

The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy- Baron de Montesquieu

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Groundbreaking Kicks Off Construction On

\$12 million Improvement In West Creek

by Dave Lincheck

On Monday, March 7, 2011, a crowd of area residents gathered with representatives of Cleveland Metroparks, the City of Parma, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and West Creek Preservation Committee to celebrate a strong partnership and to kick off construction on \$12 million of improvements in the West Creek Reservation. The 325-acre park, located on W. Ridgewood Dr. in Parma, is not only a great natural asset, but also represents a prime example of a community coming together to preserve, restore and care for its open spaces and streams. Starting in 1997, West Creek Preservation Committee, Parma area residents, landowners and local officials worked together to successfully conserve several hundred acres of open space

along West Creek. They raised funds, restored wetlands, installed trails, and improved the streamside habitat. In 2005, upon the invitation of Mayor Dean DePiero, Cleveland Metroparks joined the partnership and now manages the park as Metroparks' West Creek Reservation. The Metroparks committed to a significant investment in the Reservation, and after several years of planning, construction is beginning this month.

The investment includes:

- New entrance-way. The entrance is being relocated to the east in order to provide a safer intersection with W. Ridgewood Drive.
- A picnic area with a reservable shelter and an adjacent restroom facility.
- Series of connected multi-purpose and hiking trails, including a trail along



Parma Mayor DePiero, WCPC's Dave Lincheck and Wally Waterdrop from NEORS D demonstrate water flowing through a pervious surface

ment techniques.

- A new trailhead parking area.
- Additional wetland and habitat restoration or enhancement.
- Watershed Stewardship Center

- Scenic overlooks.
- Interpretive displays and overlooks.
- Demonstrations of green storm water manage-

identify, advise and carry out watershed stewardship projects. The Center will serve as a regional resource for residents, landowners, businesses and organizations wishing to learn about, collaborate, and implement techniques or projects that protect our streams, rivers, and lake, manage stormwater, and promote healthy watersheds and healthy communities.

In keeping with the watershed stewardship focus, the "groundbreaking" used buckets instead of shovels and should have been called a "water-saving" ceremony. A representative of each of the partner organizations were invited to participate in demonstrations of techniques to better manage water resources and storm-water. These are techniques that any homeowner or landowner can use.

In the first demonstration, participants poured water into a downspout, while Metroparks' staff explained the operation and benefits of a rain barrel. Saving rain from rooftops provides free water for gardens and lawns. The next demonstration involved planting and watering native plants. Native species are adapted to our soils and seasonal rainfall conditions, and as a result, need less watering and care. Pouring water on a sample installation of pervious paver bricks demonstrated how the water could trickle through the bricks and be absorbed into the ground, instead of rushing into storm sewers. The

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Polish Village Taking Shape In Parma

by Jack Marshall

Nine-tenths of a mile doesn't sound like a great distance, but it's a journey into another world, or village, in the City of Parma. The wheels are in motion by Parma City Council to designate the nearly mile-long span along Ridge Road as "Polish Village." The borders are Pearl Road to the north and Thornton Drive to the south. The many business owners between here and there, especially those near the busy intersection of Snow Road, seem ready to wave the red and white Polish flag to celebrate the news.

"I'm really excited because of the pride and support we're showing – not only the businesses, but the residents and the city, too," said David Kantor, owner of Grandma Helen's Kitchen Restaurant. "We have a strong Polish community here, so I think we can build the same kind of spirit as the city and the residents did in Ukrainian Village on State Road." Kantor displays his optimism on the chopping



Jon Holt serves customers David, Julie and Anna Mika at The Little Polish Diner.

block, neatly slicing and dicing meats and potatoes as he prepares ethnic dishes like chicken paprikash, stuffed cabbage, Salisbury steak, and kielbasa and sauerkraut. "Our business is new and we're doing okay," said Kantor. "A lot of our success is by word of mouth. If people hear good things about us, they'll give us a shot, and that seems to be happening."

"There is a willingness among Ridge Road merchants

to make this venture a huge success," said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "Let's face it, businesses along Ridge Road are stable, growing and willing to be pro-active in their neighborhood to make our community unique and exciting. People have the right attitude at the right time – and some of the best food in town."

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Parma Wears The Green



Marchers From St. Bridget's School Proudly Representing Parma In The St. Patrick's Day Parade In Downtown Cleveland

Parma Business

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

As President of Parma City Council, one of my priorities has been to inform the community about the make up, procedures and initiatives of Parma City Council. This article represents the latest in a series in which I will provide you, the reader, with a monthly glimpse into your local legislature. This month I want to better acquaint you with the members of Parma City Council and how to contact them.

Parma City Council is made up of nine ward members who are elected to two-year terms by the voters of their respective ward or district. Only ward Council members may introduce and vote on legislation. The President of City Council is elected at-large and, thus, represents the entire city. He or she presides over the meetings of City Council and may vote when Council is equally divided. Below are the current members of Parma City Council and their e-mail addresses. All members may also be reached by calling the Parma City Council office at (440) 885-8091.



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

- President:**
Sean P. Brennan,
councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net
- Ward One: Councilwoman**
Mary Galinas,
mgalinas.parma@sbcglobal.net
- Ward Two: Councilwoman**
Deborah Lime,
Limeward2@gmail.com
- Ward Three: Councilman**
Nicholas Celebrezze,
ward3@celebrezze.org

- Ward Four: Councilman**
Brian Day,
councilmanday@cox.net
- Ward Five: Councilman**
Tom Regas,
TRegas@cox.net
- Ward Six: Councilman**
Larry Napoli,
deblaryn@aol.com
- Ward Seven: Councilman**
Ken Ramser,
parmaward7@sbcglobal.net
- Ward Eight: Councilman**
Scott Tuma,
councilmantuma@cox.net
- Ward Nine: Councilman**
Roy Jech,
jakester46@aol.com

Meetings of Parma City Council are held at Parma City Hall in City Council Chambers. City Hall is located at 6611 Ridge Road. Members of the public are always invited and encouraged to attend and participate. To enter Council Chambers, simply park behind City Hall and enter through the back doors. Generally, City Council

meets on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm, while committee meetings are held on the first and second Mondays of the month. Special meetings are also called as necessary. Meeting dates and times are always posted on the City of Parma’s website at www.cityofparma-oh.gov or you may simply call the Parma City Council office for information.

Answers To Your Questions About Voting

by Patricia Wright

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY IS MAY 3RD POLLS OPEN 6:30 am - 7:30 pm

HOW TO VOTE BY MAIL? It’s easy! If you are a qualified registered voter you may request a Vote by Mail Absentee Application from the Board of Elections. They will mail it to you. Call the Board at 216-443-3200 to request.

You fill in your name, address, date of birth and put your signature on it. You must also fill in one of the following:

- Your driver’s license number OR the last 4 digits of your social security
- OR include a copy of one of the following: a current and valid photo ID, a military ID, current utility bill,

bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document (other than a voter registration notification from the Board of Elections) that shows your current name and address.

Look for a place on the application to indicate the election for which you want to get the Absentee Ballot . If it is a Primary Election you must indicate which party’s ballot you want. If you want to be an Independent then you will be given an Absentee Ballot with only the Issues—no candidates.

Be sure to sign the statement that you are a qualified voter.

Finally, you must indicate the address that you want the Absentee Ballot mailed to.

THE DEADLINE TO GET THE ABSENTEE REQUEST BACK TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS 12 NOON ON APRIL 30TH

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE? If you are not sure if you are registered or where to vote, call the Board of Elections at 216-443-3200. The Board will send you a form to fill out to get registered. If you have moved or changed your name since you last voted, you will need to fill out a change form which the Board will also mail to you. THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE PRIMARY IS APRIL 4TH

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Need A Job? MyCom Hosting A FREE Job Fair For Community Youth

by Rose McWeeny

MyCom (My Commitment. My Community) would like to extend an invitation to all community youth on Saturday April 16, 2011 from 10am-2pm. The event will be located at Parmatown mall. This event is FREE for youth residing in the communities of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills. Youth must be 16-18 years of age. MyCom is collaborating with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U). They are partnering with over 30 local businesses and community agencies to provide job opportunities.

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440.884.7625 • <http://parmaobserver.com>

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AGS Design

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216-315-5307

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Parma Business

Healthy Ohio Honors Parma Hospital As A Healthy Worksite

by CJ Sheppard

The Ohio Department of Health has honored Parma Community General Hospital with a Healthy Ohio - Healthy Worksite award for demonstrating a commitment to employee health.

The Office of Healthy Ohio – based at the Ohio Department of Health and focusing on health promotion, disease prevention and health equity – recognized 33 employers across the state for comprehensive worksite health promotion and wellness programs. Parma Hospital was the only hospital in Cuyahoga County to earn this distinction.

“Workers spend significant time at their jobs,” said Cynthia Crosthwaite, chair of the Healthy Ohio Business Council. “Healthy practices at work almost certainly will translate to healthy practices at home and a valuable reduction in health care costs. These Ohio employers are leading the way in providing exemplary workplace wellness programs for their employees.”

Winners were recognized at gold, silver and bronze levels. Parma Hospital, which received an Honorable Mention the previous year, was pre-

sented with a Silver Level award.

At Parma Hospital, the commitment to wellness begins at the top – President & CEO Terry Deis actively participates in wellness initiative throughout the year – and runs throughout the organization. From senior management through clinical staff and support services, wellness is emphasized through the Vivo (“The Quest to Live Well”) campaign. Beginning with the formation of a Wellness Committee in 1996, Parma Hospital has stepped up its longtime commitment to wellness by:

- Going smoke-free across the campus and at all off-site facilities, including WellPointe Pavilion in Broadview Heights and Diagnostic Imaging at Ridge Park Square. Smoking was eliminated on the campus in 2006, and smokers are no longer hired to work at Parma Hospital.
- Hiring a full-time wellness coordinator in 2008 who offers biometric testing and personalized fitness plans, teaches exercise classes and coordinates wellness campaigns like the

hugely popular “Biggest Loser Challenge.”

- Opening a fitness facility on the hospital campus in January 2009. WellFit offers round-the-clock access for employees, volunteers and members of the Medical Staff, as well as complementary exercise classes for member
- Providing healthy Vivo foods in the Cafeteria that have no trans-fats and are low in sodium and saturated fat.

Groundbreaking Kicks Off Construction On \$12 million Improvement In West Creek Reservation

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last exhibit was the household item that uses the most water – the toilet. Installation of more efficient appliances and fixtures reduces the amount and cost of water used, as well as the volume of water that needs to be processed by our sewer utilities. When work in the Reservation is completed, visitors will find this emphasis on watershed management practices not only in the exhibits, but also incorporated throughout the

design of the improvements. For example, storm water from the Stewardship Center as well as the entrance drive will be routed to a combination of rain gardens and wetlands for retention and filtration.

The work on the Reservation is expected to be complete in the Fall of 2012.

Portions of West Creek Reservation Will Close During Construction

Due to safety considerations, the northern portion of the West Creek

Reservation, including the trail-head and parking area located on W. Ridgewood Drive, will be closed temporarily during construction of the new entranceway and stewardship center. Signs will be posted indicating closed areas. Your understanding and cooperation is appreciated. For more information and updates regarding these closures, as well as information about opportunities to visit other trails and natural areas, please go to www.westcreek.org.

WELCOME TO THE
Parma Hospital Medical Staff

Mary Gorjanc, MD
BOARD CERTIFIED, INTERNAL MEDICINE

Accepting New Patients

■ Board Certified in Internal Medicine and specializing in Geriatrics, Dr. Gorjanc will see adults of all ages. While she has previously cared for patients at several Northeast Ohio hospitals, she now devotes her focus to Parma Hospital, where her patients are treated to excellent, personalized care.

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with knowing you better.



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Parma Health

Chamber Partners With Local Cities For 2011 Contractors Day

by Lisa Zaremba

The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that they have joined forces with Aaron Lobas Councilman Seven Hills, Marie Gallo Councilwoman Parma Heights, Sean Brennan President of Council Parma, and Parmatown Mall, to present the First Annual Contractor's Day. Designed as an effort to help residents improve local housing, build better

working relationships between cities, encourage opportunities for local contractors, and provide competitive pricing to residents the event will take place on May 7, 2011 from 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Parmatown Mall main stage area.

"The goal of Contractors Day is to make it easier and more affordable for residents to fix up their homes." It will make it easier for residents to meet licensed contractors. In addition local banks will be present to provide loan information and Cuyahoga County representatives will also be available to inform residents of the many programs available to improve their properties at reduced prices with county assistance" says Seven Hills Councilman Aaron Lobas.

Exhibitor space for PACC Members is FREE! Non-Member space is available for a small fee which includes one full year Chamber membership.

To participate or for more information contact the Chamber Office

440-886-1700 or Lisa@parmaareachamber.org



Parma Wears The Green



Above; Padua High School Marchers From Parma In The St. Patrick's Day Parade In Downtown Cleveland



Right: Parma Observer Supporter Thomas Chalasinski (Right) and his crew from St. Casimir's March In The St. Patrick's Day Parade In Downtown Cleveland

WELCOME TO THE
Parma Hospital Medical Staff

Orest Stecyk, MD

BOARD CERTIFIED, FAMILY PRACTICE

Accepting New Patients

- A native of the Parma area and graduate of Padua Franciscan High School and the University of Notre Dame, Dr. Stecyk trained at the Ohio State University College of Medicine and has more than 30 years of experience. He belongs to the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America and is an associate professor at NEOUCOM. He enjoys hiking, biking, camping and gardening.

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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #16

by Gene Lovasy

HOW KIDS YOU CARE: LEARN THEIR NAMES

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

April’s Asset Category: **EMPOWERMENT:**

Young people need to be valued by their community and have opportunities to contribute to others. For this to occur they must be safe and feel secure. The more a child is valued and feels valuable, the more likely it is that she or he will grow up healthy.

EMPOWERMENT Assets Include:

7 Community Values Youth - Kids perceive that adults in the community value youth.

8 Youth as Resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community.

9 Service to Others – Young person serves in the community one hour or more a week.

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

Today, we’re going to be focusing attention on Asset # 9, Service to Others.

By helping others, young people learn to help themselves....

To many young people, the world is small. It’s made up of their school, home, and neighborhood. They may assume all schools are like their school. And, when they’re very young, they may think the world revolves around them. But when young people start to reach out and help others, their world grows and so does their confidence. In fact, many young people report that when they give of their time and energy, they receive much in return. Serving others can help kids feel good

about themselves and that they can make a difference in the world.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who serve others in the community for one or more hours a week are more apt to be respectful of others, helpful and kind, and patient. They also tend to value diversity. About 48 percent of young people, ages 11–18, serve in the community one hour or more a week, according to Search Institute surveys. Encourage all young people to recognize the value of helping others.

Tips for building this asset

The best way to teach young people the value of helping others is to be a role model. Activities such as providing a meal to a new parent, driving a neighbor to an appointment, or babysitting can make a huge difference in someone’s life. Look for service opportunities to do with a young person. Join organizations that involve—and provide leadership roles for—both young people and adults.

Also try this

In your home and family: Together, think of 10 ways your family can serve others. Choose one idea. Pick a date to do the activity. Afterward, talk about your experience.

In your neighborhood and community: Join or support an organization that teaches (and provides opportunities for) serving others. Some possibilities to consider: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, YMCA/YWCA, and Youth Service America. Also, **WATCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT LEMONADE DAY. A GREAT ASSET BUILDING EVENT SPONSORED BY THE PARMA AREA JAYCEES, SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 1ST**

In your school or youth program: Seek learning opportunities for students and group members to engage in

community service projects. Also bring community resources into the classroom or program setting.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY – **SUPPORT R.A.C.K., Random Acts of Community Kindness, a service learning project for the Parma City Schools.**

District students will be out in the community offering Random Acts of Community Kindness to their neighbors, families, churches, charities and

anyone who needs help. The kindnesses will be small, but will be teaching students how to give back to the community. The students will introduce themselves to you and give you a card with their first name and school on it. On the back may be a discount offer, an ad or a message from C/B/S or other sponsoring, local businesses Support this initiative and help build an Asset!

R.A.C.K. is an initiative developed by Getting Us To The Solution (GUTTS), a grassroots organization whose mission is to build rapport and encourage collaboration & communication between the community and its schools. One of its major goals is to research alternative methods of funding our schools. Look for more from G.U.T.T.S. in the near future.

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.

Parma Adult Education Adds New Class Site In Parma

by Kimberly Merryman Sherer, MBA

The Parma City School District’s Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Program just added another location in Parma. The Islamic Center of Cleveland will be offering free GED classes on Saturdays from 3 - 6 p.m. The center is located at 6055 W. 130th Street. Orientation will be April 2 and classes will begin April 9. For more information, please call 440-885-8797 or log on to www.parmacityschools.org/able.

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Parma Observer

What's Right? What's Wrong

by Daniel Taddeo

The topic for this column is Education. There is much concern today about the negative trends in education in America: decline in educational standards, drop in standardized achievement test scores, severe discipline problems, unexcused tardiness and absences, vandalism, theft, cheating, lying, drug abuses and promiscuity, to mention a few. In a November 2010 speech, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan reported that "one-quarter of U.S. high school

students drop out or fail to graduate on time. almost one million students leave our schools for the streets each year."

About this same time a group of top retired generals and admirals released the following information: "Seventy-five percent of young Americans, between the ages of 17 to 24, are unable to enlist in the military today because they have failed to graduate from high school, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit. America's youth are now tied for ninth in the world in college attainment."

Duncan has initiated several reforms to achieve the highest educational standards. His biggest push is to raise the status of the teaching profession. Why? Tony Wagner, the Harvard-based education expert and author of *The Global Achievement Gap* explains it this way. "There are three basic skills that students need if they want to thrive in a knowledge economy: the ability to do critical thinking and problem-solving, the ability to communicate effectively, and the ability to collaborate."

Two of the countries that lead in these skills are Finland and Denmark. They insist that their teachers come from the top one-third of their college graduating class. As Wagner put it, "They took teaching from an assembly-line job to a knowledge-worker's job. They have invested massively in how they recruit, train and support teachers, to attract and retain the best."

I certainly agree that the recruitment of teachers needs to be upgraded. After devoting thirty-three years to the educational system of America as a teacher

and counselor, I'm of the opinion that one-fourth of the teachers do an excellent job, one-half do an adequate job, and one-fourth do a poor job. Thomas L. Friedman, columnist for *The New York Times*, in an article titled "Teaching for America" is in total agreement with Duncan and Wagner and adds: All good ideas, but if we want better teachers, we also need better parents- parents who turn off the TV and video games, make sure homework is completed, encourage reading and elevate learning as the most important life skill. The more we demand from teachers, the more we have to demand from students and parents. That's the contract for America that will truly ensure our national security.

I would add another skill to those of Duncan, Wagner and Friedman: moral principles that spell out right and wrong behavior. Ethics is the process by which these determinations are made; for the Godly, the process is always God-centered rather than self-centered where anything goes. Children need moral standards to make the right behavioral choices. Godly principles provide and equip them with those standards. Parents who rear their children by God's laws can rest assured that they will serve them throughout their lives. God holds parents responsible for teaching their children right and wrong. Teaching moral principles is an ongoing process, and that is why it's so important for parents to be with their children as much as possible, especially during the formative years. In children's eyes, their parents are God. So, before parents can teach their children about the God they want them to follow, they must make sure that they are representing Him Accurately in their own lives. Chances are children are going to worship the God of their parents, whoever or whatever it is.

Daniel Taddeo www.taddeo.fairwaypress.com

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

Are you prepared? What would happen if you lost your job? What would you do if you were faced with a disaster such as what happened recently in Japan? What would happen if suddenly you had no way to obtain electricity, water or food? What if this disaster lasted for months? Would you expect the government to provide for you or will you be ready to take care of yourself? Whether the disaster is natural such as an earthquake or man-made such as a terrorist attack, there are 2 questions you need to answer. What would you do? Are you prepared?

Recently, the Parma Patriots have asked ourselves these types of questions and many of us have decided that we need to be ready to help ourselves and our neighbors as much as possible. For many of us, this was just a continuation of what we have been doing for many years but for some of us this is a new way of thinking. Those of us with some experience in self reliance are sharing our knowledge with others and we are also enlisting the aid of experts in other fields to share with us as well. Obviously, we can't all be experts in everything but

a little knowledge can go a long way in making you feel more confident in your ability to survive a disaster.

Our first goal was to share our knowledge of food preservation with each other. To that end, we have held special classes and shared knowledge regarding canning of foods such as vegetables, fruits and various meat as well as methods of dehydrating food. We have also discussed ways to properly store food, water and other supplies and also what amounts of each are appropriate. We have also discussed economical ways of purchasing the items needed for both short and long term storage.

Later this year, we will be talking about other emergency preparedness issues as well. We intend to have experts share with us methods of gardening, first aid, self defense and many other topics. Details regarding these opportunities will be posted on our website @ www.meetup.com/Parma-Patriots. If you are having difficulty finding us, you can also simply Google search for Parma Patriots. We welcome you to join us as we all learn new ways to be prepared.

Parma Republican Club

by Myrtis Litman

The Parma Republican Club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Parma Memorial Hall. Programs are speakers who keep us informed on current events. On April 14, 2011, the speaker will be Mike Marsh, who is running for Parma Council as an Independent in Ward 4.

To get to Parma Memorial Hall, 6617 Ridge Road, turn into the driveway on West Ridgewood Drive, just east of Ridge Road. Drive a short way up the hill, turn right into the parking lot, and enter the side door. All are welcome. Be an active citizen and make a difference.

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Parma Hts. Observer

Parma Military Wall Of Honor

By Mary Galinas,
Councilwoman From Ward 1

As an elected official and as the proud daughter of a Veteran, I am especially interested and touched whenever I attend a patriotic event or see a tribute to the Untied States of America military. So when I saw the faces of the military men and women of Strongsville that was displayed in the Strongsville Recreation Center a couple winters ago, I immediately called Mayor DePiero with the suggestion that the city of Parma create a Military Wall of Honor. The idea was embraced and I then pursued the idea with Parma City Council and others. I sponsored Resolution 231-09, which encouraged the city of Parma to establish a Wall of Honor dedicated to the military and it passed unanimously in the winter of 2009.

Resolution 231-09 in part read: that as United States troop continue to serve our country and defend our freedom, Americans are reminded of the gratitude we owe our military and veterans of war. The City of Parma and Council and Administration support American veterans, service members and their families. In honor of the military and their brave courageous display of patriotism, we salute these individuals who have stepped up to defend our liberty and keep us safe from harm; and it is our privilege to honor these American heroes, and we are grateful



Temporary Military Wall Of Honor Presently In The Lobby Of Parma City Hall

for the service and sacrifice of all these fine Americans.

As I spearheaded this endeavor, I also asked volunteers to step forward to join me in a committee to research the idea of creating a wall of honor. Committee members consist of myself, Parma Deputy Clerk Linda Young, Laurie Goyetche, Richard Benz, Bill Rawlings, Michelle Felgar, Sgt. Rob Tarro, Kevin Brennan, Dan Rajkovitz, Laurie Malto, and Jack Marschall. Our committee has representatives from: Veterans groups, City of Parma Employees, Parma City School Employees, Westside Vet Center, American Legion 572, Parma Police and Parma Service Workers and others patriotic individuals. I want to thank them for their time and ideas on the creation of the wall and others who have offered ideas or contributions.

Our Wall of Honor Committee has met over the past year and we have begun the process of creating the Military Wall of Honor. We have a temporary wall in place with photos of Parma's military - until the permanent wall is created. You can find Parma Military Wall of Honor submission forms on-line through the City of Parma's website (<http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/cityhall>) or call 440-885-8093 for more information. We want to display EVERY Parma resident's military picture who is currently serving along with their basic information at Parma City Hall, so please encourage family

of military to submit photos.

The committee owes a huge debt of gratitude to Laurie Goyetche of Broadview Hts who has helped a number of cities establish military walls of honor. Laurie is an American patriot and a proud military mom. Laurie holds a fantastic wealth of information about supporting the troops and giving tribute to our heroes in an appropriate way! The committee has had over a year of discussion, considering options; the type of display cases needed, raising funds, creating a backdrop, location of display, size of photos and much more - we came to the conclusion that a digital display will be a fabulous way to show tribute to our military. A digital display can also travel to patriotic events and be displayed on television for those who are less mobile.

We also owe a big thanks to our friends at Parma City Schools and especially the PACT-TV group. They have helped us create an outstanding video tribute to honor our military of Parma. We are going to display the digital tribute in the entry

at City Hall where the old phone booth is located, once it is reconstructed. We anticipate the recreated phone booth space will hold a TV monitor and display a looped version of Parma's military. We hope to have a ribbon cutting ceremony in the next few months and are looking for donations to fund the TV monitor and placards for the Military Wall of Honor. If you would like to make a donation to the Wall of Honor, please make your check out to (our non-profit organization) PROJECT CHEER with Wall of Honor in the memo and send it to Parma City Hall/Council Office, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129. If you have an questions or suggestions please feel free to call me at my home 440-842-1532.

Thank you and God bless our military!

Sincerely,
Councilwoman Mary Galinas/
Ward One

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Parma Observer

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Random Acts Of Community Kindness

by Stacey Geppert

A group of students from Greenbriar Middle School’s after school program serve the community each Monday evening as part of a Parma City School District initiative called R.A.C.K. (Random Acts of Community Kindness). Recently the students visited the Greenbrier Senior Living Center with handmade cards and pies to wish the residents a “Happy Pi Day”. March 14 is a fun day to celebrate the mind boggling mathematical value of pi because pi’s first three digits are 3.14. Music teacher Mr. Foley led the group of seniors and students on the piano for a jubilant sing-a-long of their favorite songs. The students sang “Happy Birthday” to Irene, Stella, and Kay; the three residents present who had March birthdays. The students really enjoyed their second visit with the seniors; they also visited them on Valentine’s Day.

More Information about the Greenbriar Cafe After School Program at Greenbriar Middle School:

The Greenbriar Cafe is a 21st Century Community Learning Center funded by a five year 21st Century grant awarded to the Parma City Schools in 2007. The primary goal of the grant is to assist academically at risk students as identified by Ohio Achievement Assessment scores in reading and math.

We are currently able to offer a

free after school program at Greenbriar Middle School due to a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant awarded to the Parma City Schools. Our after school program, the Greenbriar Café, provides a nurturing and safe place for students between the hours of 3 and 6 PM. The time period between 3 – 6 PM on weekdays is nationally documented as the prime time during which the highest number of youth are victims of or perpetrators of crime. In many cases, students this age would be left unsupervised during these hours if it were not for after school programs such as the Greenbriar Café.

At the end of the school day students work on their homework with tutors for one hour. Following the academic assistance students participate in sports, STEM related activities, cooking, music, arts, and other enrichment programs.

Our partnerships with the Cuyahoga County Public Libraries, Bob Gillingham Ford, Paisanos Pizza, Cuyahoga Community College, Einstein Brothers Bagels, and Greenbrier Senior Living Center enable us to offer unique opportunities to our students and families. Collaboration between the community, businesses, schools and families benefits our students and the community. We are very grateful to our many donors, volunteers and partners within the community.



After the pies were enjoyed the students gathered around the piano to sing several songs.



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Parma Opinions

Thoughts On The State Of Things: Walls Or Bridges?

by Michael Marsh

We have all had occasion to visit a doctor's or dentist's office at one time or another. This usually involves spending time in the waiting room surrounded by other people who don't feel good, uncomfortable lobby furniture, and an endless supply of outdated magazines with the recipient's name obscured by magic marker scribble. Through the years waiting rooms have changed to include flat screen televisions tuned to benign programming that nobody really watches and "serve yourself" coffee or tea in small Styrofoam cups. Play corners for small children have appeared featuring trucks, cars, dolls, coloring books, and a host of other toys to occupy them as they wait to see the doctor. No play corner would be complete without the universal, quintessential, time proven toy of toys; a set of wooden blocks. Have you ever sat and watched children play with wooden blocks? Outside of an occasional block ramp that launches a truck or car through the air drawing the ire of a parent, walls begin to appear. It isn't long before little territories are "blocked" off and boundaries are set. Favorite toys are placed inside these areas for safe keeping from the other children.

Building walls is a skill that seems to come naturally to us, even at very young ages. Kids don't need to be taught how to place one block upon another. When I was a kid eating breakfast at our dining room table I would surround my area with cereal boxes, separating my area from that of my other siblings. We often got into fights over the "Economy sized" Corn Flakes box because it was usually larger than all the other boxes. Through the ages of history mankind has been very adept at building walls. There are walls

built to keep people and things in and walls built to keep people and things out. There are walls built to separate and divide. The Berlin Wall separated people and ideology. Walls have been built to separate and define kingdoms. The Great Wall of China stands as a monument that can be seen from space. We are not only good at wall building; we are also very good at separating ourselves from each other.

Consider for a moment what it takes to build a bridge. Bridge building requires much more skill than wall building. Of course, the purpose for even building a bridge differs a great deal from the purpose of building a wall. Bridges span distances to connect what had previously been disconnected. To build a bridge the right place has to be chosen, the right design employed, and the right material used. Of consideration here is the location and purpose for the bridge. Have you ever visited the Mackinaw Bridge in upper Michigan or the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco? These are engineering wonders that connect what had been considered at one time impossible to connect. I grew up not far from the Rainbow Bridge over the Niagara Gorge near the Niagara Falls. In those days you could ride your bike across into Canada for ten cents, what a thrill!

There are many things that stand as walls in our society. These things seek to artificially divide us as Americans. We are divided over socio-economic lines, religion, race, creed, culture, and language. Political parties seek to divide us into Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians, Green, and the list goes on ad infinitum. "Hot button" issues erupt in our faces to further separate us from one another. Recently the issue is either union or

nonunion. Modern technology has provided so many ways to connect us, yet we are so readily divided.

Consider this, in his farewell address to the nation in 1796, George Washington spoke of the absolute need for national unity. He warned against the artificial divisions caused by political parties and forces that would separate what otherwise would be happily united. "it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it

can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest, or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts."

The question is not one of Republican versus Democrat or union supporter versus non-union. We are all Americans first. We need to stop yelling at each other and building walls between each other. The truth usually exists somewhere in the middle between two arguing factions. What we need here are statesmen who can build bridges and unite us together as Americans. Bridges built in these times will stand as monuments in the future.

And these are my thoughts on the state of things, respectfully submitted.

Michael Marsh, Co-founder of the Parma Patriots

Bridge Lessons

by Myrtis Litman

Interested in taking up bridge? Free lessons are available at the Donna Smallwood Center, formerly known as Parma Senior Center, 7001 West Ridgewood Drive, every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Joe The Coach:
My View Of Sports

by Joseph L. Finding

I guess the good Lord wants me to keep sending you my messages. he has been helping me to recover from my illness and my inability to walk. I now use two canes and I am able to get around slowly, and I thank him for that.

It's time for us again to start thinking of our up-and-coming Spring sports; that's if the snow ever stops. Maybe the Indians will offer us Good-year field. What is bothering my mind is: How will our lack of money affect our sports, and the possible re-configuration of our schools? A problem, I think. I hope that they don't do something that will cut our numbers down; pay-to-play has already done that. I firmly believe that everyone who wants to play should get that opportunity, no matter how good they are- that's part of growing up. It would have devastated me as a teenager, I was fortunate to be a good student and player, I don't want to see anyone miss their chance.

In basketball, both girl's and boy's had nice seasons but eventually lost in the sectional tournaments. Congratulations for your great efforts; you are the big winners in my score book. The wrestling teams did their

best and qualified some boys to the district meet at Mentor. however, we didn't advance any boys past the district. Congratulations to both Holy Name and Padua, who did advance boys to the State Meet. I am not quite sure where the girl's gymnastic teams wound up. I taught at Brecksville-Broadview Hts. and they are always a powerhouse! Much of my coaching in football and wrestling was done here in the Parma Schools: that way I got the chance to see my kids play. For those of you who choose to not vote for levies, a lot of that time was donated after I left my paying coaching job in Brecksville. Parma area high school hockey was up to their usual good teams, and most of their equipment is paid for by the players, and I might add, at quite an expense: Good work men! Now, I guess that it's time to start indoor and outdoor practice for Spring sports like baseball, softball, track, tennis, swimming, etc. Good luck!

I would like to extend an invitation to contact me if you want me to add something, or you may have an issue with something that I have said. Now, let's get that levy passed!

Coach Joe Finding



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Parma Observer

Polish Village Taking Shape In Parma

continued from page 1

Angelo Colozza has been hearing a lot about Polish Village and he says the idea is good for local businesses and good for the neighborhood. Colozza and his family have owned the bakery since 1975, relocating to Parma from Storer Avenue in Cleveland in 1980. “Even though we’re Italian, we sell a lot of paczki, kolaczi, poppyseed rolls and chruschiki (Polish crullers) all of which are enjoyed by our Polish friends,” said Colozza. “Anything that brings traffic and people to the neighborhood is good for everybody. There’s a lot of space in this area to bring in new businesses. I really think it’s the right spot to get a new business off the ground.”

The Polish Village designation approval by Parma City Council is likely to coincide with the Polish

Constitution Day Parade on Sunday, May 1, organized by the Polish American Congress. Participants will assemble in the Parma Circle area and march down Ridge Road beginning at 2 p.m., dispersing along side streets south of Snow Road. Polish Village sits in Ward Two. Parma City Councilwoman Debbie Lime and Community Development Director Erik Tollerup have both been taking the city’s leadership role in making Polish Village a reality. “My motto is, ‘Good neighbors make great neighborhoods,’” said Lime. “Polish Village is a win-win proposition for the entire area. Eventually, we will help businesses attract customers and neighbors with sidewalk cafes, quality landscaping and additional parking. My hope is to make Polish Village similar in nature to Coventry in Cleveland Heights and

Detroit Road in Lakewood.” “We’re doing whatever we can to facilitate low interest loans and other programs that will motivate and enable entrepreneurs to take that giant leap into a new business,” said Tollerup. “I can envision this area as one that is primed for growth as we work to make it more pedestrian-friendly and accessible to residents and visitors from across Greater Cleveland.”

For several decades now, the ethnic enclaves of Cleveland—which were once the economic engines of its neighborhoods – were allowed to fracture, erode and dissipate. Each old neighborhood had its own baker, butcher, school, church, grocer, bar, restaurant and ethnic shop. Parma is 20 square miles in size and already has distinct neighborhoods that are their own villages within the city. The core small business models include State Meats, Breads & Beyond, Colozza’s Bakery, Little Polish Diner, Chuppa’s Marketplace and several others. Merchants say the “old school businesses” philosophy – offering fresh products at a reasonable price with friendly service – means you’ve won a customer for life. The so-called mom and pop stores offer what Big Box retailing cannot – locally owned and locally run businesses by people who customers have come to know as a store owner, neighbor and friend. Like Ukrainian Village, Polish Village now has a foundation of church, business and cultural interests that will rebuild and re-establish an important part of Parma’s culture and heritage.

Charlene Darlington is the General Manager of the Ridge Road Burger King restaurant. She started at the Parma fast food outlet 18 years ago and has been with the company ever since. She had most recently been the boss at the Lakewood Burger King on Detroit Road but has lived in the neighborhood where she now works for more than 30 years. She says partnering with other businesses and neighbors puts everybody on the same page. “I work here and I live right over on the corner of Jamison and Frankfort, so I want Polish Village to thrive and prosper for betterment of our neighborhood,” said Darlington. “We did something similar in Lakewood and I know we can do it here in Parma. We need to bring in little specialty shops, coffee shops, arts festivals and an atmosphere that will be attractive to people of all ages, from here and outside Parma.” Darlington repeats the common thread – if she and Burger King do well, everyone does well. While admitting it won’t happen overnight, she is anxious to get the process moving sooner than later. Darlington also says mini events by local businesses should be standard fare during throughout the year. For example, she says offering



Angelo Colozza holds a tray of paczki

modest discount tickets or coupons would be one small way to generate interest, with added personal connections to the community by utilizing a website and advertising.

Other retail proponents of Polish Village include Tal’s, Parma Café, Warsaw Deli and the Little Polish Diner. Owner Jon Holt says the diversity and ethnicity of Ridge Road is the best possible location for Polish Village, claiming the timing couldn’t be better. “The feedback I’m hearing from folks in the neighborhood is genuine excitement for what’s to come,” said Holt. “The businesses are pulling together, most will be open after the Constitution Day Parade, and that shows solidarity for the neighborhood and for one another. There is no doubt in my mind that this is going to work.”

Angelo Colozza jokes that having an Italian bakery in the heart of Polish Village is a bonus. Colozza says he’s not going anywhere, that he and his family will stay put where they are best known and have been successful for decades. Others, he claims, have the same opportunity, “This is the right neighborhood for ethnic businesses, there’s no doubt about it,” said Colozza. “You start bringing in more businesses and that means more people. And that’s good for the city, our neighbors and visitors who will want to come back again and again.”

The amenities will undoubtedly multiply as Ridge Road becomes a point of destination, easily accessible and simple to find. Polish Village may soon become Parma’s very own Magnificent Mile, the place to go for enjoying the food, flavor and friendship of an old-fashioned neighborhood with a fresh, new look.

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Parma Observer

Parma Hospital’s Bariatric Program Recognized Nationally As A Center Of Excellence For High-Quality Care

by CJ Sheppard

The Bariatric Center at Parma Community General Hospital has once again been designated as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). The ASMBS Center of Excellence designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric sur-

gery.

The number of bariatric surgery procedures worldwide has increased dramatically as the obesity pandemic continues. In the United States alone, the case volume for bariatric surgery is estimated at more than 220,000 procedures per year – making it one of the most commonly performed elective abdominal operations, according to the Surgical

Review Corporation, which administers the ASMBS Center of Excellence program to recognize quality programs. Bariatric surgery is a proven intervention for the morbidly obese and recognized for its ability to save lives, providing remission not only of obesity, but a number of chronic diseases/comorbidities. By resolving these comorbidities, bariatric surgery can dramatically reduce the primary costs of obesity.

To earn a Center of Excellence designation, the Bariatric Center at Parma Hospital underwent a series of site inspections during which all aspects of the program’s surgical processes were closely examined, including data on surgical outcomes. At Parma Hospital, bariatric patients receive personalized attention, with one-on-one nutritional counseling and an individualized treatment

plan. Since Parma Hospital began its bariatrics program eight years ago, over 700 patients have lost more than 25 tons. Procedures performed at Parma Hospital include: Gastric Roux-en-Y Bypass, Gastric Banding and Sleeve Gastrectomy.

“Earning the ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation signifies our ability to consistently deliver the safest, highest-quality care to bariatric surgery patients,” said Craig Eyman, Medical Director of the Bariatric Surgery Program at Parma Hospital. “This program fosters quality improvement in bariatric surgery, and participation has focused our team on exceeding clinical benchmarks and guidelines. But most importantly, our commitment to excellence improves the health and well-being of our patients.”

Seven Hills Observer

Baseball Federation - Opening Day

by Lisa Draganic

Join us for our 2011 Seven Hills Baseball Federation Opening Day Celebration. It will be held at Calvin Park on Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 12 – 3 p.m. There will be live music, dunk tank, games, bouncy toys, refreshments and an appearance by Slider. This event is sponsored by: University Hospital.

1st Annual Taste Of Seven Hills

by Lisa Draganic

The City of Seven Hills will host its first ever “Taste of Seven Hills” on Friday, May, 6, 2011 from 6pm-9pm at the Seven Hills Recreation Center.

Ticket price: \$25 per person includes samples from local restaurants/caterers, beer, wine and beverages

So far the following restaurants/caterers are participating: C-Town Grill & Bar, Versos, Eddie Cerino’s Pizzeria, Corleone’s, Cookie Cupboard, Mr. Chicken, Qdoba, Swenson’s, Panera Bread, Buffalo Wild Wings, Mom’s Pierogies, Stancato’s, Cakes By Nadine, Corned Beef Café and Augie’s Catering, Jimmy John’s and Fresh Butcher Deli, S & R Market and Marge Walter Caterers.

For more information or tickets, contact Lisa Draganic at 216-525-6227.



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Fire Department - “Spring Fling”

by Lisa Draganic

The City of Seven Hills Fire Department will host its first ever “Spring Fling” car seat check on Saturday, April 23, 2011 from 11am-2pm at the Seven Hills Fire Station located at 7195 Broadview Road.

All are welcome to attend. This effects all children 8 and younger .Sparky the Fire Dog will be there and the Fire Department will be handing out coloring books, educational pamphlets, stickers, helmets, hot dogs, and of course the fire trucks will be on display.

This is SPONSORED BY: Kohl’s Safe Rides for All Kids Program at UH Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital.

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Parma Observer

APRIL 2011 Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>Special Events</div> <div>Tuesday, April 26th</div> <div>April Birthday's and Easter Party</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div> <div>R.S.V.P.</div>				<div>1</div> <div>Fit and Balance</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Popcorn and Movie</div> <div>"INVICTUS"</div> <div>1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>5</div> <div>HAO Workshop-Members</div> <div>"Healthy Eating"</div> <div>9:00 a.m-Noon</div> <div>T'ai Chi</div> <div>1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Zumba Gold</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>HUMANA HomeCare Solutions Seminar</div> <div>11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Swing Dance</div> <div>4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Board Games</div> <div>2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Fit and Balance</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Popcorn and Movie</div> <div>"SOUTH PACIFIC"</div> <div>1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Crafting</div> <div>11:30 a.m.</div> <div>Board Game Bonanza</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>HAO Workshop-Members</div> <div>Portion Control</div> <div>9:00 a.m.-Noon</div> <div>T'ai Chi</div> <div>1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Book Club</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Zumba Gold</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>BINGO Bash</div> <div>2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Fit and Balance</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Popcorn and Movie</div> <div>"UP IN THE AIR"</div> <div>1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>18</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Scrapbooking</div> <div>1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>19</div> <div>HAO Workshop-Members</div> <div>"What's in your food"</div> <div>9:00 a.m-Noon</div> <div>T'ai Chi</div> <div>1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Wii Games</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Zumba Gold</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>HUMANA HomeCare Solutions Seminar</div> <div>11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m.</div> <div>Swing Dance</div> <div>4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>BINGO Bash</div> <div>2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Fit and Balance</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Popcorn and Movie</div> <div>"DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?"</div> <div>1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>25</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Crafting</div> <div>11:30 a.m.</div> <div>Board Game Bonanza</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>26</div> <div>T'ai Chi</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Birthday and Easter Party</div> <div>3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Zumba Gold</div> <div>9:00 a.m.</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Scrapbooking</div> <div>1:00 p.m.</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Wii Bowling</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>BINGO Bash</div> <div>2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Fit and Balance</div> <div>10:00 a.m.</div> <div>Popcorn and Movie</div> <div>"PRINCE OF PERSIA"</div> <div>1:30 p.m.</div>

The Humana Guidance Center
1915 Snow Road
Parma, Ohio 44134

We hope to see you soon!

216-778-6810

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

HUMANA®