there tough. I give, Coach Rob Cyr, and his team and coaches a lot of credit, well done. They are still in the thick of it in the top 20 teams in the area. They still need to play North Royalton, and that won't be easy, then Valley Forge. I am not bragging but I did coach at Brecksville-Broadview Hts. and we did win the state championship, and if any school or system needs that now, it's here in Parma.

Coach Joe Finding coachjoe61@cox.net

Parma Rising

by Ray Dessoify

As the November election nears and we all muddle through this tough economic time I find myself thinking more and more about the future of the city I grew up in and the health of the region in general. Parma is in good condition. The people are the same hard working no-nonsense sons and daughters of immigrants that built the neighborhoods and businesses, the schools and parks, and continue to proudly stick to the plan. Work hard. Take care of your family. Help your neighbors. It's a fine city and I honestly can't think of a place that I would rather live.

Like many of the baby boomers, I watched Parma mature. Our city was safe, the residents productive, honest and hard working. Many of my peers blossomed, earning degrees in engineering, absorbing the skill sets that float a city like ours; every other guy I know grew up with a machine shop in his basement, he could do his own brake job, weld the broken frame on his roto-tiller. Now these same guys are installing MRI's in hospitals, writing machine code

and fabricating prototypes on workstations with 3D printers. The problem is now they are doing it in Minneapolis, Irvine and Seattle. They come back to visit, and when they do I see lost opportunity. We wished them farewell and were proud to see them accomplish so much.

I spent 12 years in southern California working in high tech defense and then in medical manufacturing. In 1991 My wife and I came home with our new born daughter, anxious to reconnect with family and friends. I found a job in research at the Cleveland Clinic, my wife took care of us then went to work at the Parma Schools assisting in a classroom with special needs kids. We've done just fine. But something tells me we're missing something. Parma is waiting to be reborn. Our city is at a turning point. The old folks are passing, the way we make a living is changing. The languages that we overhear at the mall and the funky little grocers that I come across are richer and more diverse. The city is changing. It's our turn to work the city into an expression of our

hopes and values, just like our parents did. I want to be a part of it, but cannot get my head into the task.

So I want to suggest a few humble ideas on what we can do now for little or no money and not much effort to make this town buzz.

1) Walk around the joint. Yep. Hit Start, Shut down. Walk away from the PC. Poke your head out the screen door, select a jacket and start walking. Look at the neighborhood. Greet everyone you come across. Be there.

2) Enter. Open the door of any strange little store on Ridge road and look at the wares that the proprietor is offering. I suggest the little Polish grocer on Ridge North of Snow. Buy 1/4 pound of the smoked sausage and eat it on your walk home.

3) Listen then speak. To strangers (also known as neighbors). You might try something like "Hi, have you ever eaten at that restaurant over there? (point at the nearest eatery). Listen then speak again. It feels natural after awhile.

That's a start. Let's start thinking about what it means to live in a city. Let's get out there and start to imagine a Parma that our kids will want to bike in, eat in, show their art and make cool stuff that everyone will want to have. We'll get to work north of Brookpark Rd. after we rock this end. Good Luck and let me know what is so cool that I can't stop talking about it.

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Seven Hills

Effects Of Everyday Bullies On Everyone

by Carlos Gonzalez

All across America and in other countries, one major issue that needs to be taken more seriously, is BULLYING. There are 3 basic types of bullying; EMOTIONAL, VERBAL, and Physical. In the United States most bullying occurs in middle school aged children. These children are the most recognized, and are also the most overlooked. Statistically, once a person is

bullied, they turn into a bully. Through psychological counseling, this can change. A person can get the necessary help to overcome the mental damage, and then go on to lead a normal life.

People need to stop bullying other people. It is wrong in so many ways. It has been known to cause children as young as 8 years old to commit suicide. It has also made adults commit suicide as well. Bullying makes people feel like stay-

ing home all the time. It makes children not want to go to school. It is known to make one's self esteem lower, and when your self esteem is lowered, you tend to do things that you normally wouldn't. It makes kids not want to hang out with their friends, or even go outside and play. Kids that are bullied do not want to have any friends at all, because they feel like they cannot trust anyone.

In the past couple of years, many people have committed suicide because of bullies. Phoebe Prince, a 15 year student of South Hadley High School, in South Hadley, Massachusetts, took her own life because she was being bullied so badly. Nine people received criminal charges due to her suicide. Here in the United States, 8 year old, Marie Bentham, hung herself in her own bedroom, because of bullies. Bullying does not just happen in school. Megan Meier, a 13 year old girl committed suicide after CYBER BULLYING. Online, students and even adults, posing as students, were attacking her through e-mails and other online sites. Elaine Swift, 15, died from and overdose by taking 100 Paracetamol, a toxic drug. Her life, along with all the others mentioned, should have been spared.

The stress from being bullied can

make a person physically sick. Being embarrassed everyday by a bully will cause mental problems. It is recorded that 75% of all children have encountered some form of bullying. Most people that have been bullied turn into a bully. Schools and even parents need to learn how to recognize a bully. If someone is proven to be a bully, I think harsh consequences should be taken. If a bully is addressed once, by an adult, and they do not change, the Police should become involved. If people involve the police, maybe then fewer kids will kill themselves.

A "BULLY" has no face. You cannot just look at a group of kids and pick the bully out of the group. There is no special race, color, or physical markings, to let a person know that someone else is a bully. Anyone can be a bully, and once you are known to be a bully, that title sticks with you.

I am an eighth grade student at Greenbriar Middle School, I have never been victim to a bully, and I have never bullied anyone myself. I know there are bullies in my school. They need to be brought to the surface, and dealt with in the proper manner. My advice to all people, children and adults, is to never bully. You should treat people with kindness and respect, as you want to be treated. If you or anyone you know is a victim of bullying, YOU MUST TELL AN ADULT.

A Challenge For One, A Challenge For All

by Brian O'Donell

When Parma Observer Publisher Daniel P. McCarthy asked me if I would like to take on the role of editor for his monthly community based newspaper I immediately accepted the offer. Then I wondered whether or not I possessed the specific knowledge and experience that would qualify me for the position. In fact, I am not really sure what the exact responsibilities of editor will entail, but I am honored and excited to take on this challenge and I remain confident that I will indeed rise to the occasion. One thing that I am sure of is that the Parma Observer has filled a chasm that has existed between print publications and the public in the tri-city area of Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills for as long as I can remember. A real community paper written by, for, and about, the area residents. As Mr. McCarthy likes to say, "Hyper-Local". With that in mind I will gladly take on the responsibilities of editor in hopes of serving the paper and thus serving the community. I hope to receive community based assistance as I grow into the position of Editor. Any criticisms, helpful hints, insights, and hate mail will be gladly and humbly accepted. As I take on this challenge I would like to

also issue a challenge. Get involved!

This paper is a vehicle to report and share local news stories and local interests among the residents. The paper is also a soundboard for citizens to express their opinion and share ideas. I urge all residents of our collective communities to get involved. Pass along your copy of the Observer to a friend who may not be aware of this publication. Grab an extra issue from one of the over 200 Observer distribution locations and take it to work. Do you own or work at a business that would like to become a distribution point? Let us know; it does not cost anything and shows that you as a business are active in the betterment of our community. Come to one of the weekly public meetings held every Tuesday at Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd. 7:00 pm) and meet Publisher Daniel P. McCarthy. Accept and answer the challenge, help me become a better editor, help yourself and your neighbors become better, more active residents, and help Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills become a better tri-city area.

(contact me directly at BPOD66@msn.com, or go to ParmaObserver.com)

Parmatown Mall Has A Lot To Offer This Holiday Season!

by Laurie Malto

To start off the season we will be having a Santa Arrival party and you're invited!! Join the Radio Disney Crew Saturday November 13, from 8-10 am for a special holiday-themed Radio Disney D-Tour. You'll have a chance to win incredible prizes dance to live music and play a ton of cool games and much, much more!! After you see the Radio Disney Road Crew, get your picture taken with Santa Clause himself! Then take a ride on the holiday express train that will be located in front of Bath & Body Works through the holiday season!

Holiday Shoppers can enjoy free gift wrap service this season provided by The Cleveland Host Lion's Club. The club will be wrapping at the Customer Service Center Saturdays from November 27 – December 18 during mall hours.

Throughout the season shoppers can hear joyful holiday performances by local church and school choirs. Check www.parmatown.com for a complete schedule or see The Customer Service Center.

Help make holiday wishes come

true for needy children. Parmatown Mall will serve as a collection site for new unwrapped toys November 15 – December 15 on behalf of the Marines Toys for Tots campaign. The drop off center is located just to the right of American Greetings. You can also donate your gently used coats to the Coats for Kids campaign November 1 – December 29. The donation bin will be located in front of the Mall Security center.

And be sure to check out our annual Holiday Art and Crafts Show this season running December 17-19. Join us for a unique shopping experience right before the holidays. Booths are open mall hours and located at the main stage area. (By JCPenney on the Day Drive Side) Fifty booths will feature the works of artists' and designers from Toledo, Ohio to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and everywhere in between! Artists and crafters will feature hand-crafted jewelry, woodworking, floral centerpieces, holiday wreaths, pottery, paper crafts, fiber art, home decor and much more! Give the gift of art this holiday season!

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Caregiver's Kitchen: Inspiration From Dora's Graceful Departure

by Patty Knox

INSPIRATION FROM DORA'S GRACEFUL DEPARTURE

Your caregiver's journey may have begun unexpectedly, unplanned, yet needful. You may have found that you are the only one available to fill the need. Even if it is not your gift, you may feel compelled to help out because you're family. Perhaps the ill or elderly one in need has no one else. Perhaps you're the only one willing, but you don't feel able. Do not fear it. I can assure you, the Lord will lead if you ask Him. I could never have taken care of Dad without the loving guidance of my Lord Jesus. He truly is our Shepherd. Draw close to Him, ask Him for wisdom, and He will walk with you through every minute of your caregiving. Quiet your heart to hear His voice, and He will tell you what to do. In this way you will be blessed, and you can then bless your cared-for with the attentions needed. God will guide you to do those things that will cheer the one who is lonely and comfort the one in pain. When you feel you have nothing left to give, you will feel a renewed spirit as you yield to Jesus in prayer while you efficiently do the difficult tasks that are required of you in caring for the sick. "They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles. They will run and not be weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

When I was a nurse aide working in home health care, I often felt only minimally helpful trying to keep a person waiting for their last breath as comfortable as possible. I could not have done

that type of work without prayer or the Lord's guidance. One sweet woman, Dora, who could still talk and had her wits about her cheerfully said to me, "I don't know why I'm still here. I'm ready to go. I've made my peace with God." She refused to go to sleep, glad for the company. Even through her pain, she didn't take a single breath for granted. She reminisced about the happiest days of her life while we waited for the end together. Dora ended her time on earth praising God for every precious memory. It was from that time spent with her that I realized the fullness of the saying, "Each day is a gift."

It is the most solitary of tasks, caring for someone who is near death. Hospice work is a rare calling, for those who have more than the usual measure of compassion. Those caring for the dying who I have observed from the hallways of Holy Family Hospice on State Road have a peace and a sense of purpose as they go about their work. Their step is light, their touch soothing and gentle. It is not my gift; I have a profound respect for those who have the gift to minister to those living out life's final chapter.

Dora, despite the fact that she was on oxygen, wanted to sing treasured hymns together. She named them one by one. Thankfully, I know many hymns by heart, and was able to supply the words she could not remember. Although her speaking voice was weak and breathy, when she sang it was strong and clear. There is a hymn she knew which I now sing on the most difficult days, the words of which bring great comfort. Here is the first stanza:

*I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry over the future, For I know what Jesus said.
And today I walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead.
Many things about tomorrow, I don't seem to understand.
But I know Who holds tomorrow, And I know Who holds my hand.*

Thanksgiving is drawing near. Just as I thank God for Dora and those profound moments of joy in celebrating the highlights of her life with her in her final hours, I thank God for the privilege of caring for Dad and all that it has done to bring me closer to God as well as to Dad. Caregiving slows down your life and makes you realize what is really important. You have another chance with a beloved relative to get to know them in a way that you never did before. You have a daily opportunity to shower them with the love of God. Then, as time comes to a close, you have cause for rejoicing, as did Dora.

She shared with me one of her most popular recipes, a Ham Loaf with a tangy glaze that was quick to disappear at every church potluck she brought it to. Dad loves ham, too, and this way he doesn't have to chew forever. Easy entree for the elderly to eat, and the flavor tickles the taste buds. Dora gave me a real family heirloom.

Dora's Ham Loaf with Tangy Pineapple Glaze

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Make glaze: Heat ¼ cup cider vinegar, ¼ cup water, 1 tablespoon prepared mustard and ½ cup brown sugar until dissolved. Stir in 8 oz. crushed pineapple in juice. Turn off heat. In a small bowl, mix ½ cup minute tapioca with ¾ cup milk. Add 1 cup bread or cracker crumbs (graham/saltine). Let sit to soften while mincing 1 ½ pounds ham (rind removed & discarded). In a large bowl, combine minced ham, 1 pound ground pork sausage, 1 tablespoon sage, ½ cup thinly sliced celery (optional), and 2 beaten eggs. Thoroughly stir in tapioca mixture. Put into loaf pan or make individual oval loaves in baking dish. Spoon half of glaze over meat. Place in preheated oven & baste with remaining glaze every half hour. Bake for 1 ½ hours or until done. Sit down to eat, give thanks for the food and your many blessings, and enjoy.

For our many readers, I give thanks. For your lives and personal trials, I pray that the Lord Jesus will be just a prayer away, your companion through every day. May God richly bless you with a profound sense of His presence this Thanksgiving, and may you comfort your cared-for with the warmth of His love. Let me know how you're doing with an email to alzheimerannie@yahoo.com or surface mail to the Parma Observer. Thank you.



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Parma Observer

Vote Every Day

by Brian O'Donnell

“Vote early.” “Vote often.” In the wake of the current political corruption scandal that we here in Cuyahoga County are facing, perhaps this old political joke seems inappropriate. The privilege and civic duty associated with casting a ballot as part of our political process here in the U.S. is something that should be taken seriously, revered and respected. By the time this issues hits the presses the midterm elections will have already taken place. Hopefully, as you read this piece, you can say to yourself (regardless of the outcome) that you exercised your right and cast your votes for the candidates whom you felt would most accurately represent your views on how we, as a society, should be governed. Now,all joking aside, let me say it again: “Vote early, Vote often!”

If you entered the voting booth on election day and had the choice to vote for either China, Mexico, Viet Nam, or The U.S.A., who would you vote for? Each and every time you open your wallet you are essentially voting. The real problem is that the choices have vanished. If you entered that same voting booth and had to choose between China, Mexico, or Viet Nam, who would you choose? Would you even think to ask why The U.S.A. is not listed as a choice? This is the sad state of our retail options today. Walk into any department store and take

your own survey. How many products can you find that are made here in our country?

Even companies whose reputations and customer base were built on the very fact that they were providers of merchandise that was “Made In The U.S.A.” have fallen to the way of exporting production facilities. I recently walked into a big name sporting goods chain store. I was in dire need of a new winter work coat. Like most blue collar workers I was going to buy a Carhartt brand coat. The company has long been associated with the working man and has always been a sure fire way to insure that you were “buying American”. To my utter disgust and amazement, there was not one piece of Carhartt apparel that was manufactured here in the states. To add insult to injury the prices seemed to be either the same or even slightly higher than similar American made Carhartt products that I had purchased in the past. Although I really needed a coat I decided to exercise my right to vote by not buying anything at that store. I solidified my vote by explaining my plight to the store manager. I told her that I was disappointed with the lack of options. “Made in U.S.A.” did not appear anywhere in this retail voting booth.

I returned home and decided to investigate the availability of U.S.A. made clothing. I located The Ameri-

can Clothing Company online. I found some very nice American made cold weather gear at prices that rivaled the Mexican made Carhartts. I was able to add to my cold weather wardrobe without spending any more than it would have cost for the foreign made version. My voting did not stop there. I went to the Carhartt website and emailed a detailed account explaining this sequence of events adding that I would never purchase another product from their company again. I also added that I would urge friends and family as well as my co workers to follow suit. So,true to my word, I am urging ALL good Americans to refrain from patronizing Carhartt. If we can get enough citizens vote for U.S. made goods with their wallets, perhaps we can force some of

these companies to bring the manufacturing, and thus the jobs, back to The U.S.

When you are shopping check the labels. See if the retailer is offering you a choice between The United States and Mexico. (or China, Viet Nam, Pakistan, India, Bangledesh, etc., etc.) If you are not offered a choice and the item is not urgently needed at that moment do not buy it! Explain to the store manager why you are not making a purchase. Research online where you might find what you are looking for in a “Made In U.S.A.” version. Then patronize these companies that have remained loyal to our country and our workers. Remember that each purchase you make is a form of voting. Vote for the United States. Vote early. Vote often.

Reaching For The Stars In The Classroom

by Kevin Brennan

Reaching for the stars. That’s exactly what Kurt Schenkenberger, grade eight science teacher at Greenbriar Middle School, will be teaching his students to do through a new \$3,000 grant provided by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation.

Mr. Schenkenberger has big ideas in mind for his students as they make use of a solar telescope and netbooks to locate and research celestial bodies throughout space. Students will be using presentation software to present to one another in small groups as Mr. Schenkenberger demonstrates how to use the telescope and imager to show images to an entire classroom. They will also engage their problem solving skills to work on questions that evolve about star life cycles.

The students are also excited about coming in after school to view the night sky through the telescope and to adjust their problem solving skills when new information presents itself through the evening sky. Mr. Schenkenberger states that he is “excited about students

planning and conducting scientific investigations and writing detailed explanations based on their evidence. Students compare their explanations to those made by scientists and relate them to their own understandings of the natural and designed worlds”.

The class will work collaboratively with their peers, either virtually or face-to-face, while participating in scientific discussions and making claims, collecting evidence and using reasoning. Students will be able to locate reliable scientific information in reputable reference books, on websites and in computer databases. Their ability to articulate how technology is used is essential to science for such purposes as sample collection and treatment, measurement data collection and storage, computation and communication of information.

Through this ambitious and exciting opportunity at Greenbriar Middle School, the students will indeed reach for the stars, the moon and a great deal more as they work together to discover the mysteries of the sky!

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