

” Human history more and more becomes a race between education and catastrophe”- H.G. Wells

Interested In Writing For The Observer? - Join Us At Our Public Meeting At Arabica Coffee House (6285 Pearl Rd.) Every Tuesday 7PM

# PARMA Observer

Serving the Tri-City Area of Parma, Parma Heights, & Seven Hills

Proud Member Of The Observer Media Family Of Community Owned Newspapers & Websites

Volume 3 • Issue 5 • May, 2011

FREE!  
TAKE ONE!  
Please Patronize Our Advertisers

## Parma School Levy Passes

## Tim DeGeeter Wins Parma Democratic Primary



by Daniel P. McCarthy

Timothy J. DeGeeter has advanced one step closer to achieving his goal of becoming the next mayor of Parma, as he prevailed in the Democratic Primary for the Parma mayoral race. This contest was extremely competitive, to say the least, and the

strain on the local Parma Democratic Party is plain to see. As there seems to be no other notable opposition candidates entered into the general election, barring any unforeseen occurrences, the chances are extremely favorable for Mr. DeGeeter to become Parma's next Mayor

after the November election, which is really little more than a formality.

He will find that he has his work cut out for him, as the challenges facing this city are quite formidable, and are indeed all too real. Citizens will be looking for meaningful answers to

such problems as crumbling infrastructure, shrinking tax revenues, housing and behavioral issues related to absentee landlord-ism, unemployment, restoring confidence in the school system, to name a few. What is perhaps most promising is that Mr. DeGeeter is certainly not a stranger to problem-solving in Parma, and having spent many years in positions involving the improvement of quality of life issues here, now he seems to be poised to do the most good so far when he is in the top position in the city.

Congratulations on winning one tough contest Mr. DeGeeter, and now we all hope that you will be the one that this city needs to unite all of the people living in this community, and have the courage and vision to do what is necessary to make sure that this city not survives these tumultuous times, but changes for the better, emerging stronger, smarter, and ready to face any challenge of this new century with the confidence that only a city like Parma ever has.

## Parma Hospital Celebrates 50th Anniversary With Gala On June 18



Parma Hospital opened in 1961.

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital will hold a black-tie gala on Saturday, June 18 to celebrate 50 years of caring for the community. The

event, held at Embassy Suites in Independence beginning at 6 p.m., will include a display of hospital memorabilia and photographs, dancing to an 18-piece orchestra and the



The Hospital has expanded several times in the past 50 years.

unveiling of an original piece of artwork created especially for the occasion by renowned artist Hector Vega.

"At Parma Hospital, treating you better really does

begin with knowing you better, and we find it an honor to care for our neighbors, family and friends," said President & CEO Terrence G. Deis. "We look forward to continuing to deliver excellent, personalized care into the next half century."

### From a plot of farmland

"Building a hospital in this part of Southwest Cleveland is a most worthwhile challenge," states the literature published in 1958 as part of the campaign to raise support for a new community hospital. "It is a rare endeavor, if not the only endeavor, where several communities have joined hands for a common civic improvement beneficial to each."

A population boom in the 1950s throughout the southwestern suburbs – with Parma growing 152 percent and Parma Heights expanding by 256 percent in less than a decade – fueled the campaign for a community hospital to care for the growing number of residents. A plot of farmland off Ridge Road was selected for

the construction of a new hospital.

Six communities worked together to establish Parma Community General Hospital: Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, North Royalton and Seven Hills. Representatives from each of these communities are recommended for appointment by their respective mayors to the Hospital's Board of Directors.

### Busy from the beginning

When the Hospital opened its doors in August 1961, it had 200 beds, a large maternity unit, and modern operating, radiology and physical rehabilitation units. Within a few years it was fully accredited and joined the Cleveland Hospital Council.

By the early 1970s, the

## Normandy Student Wins \$50,000 Scholarship

by Kevin Brennan

Alex Stojasavljevic, a Normandy High School student, was recently presented with a four-year, \$50,000 scholarship for being named the winner of the third annual "Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out" essay contest sponsored by the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood. 1,700 students from seven counties submitted essays with high school juniors and seniors being eligible for scholarship prizes. Students were asked to describe an incident of discrimination, reflect on their personal response, and create a 500 word essay with a plan of action to effect change. The top ten finalists gathered at Severance Hall on April 11 to have their entries judged by a panel that included nationally-known civil rights

attorney Avery Friedman and Plain Dealer Editor Debra Adams Simmons. The keynote address was delivered by

Abraham Foxman, National Director of the Anti-Defamation League.

continued on page 2



Alex Stojasavljevic

continued on page 9



# Parma Business

## Home For Pregnant Women Is Grateful For Community Support

by Jennifer Rodgers

On June 24th, 2011 Maggie's Place, The Zechariah House will celebrate two years of serving the greater Cleveland community. The Zechariah House has been providing shelter and love to expectant women and infants in need. Women can come to us at any point in their pregnancy and stay up to six months after they have their babies. In Maggie's Place homes, we live a community life - moms and staff members sharing a home. Pregnancy is meant to be experienced in the context of family and our homes offer a dynamic and vibrant type of family life. Each member of the community, regardless of their role, is changed profoundly by the experience. In just under two years Maggie's Place, The Zechariah House has provided a loving home for 36 women and infants in need.

Operated entirely off of private donations, Maggie's Place is able to serve expectant women in need only through the generosity and hard work of the community. From the first day Maggie's Place staff arrived in Parma to begin the process of opening the home the community has been incredibly supportive hosting fundraisers and donation drives, participating in work days at the house, and spreading the word about the organization to family and friends. The support has only continued to grow, and for that we



Mayor DePiero Asks A Question During A Breakfast Meeting Of Community Leaders Held At Maggie's Place, The Zechariah House On April 14th.

are very grateful. Just this month:

St Charles Borromeo Elementary School hosted a dress down fundraiser raising over \$500 for Maggie's Place.

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero hosted a breakfast at Maggie's Place, The Zechariah House to network with Parma area government, business and church representatives.

100+ Women Who Care – Cleveland chose Maggie's Place as their quarterly donation recipient, gifting Maggie's Place with over \$10,000!

As we approach Mother's Day and the second anniversary of the opening of The Zechariah House, we want to extend our deepest thanks for the hospitality, generosity and kindness extended by the greater Cleveland

community! It is truly only through your support that we are able to serve expectant women, new moms and babies in need. We would love to offer you an invitation to our several upcoming events:

**Honor Your Mother – Mother's Day Cards:** Honor a special mother in your life and support Maggie's Place by purchasing Mother's Day cards.

**Movers & Shakers Fundraising Breakfast:** Join us on May 12, 2011 for a fundraising breakfast at St Basil the Great Catholic Church in Brecksville from 8 – 9 am. Registration begins at 7:30 am.

**A Race for Maggie's Place – MP9K:** Maggie's Place will host the 2nd Annual A Race for Maggie's Place

MP9K at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo on Saturday, August 27th. The family-friendly event includes a 9K run, 3 mile walk and Free Kids Dash, as well as entry into the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for all registered participants.

To learn more about Maggie's Place and ways to get involved please visit [www.maggiesplace.org](http://www.maggiesplace.org) or contact Maggie's Place staff at 440.886.2620 or [cleveland@maggiesplace.org](mailto:cleveland@maggiesplace.org).

## Humana Introduces Home Care Services For Local Seniors

by Katie Marx

Health insurer Humana has launched a personalized care management program to help senior citizens age successfully and happily in their homes. The program is named Humana HomeCare Solutions, and it begins with a home visit by a Humana care manager.

Care managers work one-on-one with clients – and their caregivers – to help manage chronic conditions and achieve the highest possible level of independence. During the initial home visit, the care manager evaluates how to make household tasks safer and easier. They also review medications and home security and assess the client's

mental and emotional needs.

"We decided to engage in home health care after observing the needs of our existing Medicare Advantage members," said Gail Miller, chief of Product Development for Humana Cares. "They want to remain in their homes, but need support to do so. Spouses are often experiencing their own issues and adult children are working and raising their own families. Humana has the expertise and resources, and we believe this is an important part of ensuring an individual's well-being throughout their entire life." Humana HomeCare Solutions is available to the general public; you do not need to have Humana insurance.

The Humana Guidance Center at 1915 Snow Rd. in Parma, Ohio will be hosting two separate seminars to better explain this program, and they will be occurring on May 4 and May 11, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Call 216-778-6810 for further details. See you there!

## \$50,000 Scholarship

continued from page 1

Alex's essay details his frustration with being the victim of bullying and the effect it had on his life both in and out of school. He concluded that in order to change his environment, he had to make it happen himself. "I realized that I needed to be the change I wanted to see," said Alex. "I couldn't just sit around and wait for the world to change." To that point, Alex hopes to spotlight the problems created by bullying by working with school officials to institute "Bullying Awareness Week," a time for students and staff to discuss and explore the various aspects of bullying and the impact it has on everyone involved.

"It's my hope to create a world free of hatred and harassment but I know I cannot do it alone. It is through the support of friends and family that I know we can change my community and the world." Alex's future plans include college followed by a career in law enforcement.



The **Parma Observer** is a community owned and operated citizen based news source. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The **Parma Observer** staff or our advertisers.

11180 Snow Road, Parma, Ohio 44130  
440.884.7625 • <http://parmaobserver.com>

### Advisory Board

Craig Czepczynski  
Randi Hansen  
David Lincheck  
Lisa Zaremba  
George Salo  
Bill DeMarco

### Publisher/Editor

Daniel P. McCarthy

### Design and Production

AGS Design

### Advertising Sales

Paul Woods  
216-315-5307

### Writers

Kevin Brennan  
Michael Byrne  
Melanie Clink  
Bill DeMarco  
Lisa Draganic  
Bob Durante  
Joe Germana  
Steve Gove  
Charles Jennings  
Patty Knox  
Myrtis Litman  
Gene Lovasy  
Wayne Mahowald  
Jack Marschall  
Michael Marsh  
Kate Marx  
Lucy McKernan  
Jennifer Rodgers  
CJ Sheppard  
Dan Taddeo  
Ruth Teper  
Lisa Zaremba

Photography  
Michael Byrne  
Melanie Clink  
Joe Germana  
Steve Gove  
Patty Knox  
Lucy McKernan  
Jennifer Rodgers  
CJ Sheppard



The Parma Observer is powered by:

### Your choice for quality short-term rehabilitation

Providing quality health care services for seniors since 1953, we are pleased to offer short-term rehabilitation services and programs.



6765 State Rd., Parma, OH 44134  
[www.mountalvernavillage.com/np](http://www.mountalvernavillage.com/np)  
(440) 843-7800

Sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago



Quality interior and exterior painting for over a decade

Aluminum siding refinishing

[www.allurepainting.net](http://www.allurepainting.net)

Owner on-site

216.287.7468

FREE gutter cleaning with any exterior house painting





Parma Business

# Parma City Schools' Students Can Take Free Classes Offered By Parma Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Yoga, Babysitter's Training and Teen Fitness are just a few of the classes Parma Community General Hospital is offering free to students of the Parma City School District this spring and summer.

Parma Hospital's Health Education Center has received a \$22,000 Family and Civic Engagement Initiative grant from Cuyahoga County to administer classes to 550 public school students. Classes will be offered April through September as long as funds allow.

This initiative was created "to help develop healthy communities that lead to the academic success safety and well being of youth to enable them to transition into productive, responsible citizens," according to the grant. Community Health Representative Sharon Nichols, who coordinates classes offered through the Hospital's Health Education Center, says the purpose of the grant meshes well with Parma Hospital's own mission and benefits students with an average of \$40 in savings per class.

"We offer a diverse selection of classes throughout the year for youths

of all ages," Nichols said. "This grant is for kids from Kindergarten through 12th grade, so even 16, 17 or 18-year-olds can take adult exercise classes, Spanish for Beginners or Personal Wellness seminars. Younger children

## Parma Relay For Life At Parmatown Mall

by Ruth Teper

What is Relay? The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. It is a unique community fund-raising event that allows participants from all walks of life, including patients, medical support staff, corporations, civic organizations, churches, and community volunteers, to participate in the fight against cancer.

Support your community in the fight against cancer! 2011 Relay for Life of Parma. May 21, 2011. Parmatown Mall. (In Front of Bath & Body Works). Relay fund-raiser: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Visit with our team fundraising tables and learn more about how

in Kindergarten through second grade can take art, dance or science classes. Students in grades 1 through 6 can brush up on Math Facts or stay active over summer with Cheer Camp."

A full schedule of spring classes can

be viewed online at [www.parmahospital.org/programsandclasses](http://www.parmahospital.org/programsandclasses). To register or have a schedule mailed to your home, please call the Health Education Center at 440-743-4900. The summer schedule will be available on May 25.



Memories Of The 2010 Parma Relay For Life

you can get involved with Relay. For more information please contact Sean Brennan, Event Chair at [councilman-brennan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:councilman-brennan@sbcglobal.net) or visit us on-line at [www.relayforlife.org/parmach](http://www.relayforlife.org/parmach).

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.

Treating you better begins  
with knowing you better.



Parma  
Community  
General Hospital

To us, it's all vital.  
[parmahospital.org](http://parmahospital.org)

WellPointe Pavilion  
303 E. Royalton Rd · Broadview Hts., 44147  
440-743-4740

# Parma Health

## Two Groups Named Beneficiaries Of Dean DePiero's 5K Charity Run And 2K Fun Walk For 2011

by Jack Marschall

Parma Mayor Dean DePiero has named Lifebanc and the Parma Community General Hospital Foundation as beneficiaries of his 8th Annual 5K Charity Run and 2K Fun Walk at Byers Field on June 18. All proceeds from the race will benefit programs administered by the Hospital Foundation and Lifebanc. In addition, Country Radio Hall of Fame broadcaster Chuck Collier of WGAR will again be the official celebrity starter of the race.

"The race has proven to be one of the biggest events in our great city," said Mayor DePiero. "While providing fun and excitement, the race allows us to give back to the community and help those organizations that help Greater Clevelanders year after year. The icing on the cake is having the legendary Chuck Collier join us – a celebrity known for his talent as well as his community involvement and volunteerism that has made his career something special for everyone in northeast Ohio."

"This generous contribution by Mayor DePiero will heal and save

lives in our community," said Gordon Bowen, Lifebanc Chief Executive Officer. "This gift will help provide bereavement support to grieving families and educational programs so that more residents will become registered organ, eye and tissue donors."

Lifebanc saves and heals lives through organ, eye and tissue donation for transplantation in northeast Ohio. Lifebanc is responsible for coordinating the organ, eye and tissue recovery process, increasing registration rates by providing public and professional education services and offers bereavement support to donor families. To become a registered organ, eye and tissue donor and help save a life, say yes at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or visit [www.lifebanc.org](http://www.lifebanc.org).

"We appreciate Mayor DePiero's generous contribution, directly helping to improve and build our medical and educational community-based programs," said Marcia Ferguson, Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation Executive Director. "This helps us provide hunger relief and care for the disabled as part of our Safety Net

mission as well as assisting the Parma Health Ministry and other organizations provide medical care for uninsured individuals."

Since 1987, the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation has provided more than \$4 million of philanthropic support of Parma Hospital's mission, expanding services and medical, health and wellness care outreach in the community. Foundation funds helped to create the Tri-C Nursing School at Parma Community General Hospital, Season of Life Residential Hospice and growth and development of programs at the hospital's Elder Center.

Over the past seven years, more than \$50,000 has been collected in donations from Dean DePiero's Charity Race. Once again, this year's 5K Run and 2K Fun Walk will feature giveaways, raffles, refreshments, timers and water stops. The course is flat, and extends around Parmatown Mall and Ridgewood Lake. The race will be managed by Hermes Road Racing of Cleveland.

"I couldn't be happier that this event provides a quality race for run-

ners across the area while helping two top quality community organizations," said Mayor DePiero. "It's that helping spirit which makes me proud of the race and the willingness of all the volunteers who make it happen."

The 5K run and 2K Fun Walk begins at 8:30 a.m. You can register online at [www.deandepiero.com](http://www.deandepiero.com). Call 216-623-9933 if you have any questions.

### Meet the OBs At June 11 Event

by CJ Sheppard

If you're thinking about starting or expanding your family, set aside the morning of Saturday, June 11 for a special Meet & Greet event at Parma Community General Hospital. OB-GYNs, certified nurse midwives, neonatal nurse practitioners and pediatricians will be on hand to informally chat during a brunch held from 10 a.m.-12 noon in the Hospital's Auditorium. Representatives from the Small Wonders Maternity Center will share information about the educational classes they provide and will give tours of the beautiful maternity unit.

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.

Treating you better begins  
with knowing you better.



Parma  
Community  
General Hospital

To us, it's all vital.  
[parmahospital.org](http://parmahospital.org)

6900 Pearl Road  
Middleburg Hts., OH 44130  
440-292-1000



# Parma Schools



## Asset Corner #17

by Gene Lovasy

**SHOW KIDS YOU CARE:  
SEEK THEM OUT**

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

**May’s Asset Category: COMMITMENT TO LEARNING:**

Commitment to learning doesn’t happen naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one’s own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers. The more committed a child is to learning, the more likely it is that she or he will grow up healthy.

- COMMITMENT TO LEARNING Assets Include:**
- # 21 **Achievement Motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school.
  - # 22 **School Engagement** – Young person is actively engaged in learning.
  - # 23 **Homework** – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
  - # 24 **Bonding to School** – Young person cares about his or her school.
  - # 25 **Reading For Pleasure** – Young person reads for leisure 3 or more hours/week.

Today, we’re going to be focusing attention on Asset # 21, Achievement Motivation.

Doing your best always makes the grade

Do you know young people who always try their best in school, without rewards or punishments dangling

over them? These students have found a reason to work hard; they have achievement motivation. Doing well academically means different things to different people. It doesn’t have to mean getting straight A’s or being the valedictorian. It does mean doing their best work and caring about their performance, whether they’re creating an art portfolio or writing an essay. There are plenty of reasons to work hard in school—getting good grades, making parents happy, or earning a spot on the honor roll. But the biggest incentive for young people to do their best—in school and out—comes from within: personal pride from knowing they gave it their all. Making an effort in school and other activities now, can give young people more reasons to feel proud later on.

**Here are the facts**

Research shows young people who try their best in school have better grades, are more likely to finish high school, and are better at managing stress. They’re also better at setting goals and more likely to enroll in college. About 65 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they are motivated to do well in school, according to Search Institute surveys. Help young people understand how important school is so they study hard, pay attention, and do their homework.

**Tips for building this asset**

What drives the young people you know to do their best? Whatever their reasons, remind them that when they try their best they can always feel good about the results, no matter what the grade.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Ask your child about what motivates her or him to succeed in school. Find out

what challenges he or she faces and discuss ways to overcome them. Share any tips or advice you learned from your own school experience.

In your neighborhood and community: When you say, “What’s new at school?” to young people in your neighborhood, focus on their interests instead of their grades.

In your school or youth program: Discuss the following with young people: If your school or program awards letters for any subject or activity, what would you like yours to be in? Why?

All this Asset stuff seems to make sense but why bother?

Search Institute’s research has consistently shown that young people who experience more of the Developmental Assets engage in fewer risk-taking behaviors and will, conversely, make healthier lifestyle choices. Check out the numbers in the chart below.

The social/emotional benefits notwithstanding, imagine the financial implications to our community if we can, for one example, reduce the percentage of youth engaged in violent behavior from 62% to 6%. The amount could be staggering. Stay tuned. More about this in subsequent issues.

THE POWER OF ASSETS

To Protect Youth From High-Risk Behaviors

	0 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 40
Problem Alcohol Use	45%	26%	11%	3%
Violence	62%	38%	18%	6%
Illicit Drug Use	38%	18%	6%	1%
Sexual Activity	34%	23%	11%	3%

To Promote Positive Attitudes & Behaviors

	0 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 30	31 - 40
Exhibits Leadership	48%	66%	78%	87%
Maintains Good Health	27%	48%	69%	88%
Values Diversity	39%	60%	76%	89%
Succeeds in School	9%	19%	34%	54%

\* Based on surveys of almost 150,000 6th - 12th grade youth in 202 communities across the United States in calendar year 2003.

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/assets](http://www.parmacityschools.org/assets) or [www.search-institute.org/assets](http://www.search-institute.org/assets) for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them.

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

New Windows & Custom Trim From

\$253 Including Installation !



Window Universe

The Future of Replacement Windows

www.WindowUniverseCleveland.com

17409 Detroit Ave.  
Lakewood, OH 44107

440.536.8116

CHALASINSKI INSURANCE GROUP LLC

SR-22 Bond

Auto, Home, Renter, Commercial, Life Insurance

Senior Security

"MOWIMY PO POLSKU"

www.ThomasChalasinski.com

www.ChalasinskiInsuranceGroup.com



Call Me Today & Save 440.838.5383





BACKS

Massage & Therapy

Starting at \$49 for 1 hour Massage

Gift Card

Buy 4 Get 1 FREE

6500 Pearl Rd # 105 Parma Hts. Ohio

www.backs-massage.com 440.342.0489

PARMA HTS.  
BEREA  
WESTLAKE

MASTER HANDYMAN, LLC

Carpentry • Plumbing • Roof Repairs • Electrical

We Specialize in Garage Repairs

CALL DAN AT (216) 324-1369

SINCE 1991 LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED



Hopko

Funeral Home

John C. Hopko Cheryll A. Hopko

6020 Broadview Road - Parma, Ohio

216-631-4888

\$29.99

+tax

1-8x10, 4-5x7's,  
& 8-Wallets +  
FREE Session

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

440.345.5188

WWW.BLKHOUSEPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Pets are Welcome!!!

20% OFF

PHOTO RESTORATIONS & PHOTO ENLARGEMENTS

OFFER EXPIRES 4/31/2011

LIMIT 1 COUPON PER FAMILY THROUGH APRIL 31ST 2011. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER PROMOTIONS. THIS COUPON MUST BE PRESENT.



# Parma Observer

## What's Right? What's Wrong

by Daniel Taddeo

The Topic for this issue is “Living the Moment” On what does your mind focus most of the time? When people are asked this question, the most frequent response is on the future, then the past, and lastly the present. This is unfortunate because the present is the most critical because that’s where the action is. Think about driving a car! Now and then we look back via the rear-view mirror. Occasionally, we look ahead to approaching areas. But mostly we need to focus on the immediate present in order to arrive safely at our destination. This illustration applies to living life as well.

Only after we begin to look back on our lives do we realize how much time, effort and worry we devoted to things, situations and circumstances that were and are out of our hands: little matters when we were young and bigger matters when we are older. Any area of concern over which we have no control is cause for worry and becomes a “no win” situation that detracts us from where we can and do make a difference. Only after we begin to identify and dismiss those things which are out of our hands, are we in a position to focus our time and effort on the here-and-now in bringing about constructive and positive changes. This



Bob And Anne Feller With Steve Gove, Animal Keeper At Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

## Fond Memories Of Bob Feller

by Steve Gove

In the time after the Cleveland Indians’ iconic pitcher Bob Feller’s passing, many stories of his multi-faceted life have come to light. I’d like to share another little-known side of a remarkable man.

In the early 90’s my son’s Boy Scout troop was helping North Royalton Drug Mart host a Bob Feller autograph signing; cooking and selling hot dogs to those in line. As a troop leader, I thought Bob would appreciate some lunch after an hour or so of talking with folks. Three or four hot dogs later (Bob had a farm boy’s appetite throughout his life) I happened to mention my vocation of Animal Keeper at our Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. His eyes lit up as he told me about his years as a Zoo Board Member under the late Vernon Stouffer, and his wife Anne’s love of animals. I invited Bob and Anne to visit the Zoo and offered a behind-the-scenes tour.

So began a friendship which since that time included many trips, especially during the now discontinued zoo lights celebration for Christmas. After regular hours, after the lights were lit and before the crowd became too thick, Bob, Anne (a soft-spoken and wonderful woman) and I would visit the various areas in a golf cart, always stopping at Wade Hall on Waterfowl Lake--the only place that served adult beverages. After a spiced rum (or two), Bob would regale me with gems from his past. A little-known fact was how he acquired those whip-strong

wrists he later used to snap off a fine curve ball. Shucking corn in Iowa was elevated to state fair contest status and Bob was a two-time winner! Throwing cobs in the field was a way to stretch and strengthen an arm without trying to retrieve every throw. Bob had flung thousands! Our talks usually revolved around animals, farming, or his naval service on the battleship “Alabama.” Very little baseball entered the conversation unless a curious visitor would recognize him and ask a question or two, which along with a photo request, Bob graciously accommodated.

One year, soon after the Wolf Wilderness exhibit opened, I showed Bob and Anne the state-of-the-art electronics and plumbing involved in the area. He was amazed at the complete transformation of the wolf’s image from that of a varmint to a wild and magnificent natural predator. In his day, farmers and ranchers were, and still are, fearful of predators, having had bounty placed on their hides for many decades. Bob once said, “In Iowa in the 20’s and 30’s, a wolf’s hide nailed to a barn would have earned more applause than a no-hitter.”

I was disappointed when Zoo lights ended years ago, although the Fellers and I exchanged Christmas cards each year. After my retirement in 2005, visits were less frequent. However, my last memories of Bob were anything but sad--a firm handshake, a few more memorable stories, and, “I’ll see you soon!”

results in less worry, greater accomplishments and improved quality of life for the individual and those with whom he or she comes in contact.

Consider the following viewpoint. “First, I was dying to finish high school and start college. and then I was dying to finish college and start working. And then I was dying to marry and have children. And then I was dying for my children to grow old enough so that I could return to work. And then I was dying to retire. And now, I am dying... and suddenly I realize I forgot to live.”

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry- two days which should be kept free from

fear and apprehension. One of those days is yesterday. Learn from its mistakes, faults, blunders, aches and pains, and put it away. The other day we should not worry about is tomorrow with its possible adversities, burdens and promises. This leaves only one day- today. Anyone can fight the battle of just one day. It is only when we add the burdens of yesterday and tomorrow that we break down. In the words of the writer Kay Lyon, “Yesterday is a cancelled check, tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash we have- so spend it wisely.” Daniel Taddeo [taddeo.fairwaypress.com](http://taddeo.fairwaypress.com)

## Do You Have What It Takes To Be The NEXT PARMA AREA IDOL?

by Lisa Zaremba

The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce and the Parma Rib ‘N Rock presents the Third Annual Parma Area Idol Contest. It will take place on the Main Stage June 9 -12, during the Rib ‘N Rock Rib Cook-Off, and is open to all amateur performers 13-30 years old. Over 30 talented contestants turned out last year and they are hoping to increase that number this year.

Choosing a winner was very difficult last year, the level of talented performers that came out was amazing, I would hate to be a judge; that duty will go to a professional panel of judges that includes Jerry Colosimo, a local favorite and graduate from Valley Forge High School, Colosimo has been singing in the Cleveland area for over 23 years. Also judging will be Polly Ann Zaremba – Dudek. She has been a professional singer and musician all her life, touring the U.S. and Canada for over 15 years as lead vocalist for the Band Cleveland. The band was recently inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and is featured the Guinness Book of World Records for playing the longest rock concert in history 100 hours and 30 minutes helping to bring the Hall of Fame to Cleveland, Ohio. And let’s not forget the “Simon” of the group Ken Dudek. He is from the Cleveland Management Group, a professional guitar player, singer with a top ten single in 1966 which was No. 8 on Billboard for 6 weeks. He was also a band manager for over 30 years. He



has worked with Mercury Records here in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio supplying tour support for such acts as Elton John, Jon Bon Jovi, Kiss, Joan Jett, Peter Dinklage, and also managed the band “Cleveland”.

They are each highly qualified and really have their work cut out for them.

Not only will the winner receive bragging rights as the “Parma Area Idol” making appearances at other local events, but they will also receive a \$200 Cash Prize and the chance to record a “demo CD” at Advanced Audio Design Studio.

“We hope family and friends will also come out to lend their support with posters and lots of cheering for their favorite.”

Applications along with the Rules and Regulations are available in the Chamber Office or call 440-886-1700. FREE passes are also available.

**THE CONTROVERSY**  
is an anthology of eight books. It contains a random selection of gems of wisdom on 200 related topics.

- Timeless and Challenging
- Encouragement and Hope
- Perspective and Solutions

**DAN TADDEO  
BACK TO BASICS**

6258 BIG CREEK PKWY  
CLEVELAND, OH 44130  
440-845-9260

[HTTP://TADDEO.FAIRWAYPRESS.COM](http://TADDEO.FAIRWAYPRESS.COM)



Parma Hts. Observer

Caregiver's Kitchen: Hats Off To Dad, True Fighting Irish

by Patty Knox

Thank you for the many inquiries about Dad over the last two months. Some things are too painful to write about yet. Let me tell you now about Dad's indomitable spirit. Dad was a fighter. True fighting Irish. During the days that followed his hip replacement surgery, he fought to recover. A post-operative case of pneumonia settled deep in one lung, and he kept fighting. Then, weak from pneumonia and worn down by pain, at some point the battle became overwhelming. Something inexplicable had changed. Lapsing into unconsciousness, his body stopped responding. We prayed, we hoped, we sought expert opinions. We called in our longtime family physician, who concurred with the hospital doctors. With a somber voice, he intoned that there was nothing else that could be done. He recommended hospice.

We knew of a wonderful woman at Holy Family Hospice, Karen Salway, who is a generous soul and compassionate comforter of the bereaved. She had become a friend of mine through a musician we both knew, and invited me for lunch at the hospice about a year ago. The food was good old-fashioned home-made quality. Tasty. Nothing like hospital food. I hid my amazement. We walked through the halls. The peace and sense of blessing were palpable. Those residing there were engaged in various activities. I heard happy voices laughing. I saw visitors smiling. I felt a spirit of wellness in the air. Transcending acceptance of Divine Providence pervaded the atmosphere. There were warm embraces, tender last good-byes, and sorrow mixed with a relieved peace when a loved one was called heavenward. Whether days, weeks or months remained, the dignity and sanctity of human life was celebrated in quiet care.

There is usually a waiting list for this rare place. God blessed us in providing a bed for Dad. Within one day of arriving at Holy Family, Dad was breathing easier, his face was no longer contorted in pain, his hands eased their viselike grip. The nurses helped him rest comfortably with oxygen and pain medication. Nurse aides gently bathed him, groomed his hair and shaved his stubble, and tenderly applied ointments and creams to reverse the breakdown of the skin from months-old bedsores. The staff's attentiveness to Dad and to us was heartwarming. As a



family, we were grateful.

At such a time, there are many questions the family has regarding their loved one. Nurses Paul, Cheri, Nick, supervisor Joe, and others, all spent much time explaining Dad's condition, answering our concerns, never impatient or dismissive. Karen came by after work frequently, bringing food and relaxing conversation to cheer us while we kept watch with Dad. Sister Margaret Mary stopped by numerous times to check on us and to pray for Dad. She knew that Dad was a proud Irish-American, and gave him a handmade rosary blessed in Ireland. The brogue in her voice lilted when she spoke, making her words sing. Father Simon also came daily to see how we were doing. He gave Dad the blessing of the sick not long after Dad arrived. Dad noticeably improved. Despite a prognosis of 24 to 48 hours, Dad lived for nine more days at Holy Family. I believe he felt comforted there by the heritage of his faith. The atmosphere of prayer which surrounded him made his last days the most healing. Dad was unconscious but drawing breath steadily. In my mind, I liked to think he was enjoying a long nap, one of his favorite pastimes. But I'm sure that in this environment of holy service, Dad was taking care of unfinished business and giving us all a chance to say goodbye.

Dad is gone now. The Lord called him home at his appointed time. He slipped away peacefully in the middle of the night while the world was asleep, except for the two nurses who were anointing his skin and giving him pain medication. I can't help but be happy for him, reunited with Mom and the family members who have gone before him.

Most importantly, he is reunited with God. "Faith of our fathers, living still... We will be true to Thee 'til death."

After taking Dad to his final resting place beside Mom at Holy Cross Cemetery, the Noonan clan gathered for a family meal. Comfort food fought off the chill of a midwinter day. Here are some trustworthy recipes of mine.

**Fettucini Alfredo with Sherried Chicken**

Boil 1/2 pound of pasta in boiling water with a pinch of salt. Cook to desired al dente doneness, about 10 minutes. While pasta is cooking, pound two chicken breasts thin with a wine bottle or the smooth side of a meat mallet. Sear chicken in a hot pan. Season chicken while cooking with a pinch of smoked paprika. Throw in a cup of green grapes. Make a small cut in center of breasts at thickest place to check for doneness. Chicken is done when no pink remains. Place breasts on a plate and deglaze pan with a splash of sherry (about 1/4 cup). When pasta is done, drain and add 1 stick of unsalted butter, stirring to melt. Add 1 wedge of fresh-grated parmesan cheese (about 8 oz.) and rest of pint of cream. Grate fresh nutmeg over pasta and place in serving bowl. Pour sherried grape sauce over chicken. Enjoy. Serve with your favorite green vegetable, or

**Laura's Sugar Snap Peas in Lemon Butter Sauce**

Steam fresh or frozen sugar snap

peas in metal steamer basket over 1/2 inch of water in covered saucepan, only until bright green (about 2 minutes). Place in large bowl with 2 tablespoons butter and squeeze 1/2 a fresh lemon over vegetables. Season with salt and pepper or Jane's Krazy Mixed-Up Salt. Stir to combine. Serve immediately.

**Mom's Chocolate Cornstarch Pudding**

The most comforting stuff you can eat. Stir 2/3 cup sugar, 1/4 cup cornstarch, and 3 tablespoons cocoa powder (Nestle's or Droste, if you can get it), and a pinch of salt in a large saucepan. Stir in a little bit of 2 3/4 cups milk to make a paste, whisking to thoroughly combine. Turn on heat to medium and gradually whisk in rest of milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly while singing, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling." Boil for 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in 2 tablespoons butter, which makes it suave and satiny. Spoon up into a mug & eat it hot. Sing praises to God for all good things. Smile over sweet memories of loved ones. Thank you for reading the Parma Observer, and send your comments, questions, or suggestions for future columns to [alzheimerannie@yahoo.com](mailto:alzheimerannie@yahoo.com) regarding home care for your loved ones.

**Greenbrier**  
RETIREMENT CENTER

*Enjoy Spring*  
In one of our affordable  
Independent Living Suites

Surround  
yourself with  
Our Caring and  
Supportive Staff

Call for more information  
or to schedule a tour  
**440.888.0400**

Communicare  
Family of Companies  
[www.communicarehealth.com](http://www.communicarehealth.com)

**ARABICA**  
COFFEE HOUSE & HOOKAH CAFE  
6285 PEARL ROAD • 440.886.6648  
PARMA HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130  
Daily Promos From 1p.m. to 5p.m.

**Monday-** Buy 1 Pastry- Get Medium Coffee FREE  
**Tuesday-** Noon-6PM \$6.00 Hookah w/Bev. Purchase  
**Wednesday-** Buy Large Mocha- 2nd one 50% off  
**Thursday-** Ladies Night- 50% off any drinks w/ad  
**Friday-** \$4.00 Hookah All Day  
**Saturday-** 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM  
**Sunday-** Open Mic Night-Patio

**BLUE LINE BAR & GRILL**  
Now Open Daily 11:00 A.M.  
Food and Drink Specials  
4305 Brookpark Road  
440-799-4305

**Sandwich Nation**  
Salads, Sides, Cookies, Drinks  
6168 Pearl Road, Parma Hts.  
440-845-2922  
Mon. - Sat. 11am - 12am  
Sundays Noon - 8pm

**\$1.00 Off**



## Parma Observer

# Parma Heights Traffic Safety System

by Michael Byrne

In the second phase of a two-year program to increase traffic safety in the city, REDFLEX red light/speed enforcement cameras will be operational at the Pearl and York/Stumph road intersection in Parma Heights beginning at the end of the month. A Speed Van has been deployed in school zones and traffic complaint areas for the last year under Phase I of the program.

Parma Hts. has chosen the slogan "Don't Speed to a Photo Finish" to emphasize the technology involved in the new camera enforcement system as part of an initiative to raise public awareness of the dangers of speeding and red-light running. A crash caused by a driver who runs a red light can have the same tragic result as a crash caused by a drunk driver.

Parma Hts. Chief of Police Dan Teel states: "With many police departments in our area struggling to maintain staffing levels, we are fortunate that technology can offer law enforcement agencies assistance improving public safety," he goes on to

say: "If we are able to change the habits of drivers who violate the red lights or who speed, we can certainly make the roadways safer."

Beginning on or about March 31, 2011, red light/speed enforcement cameras will be activated at the intersection of Pearl and York/Stumph roads and a one-month warning period will be in effect through 12:01 a.m. on May 3, 2011, during which time potential violators will receive warning notices in place of actual citations. Beginning 12:01 a.m. on May 3, 2011, the cameras will be live and citations will be issued for the violations.

### PARMA HEIGHTS TRAFFIC SAFETY SYSTEM TO BE OPERATIONAL THIS SPRING

The red light/speed enforcement camera system is connected to the traffic signal and to sensors that monitor traffic flow at the crosswalk or stop line. The system continuously monitors the traffic signal. The camera itself is triggered by any vehicle entering the intersection above a pre-established minimum speed and following a specified time after the signal has turned

red. Motorists trapped inadvertently in an intersection when the signal changes to red (e.g. waiting to turn left) are not red light runners. A second photograph typically shows the red light violator in the intersection. Cameras record the date, time of day, time elapsed since the beginning of the red signal and vehicle speed.

"Results of the stationary camera program will be monitored to evaluate the effect on public safety. Ultimately, the goal would be to have the cameras monitoring the intersection but as a result of improved driver awareness, record no violation," Parma Hts. Chief of Police Teel said.

On September 28, 2009, City Council passed Ordinance No. 2009-20 authorizing an agreement with REDFLEX Traffic Systems, Inc. for the Photo Red Light and Photo Speed Enforcement Programs.

Selection was based in part on REDFLEX's extensive experience in the traffic safety arena and an impressive client base that includes nearly 50 percent of all photo-based traffic safety programs operating in the United States.



Red Light Camera At The Intersection Of York And Pearl Rds.

With the current economic situation, it is important to note that the system is completely violator funded and involves no cost to the city. REDFLEX absorbs much of the upfront cost to install and implement the technology. The company then works to customize traffic systems that meet the needs of the community and ensures optimal revenue returns.

# Thoughts On The State Of Things

by Michael Marsh

All one needs to do is walk or drive the streets of our once great city of Parma. You will see the vacant houses that dot our neighborhoods and empty storefronts that greet you everywhere. You will also notice that the winter has been particularly cruel to a few of our roads as potholes I call "car killers" threaten to tear up the bottom of your car. You may ask yourself as I do, where have all the businesses gone? Where have all the jobs gone? Where have all the people gone? When businesses, jobs, and people leave the city, the city's tax base leaves

with them. This means that thousands of dollars in tax revenue will not flow in to support and pay for the municipal functions of the city. Services ranging from the trash collection in your neighborhood to the emergency services that you may need can be affected.

There are a few ways the city can address these problems. Taxes can just be raised on everyone, or a myriad of new fees can be imposed to make up for the lost revenue streams. Well, I suspect that you are like me in the sense that you don't have a tree in your yard that grows money. The recent his-

tory of failed levies is an indicator that the people of Parma feel that they pay enough in taxation and can't afford anymore. The city could look to the state for help; the problem there is that our newly elected Governor is faced with a budget deficit of nearly eight billion dollars. Don't hold your breath waiting for help to come from Columbus, in fact our city and school district will get less help from the state in the future. Finally, the city budget could be cut. I think we all can agree that there are no easy solutions on the horizon.

In addition to the grave finan-

cial challenges that face our city going forward, our city is currently operating, as it has since its beginning, without a charter. Right now the size and layout of the city government is dictated by the Ohio Revised Code. Parma is a "statutory city" which means that decisions regarding the offices and function of our municipality are made in Columbus. Whatever Columbus mandates, we pay for. If something needs to be changed to benefit the local community you have to go through Columbus. I am sure that our local concerns will be handled with all the care and speed of the state legislature. In this situation it is very difficult if not impossible to take control of spending locally.

Adopting a city charter for Parma would bring about "home rule", decisions as to the size and function of the city government would be made right here by people who live here. A charter would mean greatly increasing the efficiency of our city government by allowing local control of spending. As local challenges arise, the local government can act independently of Columbus to meet those challenges quickly and at a minimum cost to the tax payer. Simply put, a charter puts the citizens in control of their local government. Language can be added to the charter that would not allow an increase in taxes of any kind without the consent of the people. Like an airplane needs two wings to fly, the city needs to cut spending and reduce the tax burden on its citizens and businesses.

Cuyahoga County recently underwent a reformation of its government, allowing for greater financial efficiency, fresh ideas for the future, and the elimination of corruption. It is time for the city of Parma to do the same. It is time for a city charter for Parma!

# Parma Hospital Celebrates 50th

continued from page 1

Hospital had broken ground on extensive additions, including a three-floor tower that would hold a new Intensive Care Unit, a Coronary Care Unit and two critical care stepdown units. Within five years, another two-story expansion was underway. In the 1980s, the Hospital would build several medical office buildings and lease the former Fay Junior High School that now houses the

Health Education Center, allowing the Hospital to provide ElderCenter adult day services with multiple programs, a Child Care Center for hospital employees and the public, award-winning Home Health Care, and an EMS Education Program that has served the region's safety services for the past 25 years.

### Decades of growth, expansion

In the 1990s, Parma Hospital grew rapidly, adding the Pain Center, expanding the inpatient Acute Rehabilitation Center, modernizing the Small Wonders

Maternity Center and adding the Behavioral Center for Older Adults, a geriatric psychiatric unit. Parma Hospital won its first of numerous awards for excellence in orthopedics the year before the 1999 opening of The Heart Center, a cardiovascular intensive care unit that would garner its own array of awards, including the 100 Top Hospitals for Cardiovascular Care more than once and the fastest heart attack care in the region through the Code STEMI program.

The past decade brought the addition of outpatient oncology care in a community setting and the opening of a new Residential Hospice on Pleasant Valley Lake. Parma Hospital also enlarged its Emergency Department, adding an innovative Doc at the Door program for efficient triage, built a new Intensive Care Unit and added a Vascular Lab. Outpatient radiology services were brought to both Ridge Park Square in Brooklyn and WellPointe Pavilion, a gem of outpatient services also offering therapy and lab services and physician offices in Broadview Heights.

### A community partner

Parma Hospital has formed numerous partnerships to advance the health of the community, including the establishment of a Tri-C Nursing Program at Parma Hospital, where Cuyahoga Community College provides clinical instruction to registered nurse students who receive their training at the hospital.

Deis is proud that the hospital, with nearly 2,000 employees, has flourished as a community partner. In January, Parma Hospital was honored by the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce with a Golden Pride Award for its special contributions to the community.

"I'm very proud of our organization and the accolades we receive nationally, regionally and locally," Deis said. "Such awards are a tribute to the hard work and integrity of our employees, management and medical staff."

Reserve your seat for the June 18 gala by calling 440-743-4280. Individual tickets are \$100 and tables of 10 are \$850.



Parma Opinions

# The Patriot Corner

by *Wayne Mahowald*

We are all well aware of the state of political discourse in the United States. Voters are justifiably disgusted with both major political parties, political discourse has reached the level of shrill background noise and little is really being accomplished. This holds true at all levels of government. Obviously, we need change and nothing promotes change better than the light provided by public awareness of the issues.

There are 2 simple solutions to this problem. We the people must insist on being allowed to have either open primaries where we can vote for the candidates of our choice without declaring party affiliation or we must have nonpartisan blanket primaries in which all candidates appear on the same ballot and the 2 highest vote get- ters for an office move to the general election for a runoff.

An election has just ended that, while important to the future of the citizens of Parma, was decided by far less than a majority of the citizens. The Primary held on May 3 determined the candidate who will emerge victo- rious as the Democrat candidate for Mayor of Parma This primary in effect determined the next Mayor of Parma and most of us didn't have a voice in the process. Simple math shows that under the current structure, less than 13,000 voters determined the fate of a city with over 80,000 residents.

To be clear, we were voting in a "partisan primary" or what is known as a "closed primary". Those of us that are not part of the Democrat party or choose not to declare an affiliation with that or any other party did not have a vote in this Mayoral primary. Since there were no Republicans run- ning and no confirmed Independents running, this primary determined the Mayor. In my opinion this disen- franchised the majority of voters and the closed primary system allowed the political parties to control the process.

Most of the criteria that may be offered to define what make an elec- tion democratic have difficulties in application when it comes to officially democratic but functionally oligar-

chic elections. To put it more precisely, closed primaries are defined as those that are structurally or procedurally noncompetitive. Our electoral process is controlled by the two major political parties that have no incentive to reform our corrupt political system. Open pri- maries, which would be opposed by cynical and self-serving politicians, would serve to provide that incentive by increasing political competition.

There are different interpretations of what are considered to be open and closed primary elections. My inter- pretation is that if voters cannot choose among the candidates of all of the parties on the ballot, it is a closed pri- mary. In other words, voters should be allowed to split their primary tickets, because it is in the primaries where the real choices are made. While some politicians make the spurious argu- ment that some voters choose the weakest candidates of the party they oppose in order to spoil that party's chances in the general elections, logic and common sense suggest otherwise. Generally speaking, people support parties and candidates who best repre- sent their interests.

Weak excuses by highly partisan party members are intended to fore-

close on efforts to change the political status quo. With open primaries, both major political parties would lose effective control of the political pro- cess. Political leaders would no longer be able to predetermine election results and this would in turn generate more participation from citizens as we would then have true choices. As a result we would see a reform of our corrupt political system.

Due to space limitations, for the complete version of this article, please visit the Parma Observer website.

## Social Media In The Workplace

by *Bill DeMarco*

Facebook is one of the most popu- lar social media platforms, with over 500 million users. Most of us have posted messages to our friends and family on Facebook, but what about using this tool to grow your business?

There's no doubt that Facebook participation can be an asset to any business. The question is, how can you use it to promote your products and company, yet be sure your team members are cautious in the way they use it? What should the owner and office manager post? Where is the line between personal and professional? Knowing the good, the bad and the ugly of Facebook for business, your company can take full advantage of this tool and watch your business grow.

The Good: One benefit Facebook offers for business is it lets the custom- ers and potential clients know your company on a personal level. Clients come to you for a relationship. They assume you know how to take care of their needs. Being accessible on social media sites helps your clients and customers feel connected to your com- pany.

A Facebook page can also help bring people to your website. Custom- ers will look for your presence on the Internet and a Facebook profile is just another way they can find you, leading them to your website to find out more information and possibly contact you.

Facebook can be a tremendous networking tool. Business pages on Facebook can elevate your website status through Search Engine Opti- mization. In addition, if you have a Facebook business page link on the opening page of your website, poten- tial clients can feel that they know you and your office before coming in for their new customer experience. Sev- eral companies have gained new clients simply because of their Facebook page.

The Bad: A recent study of com- panies with 1,000 employees found that eight percent of their employ- ees have actually been dismissed for their behavior on sites like Facebook and LinkedIn. That's double from the previous year. Companies have also fired employees for sharing sensitive details about the business and their cli- ents. In addition, team members have been sanctioned and fired for making unprofessional remarks about their boss via social networking sites.

The Ugly: Realize that even if you use Facebook privacy settings, you may still be in danger. Remember



going to high school and doing things you thought your parents would never know about and yet somehow they always found out? The same is true of social media. Avoid bad-mouthing your boss, co-worker or anyone in your professional life in such a public way on a public forum.

If used wisely, Facebook can be a great communication tool for build- ing relationships with your clients and prospects. After all, don't we all like to deal with companies we can get to know and trust.

## IT'S TRIBE TIME!!

by *Lisa Draganic*

Join us for our annual Seven Hills Community Night at Progressive Field – Indians –vs–Cincinnati Reds on Saturday, May 21, 2011 – first pitch is 7:05 p.m. Lower Reserve Seats - \$17 (Regular pricing \$30). Limited tickets – going fast... Call Lisa Draganic @ 216-525-6227 for more information or to reserve your tickets. Tickets will be available for pick up in March – cash or check accepted.

# Double your benefits with a Chamber Affiliate membership.

The **Parma Area Chamber of Commerce** and **COSE** have joined forces to bring you valuable exposure and local resources within your community PLUS the regional reach and buying power of COSE and its 15,000+ members. Get the best of both worlds for one discounted price.

**For more information on how to become a Chamber Affiliate, please call the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce at (440) 886-1700.**

Chamber Affiliates



Parma Observer

# Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert Sunday May 8th

by Joe Germana

Parma Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will present their Spring concert on Sunday, May 8th 2011 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights. The concert will include Ballet Music for “Le Cid” by Jules Massenet and Selections from Gilbert & Sullivan: “Pirates of Penzance”, “Princess Ida”, “Yeoman of the Guard” and “The Mikado” featuring soloists Brian Keith Johnson, Jared Steven Plasterer, Susan Laycock and Kira Seaton.

General admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 PM.

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information visit [www.parmasympphony.org](http://www.parmasympphony.org) or call our Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

About our Soloists:

Brian Keith Johnson has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in il



Brian Keith Johnson

barbiere di Siviglia to Ford in Falstaff. As a member of Actors’ Equity Association, he has also performed a variety of musical theatre roles ranging from Jim in Big River to Father/God in Children of Eden. His concert repertoire includes most of the major baritone works such as Carmina Burana, Elijah, The Verdi Requiem, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, The Brahms Requiem and The Faure’ Requiem. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across

the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland, Blossom Festival Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, Opera Western Reserve, Carolina Master Chorale, Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Porthouse Theatre.

Jared Steven Plasterer earned his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Education degrees from the University of Akron. He has taught Choir and General Music for 15 years in the Brooklyn and Parma City Schools systems. In addition to his teaching he has also worked for the past 17 years as the vocal coach for musicals with his wife, Tamara Plasterer, at Padua Franciscan High School. He is the Immediate Past-President of the Ohio Music Education Association District 4 which serves all of Lorain County and the Western half of Cuyahoga County. Jared has performed in many productions with the Cleveland Opera Chorus, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, Cuyahoga Community College Western Campus, and a number of local community theaters. He and his family live in Parma.

Susan Feiszli Laycock has appeared as vocal soloist with the Parma Symphony and the Black Hills Symphony,

Rapid City, S.D.; and has sung the role of the mother in the Parma Symphony production of “Amahl and the Night Visitors”. She was a member of Towne & Country Theatre, Norwalk, Ohio, from 1979-1982. She appeared in T & C productions of: “Oklahoma”, “South Pacific”, “Barnum”, “Hello, Dolly”, and several Passion and Christmas shows. She also appeared in Cassidy Theatre (Parma Hts.) productions of “Ebenezer” in 2000 and 2004; and as “Anna” in “The King & I” in 2002, for which she won best female actress in a musical award.

Kira Seaton, Assistant Professor of Music at the Western Campus, teaches courses in Voice, Choral Music, Music Theory, and Musicology. After receiving her Master’s of Music in Performance in 1985 from O.U., Ms. Seaton moved to Cleveland and joined the music faculty of the Cleveland Music School Settlement and helped to found The Magnolia Ensemble, the Settlement Artist-in Residence Chamber Ensemble. She is the former Director of Music at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Berea, and currently serves as a musician for the contemporary worship services at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Berea.

Dr. Randolph P. Laycock is in his 33rd year as Music Director of the Parma Symphony Orchestra. He is also the conductor of the Baldwin-Wallace College Junior and Senior Youth Orchestras, the Valley Forge High School Orchestra and is Department Head for the Cluster Schools in the Parma City School District. Aside from his full-time duties teaching in the Parma City Schools, he is also adjunct professor of music history and theory at Cuyahoga Community College.

## Packed House At Fundraiser To Benefit Bryan Byrne For City Council Rep From Ward 1

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On Wednesday April 13 a fundraiser was held at Playmakers Sports Grille at 5388 Ridge Rd. in Parma for the benefit of Bryan Byrne of 8324 Chesterfield Ave., who is vying to be the next council representative for Ward 1 in Parma. Mr. Byrne is a Democrat, running unopposed, and has the endorsement of the Parma Democratic Party. He is challenging the long-serving Independent council Representative from Ward 1, Mary Galinas. “While I respect and admire Mary Galinas, I also feel that Ward 1 needs new leadership and a new voice in the council, and I know that I am that person”, stated Mr. Byrne. “For the many challenges facing this city, only the Democratic Party will offer the leadership to keep us on the right path”.

The large room in the back of Playmakers sports Grille was filled to capacity, an impressive turnout, especially for this first time event. There were many enthusiastic supporters who had come to extend their help to Mr.



Byrne, from average residents of Ward 1, to current office holders, and other would-be council members, such as Mark Castleberry, the endorsed Democrat from Ward 3. Judging from the high

energy of this crowd, who seemed to be demanding a change in Ward 1, Council Representative Mary Galinas is facing a formidable challenge: more than she has seen in recent memory, in my opinion.



Brian Keith Johnson

## Seven Roses

Homemade European Cuisine and much More

**"Mowimy po Polsku"**

**Fantastic Dining Experience**

♦♦ ALL YOU CAN EAT- \$8.99 ♦♦

**Polish Handmade Pierogi**

Visit this Slavic Village landmark!

Catering and Private Parties Available

Sr. Citizens Discount - 10% off meal

Kids under 12 yrs. 50% off meal

We Deliver | 6301 Fleet Avenue | Cleveland, OH 44105 | 216.641.5789

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri  
8am-8pm

Wed. and Sat. 8am-6pm Sun. 9am-3pm

## TOP CHOICE PAINTING

All Types of General Repair

Commercial & Residential

*No Job Too Big or Too Small*

**Call Today!**

**216-401-8575**

Specializing in

- Painting
- Epoxy Garage Floors
- Power Washing Decks & Fences
- Carpentry
- Aluminum Siding Refinishing



# Parma Observer

## Am I A Criminal?

by Melanie Clink

I have been an ardent walker for at least 30 years, many of those spent walking in our wonderful Metroparks. I have walked through every kind of weather faithfully on a daily basis, always aiding animals that were aching for food. When squirrels hang in trees with hunger on their faces, when there is 2-3 feet of snow covering the nuts that they buried in the Fall or, when chirping cardinals surround me as I walk, my hand is always there to give to them. I recently saw a young child, who carried a bag of peanuts and, I am sure that I witnessed a squirrel teaching that child about giving, trust, and appreciation.

So many individuals walk the same path as I do in the Metroparks in Parma Heights. It is a very people orientated area, and because of this the animals are really not that wild in this area. I am sure that walking and giving friendly animals food provides an escape and a kind of therapy for many in these confusing and trying times. Sadly, besides the (so called) wild animals in the park, cats and kittens have also made their home there. I met a man out on the path that actually built a temporary shelter for the kittens. He explained that he had 5 cats of his own and was terribly worried about them trying to make it through the Winter.

Being a vegetarian myself, I thought to ask a catering company for help. They were very thoughtful and provided me with meat that would otherwise have been discarded daily. I would heat up this donated meat and leave it in pie pans. I knew that this mess would only be temporary, because Winter was soon to end, and

the caterers were soon to move. Imagine my shock and surprise when a Metroparks ranger pulled up into my driveway and asked for Melanie. He asked about the feeding of the cats. I told him “yes, I am feeding those kittens.” He told me “If you are caught feeding the animals, you will be fined \$150.00. Is it worth it?” At that present moment, I was in contact with the APL, Save-A-Pet, and Hood Cats. The purpose was to spay, neuter, and possibly adopt out those kittens. This case should have been fully investigated before threatening me. Since this is the law presently, I have no choice but to follow it.

Many of my Metroparks acquaintances that I have told this story to believe that exceptions should be made and, perhaps modify the rules concerning the feeding of animals in different areas, especially domestic animals needing to be placed in homes. Can’t the Metropolitan Park Board do more to aid these confused creatures in a positive way using the Metroparks budget? The budget, I believe, must be large; Metroparks levies never fail. Please don’t fail these innocent, helpless creatures. Work with life, not against it.

I am not sure what will come out of this issue, or what the fate of these kittens will be. Hunger is painful, and that is what they are dealing with now. My love for Nature and needy creatures is truly unlimited. I know in my heart that I am NOT a criminal. A criminal does not help life continue in the struggle to survive.

“Come forth into the light of things, let nature be your teacher”- William Wordsworth



Hi There! If You Get Caught Feeding Me It Could Cost You \$150.00

## Memorial Day Service

by Charles Jennings

The York Street Cemetery Committee will conduct a walking tour of the cemetery highlighting its history and veterans on Memorial Day, May 30, 2011. The tour will begin at 9:15 a.m. Following the tour, the American Legion Al Sirat Grotto, Post #392 will conduct a memorial service honoring the veterans at 10:00 a.m.

Established in 1835, the York Street Cemetery is Parma’s oldest cemetery. Within its hallowed grounds contain the graves of some of Parma’s earliest settlers along with veterans from the Civil War and World War I. The cemetery also contains the grave of Isaac Burnham, the only Revolutionary War veteran buried in the City of Parma.

York Street Cemetery is located on West Pleasant Valley Road in Parma just east of the intersection with York Road.

## 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 May 12, 2011, the speaker will be Jack Schron, newly elected member to Cuyahoga County Council. He will update us on the plans and problems of that office.

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.

### PARMA PATRIOTS

We are Americans with a limited number of objectives.

- LIMITED GOVERNMENT
- FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
- FREE MARKETS
- PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

General meetings are held 2nd and 4th Sunday every month. Please visit our website for details  
[www.meetup.com/parma-patriots](http://www.meetup.com/parma-patriots)

Do you feel your voice is not being heard?  
Here is your opportunity to make a difference in your community

Serving the communities of Parma, Parma Hts, Seven Hills, Brooklyn, Independence and neighboring communities

### Win Jackpots Up To

# \$5000

## in CASH!

# 32 GAMES!

Keno, Jacks or Better, All American, Soda Pop, AND MORE

# 777

## \$5 FREE with \$20 Purchase

Limit 1 match play per person per day

# 777

# The Palms Sweepstakes Center

NOW OPEN  
10: a.m.  
12:00 a.m.

6909 W. 130th St.  
440-345-5499  
Parma Heights  
Ohio, 44130



# Parma Observer

## MAY 2011 Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>2</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 11:00 a.m. Board Game Bonanza 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>3</div> <div>T'ai Chi 10:00 a.m. "How to read your Humana EOB" with Katrina RSVP 1:00 p.m. Scrabble 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. HUMANA HomeCare Solutions Seminar RSVP 11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m. Dance Lessons 4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "The Kids are Alright" 1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>9</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. Crafting 11:30 a.m. Mother's Day Tea Party RSVP 2:30 p.m.</div>	<div>10</div> <div>T'ai Chi 10:00 a.m. Memoirs Class 1:00 p.m. Scrabble 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. HUMANA HomeCare Solutions Seminar RSVP 11:30 a.m-1:00 p.m. May Birthday Party RSVP 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>12</div> <div>HAO Workshops Members Only 9:00 a.m-Noon BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Temple Grandin" 1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>16</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. Scrapbooking 11:00 a.m. Digital Photography 1:00 p.m. Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>17</div> <div>T'ai Chi 10:00 a.m. "Facts about Funeral planning" 1:00 p.m. Scrabble 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. "Be Happy, Be Healthy" Seminar 2:00 p.m. Dance Lessons 4:00 p.m.</div>	<div>19</div> <div>HAO Workshops Members Only 9:00 a.m-Noon BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "The Switch" 1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>23</div> <div>Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. Crafting 11:30 a.m. Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>24</div> <div>T'ai Chi 10:00 a.m. Memoirs Class 1:00 p.m. Scrabble 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. Yoga Stretch for Members 10:00 a.m. Blood Pressure/Blood Glucose Screening 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>26</div> <div>HAO Workshops Members Only 9:00 a.m-Noon BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "When in Rome" 1:30 p.m.</div>
<div>30</div> <div>Happy Memorial Day!  Guidance Center Closed</div>	<div>31</div> <div>T'ai Chi 10:00 a.m. Current Events with speaker Jerry Graham "Supreme Court" 12 Noon - 2:00 p.m. Scrabble 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>Special Events</div> <div>Coming in June, Guidance Center VIP Program! Ask at the front desk for details.</div>		

The Humana Guidance Center  
1915 Snow Road  
Parma, Ohio 44134

We hope to see you soon!

216-778-6810

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HUMANA®