

“Only he deserves power who every day justifies it”- Dag Hammarskjold

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DeGeeter Announces Economic Summit Meeting

by Jeannie Roberts

New Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter has announced the date and time of an economic summit meeting that he feels is important to the development of a healthier business climate in the city. During his transition to the Mayor's office, DeGeeter said that having the meeting within the first 60 days of his administration was a top priority.

The town hall-type meeting will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 at OSG-Sterling Die, Inc. located

at 12502 Plaza Drive. It is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. and go for approximately 90 minutes.

The aggressive time frame underscores the new administration's belief in the importance of this event. Economic development, jobs and the growth of Parma's business community are priorities on DeGeeter's agenda.

"During my transition to the Mayor's office, I spoke to members of the business community to learn about important issues and concerns," DeGeeter

said. "To that end, I will be pleased to continue meaningful conversation and dialogue with Parma's business community at this event."

Among other things, the forum will help business owners better understand the opportunities available from the Cuyahoga County Economic Development fund

- a \$100-million fund aimed at providing low-interest loans to small businesses. Representatives from the Cuyahoga County Economic Development Department and from the Small Business Administration will be on hand at the meeting.

The State's cut in local government support, coupled with the elimination of the

estate tax, highlights the need for vigilance in controlling costs. Even with his tendency toward fiscal responsibility, DeGeeter understands that cuts in the state's budget will make things more challenging. "We know there will be no Columbus bailout," he said.

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Parma Hospital Ranked #1 In Ohio For Coronary Interventions

by CJ Sheppard

HealthGrades, the nation's most trusted, independent source of physician information and hospital quality ratings, has named Parma Community General Hospital the best hospital in Ohio - and among the top 5 percent in the nation - for coronary interventional procedures. Parma Hospital also ranked among the top hospitals in the state for overall cardiac services.

"We're proud of the cardiac care we deliver to the community," said Dr. Christine Zirafi, medical director of cardiac catheterization services. "We continue to improve in all areas and are obviously quite pleased to be ranked number one for coronary interventional procedures in the state of Ohio for 2012."

Choosing a hospital can be a life or death decision. HealthGrades' report found that patients treated at 5-star rated hospitals experience a 73 percent lower risk of mortality and a 63 percent lower risk of complications compared to 1-star rated hospitals. Parma Hospital was the first hospital in the region to implement a Code STEMI system that alerts the Cardiac Catheterization Lab of heart attack patients en route. Electronic transmission of EKGs from ambulances to the Emergency Department (ED) - and subsequent notification of key hospital staff - has resulted in a median response time of 55 minutes, well below

the national standard of 90 minutes. Many cardiologists, including Dr. Zirafi, have clocked times as low as 9 and 14 minutes, as measured from the moment the patient arrives in the ED to the insertion of the balloon in the cath lab to clear the occluded artery and restore blood flow to the heart.

"Cardiac care at Parma Hospital is one of our signature service areas. Those who work at the hospital and patients who've experienced our cardiac care have long known the quality we provide, but it is validating to have it recognized nationally by an independent, quality rankings organization," said Terrence G. Deis, president and CEO of Parma Hospital.

The nation's nearly 5,000 hospitals cannot opt in or out of being rated by HealthGrades, which analyzed approximately 40 million Medicare discharges from nearly every U.S. hospital from 2008 to 2010 to determine its ratings.

"Patients today have a wide array of options when it comes to choosing a healthcare provider," said Kerry Hicks, HealthGrades' chief executive officer. "At HealthGrades, we are proud to have led the way for empowering patient choice based on objective clinical outcomes and access to actionable quality measures. We commend Parma Community General Hospital for its superior quality and support of consumerism and transparency in the Cleveland area."

Additional clinical achievements for Parma Com-

munity General Hospital include:

- One of HealthGrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™ in 2012
- Ranked #1 in Ohio for Coronary Interventional Procedures
- Ranked among the Top 5 facilities in Ohio and one of the Top 5 percent of facilities in the nation for Coronary Interventional Procedures for four years in a row (2009-2012)
- Recipient of the HealthGrades Coronary Intervention Excellence Award™ (2009-2012)
- Overall Cardiac Services put Parma Hospital among the Top 10 facilities in the state for the past two years and among the Top 10 percent in the nation in 2012
- Recipient of the HealthGrades Cardiac Care Excellence Award™ in 2012
- Five-Star Rated for Cardiology Services for two years in a row (2011-2012)
- Five-Star Rated for Coronary Bypass Surgery in 2012
- Five-Star Rated for Coronary Interventional Procedures for eight years in a row (2005-2012)

Key findings of the HealthGrades 2011 Healthcare Consumerism and Hospital Quality in America report include:

- Patients, on average, were 63 percent less likely to experience in-hospital complications than patients at 1-star programs, and had a 43 percent lower chance of devel-

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Parma Hts. Food Pantry Director Ann George stands with Fred Crowe Jr. and some of the students from Valley Forge High School who volunteered to help the organization during the food drive at Flyers on January 14th.

Food Drive Fills Boxes With Food, Hearts With Hope

by Penny Schultz

On Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012, an event was held at Flyers in Parma Heights in order to help the Parma Hts. Food Pantry increase the supply of food items which are required to allow people in our area meet their nutritional needs. Ann George, Founder and Director, was there, along with her husband Arnie, to coordinate the efforts of those who volunteered to help the good people from near and far that showed up with donations for this vital community asset. She was not disappointed. Ann says that more than 12 full boxes of food items were eventually collected that day, along with cash donations as well.

There were many people that came to Flyers to help and show support, including Parma Hts. Mayor Mike Byrne, and Fred Crowe Jr., who is frequently involved in many community improvement

efforts in our area. Also on the scene to help were several students from Valley Forge High School; according to Ann, they were there from start to finish, and provided such a tremendous assistance to the drive that she made sure to call the High School to let them know just how much their efforts were appreciated. "These students spent an entire Saturday donating their time to this event, standing outside in the cold to carry in donations from people who drove up to drop off food items, and they even went as far as transporting all of the food to the pantry itself after the event had ended," declared Ann.

In a time when a lot of people are worried that our younger generation may not care to get involved with anything meaningful or socially redeeming,

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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 government. I would argue that the most important duty of a city council is what political scientists refer to as “power of the purse.” In other words, before any public funds can be expended, the local legislature (A.K.A. city council) must approve it. For instance, a city’s mayor may wish to purchase new police vehicles, build a new fire station or open a new swimming pool. However, without council’s stamp of approval, the monies may not be spent.

I often have residents ask me, “Where do all of our tax dollars go?” This is a very legitimate question and one of the reasons I originally ran for Parma City Council. In fact, when I joined Council, Mayor DePiero and my colleagues initiated an annual series of meetings in which the director of every city department – Safety, Service, Senior Services, Personnel, Recreation,



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

the Parma Courts, etc. – comes before Council, presents their proposed annual budget and we discuss it line item by line item. Needless to say, it is a very time consuming and difficult task. However, it is an excellent example of how hard your elected officials are working to ensure that every tax dollar is spent wisely. Further, it is among the most transparent budgeting programs in the state and, I would argue, nation.

Despite the very meticulous, informative and important process described above, few residents are present during

these meetings. This is unfortunate because I believe that this would be a very interesting and helpful series of meetings for residents to witness. Happily, City Council and our new mayor, Tim DeGeeter, will be continuing this tradition of transparent budgeting in 2012. Therefore, I am taking the opportunity in this month’s column to invite you – dear Parma Observer Reader – to come to YOUR city hall to observe YOUR city’s budgeting process. Below is a tentative schedule of our meetings; all of which will begin at 5:00 pm. However, I would advise you to call our office (number below) in case times, dates or departments change.

February 6: Mayor, Civil Service, Senior Services, Parma Public Housing, Treasurer, Tax and Recreation

February 13: Auditing, Computer Systems, Law and Prosecutor, Parma Courts and Judges

February 21: Building and Engineering, Service Department, Human Resources, Council, Community Services and Economic Development

February 27: Mayor’s State of the City Address

March 5: Safety, Communications and Dispatch Center, Animal Control Officer, Parma Jail, Traffic

Signalization, and Auxiliary Police

March 12: Police and Fire Departments

March 19: Anticipated final budget consideration and vote

I hope that you find my column helpful and informative. I am always looking for ideas regarding what you would like to know more about regarding your local government. Thank you to the many folks who have contacted me with suggestions. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Looking forward to seeing you in 2012!



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Parma Police Recognized For Traffic Safety Enforcement

by Marty Compton

The Cuyahoga County DUI Task Force recently recognized members of the Parma Police Department for enforcement relative to traffic safety. During an awards luncheon Parma received four out of seven awards for Patrol Productivity with regard to Gen-

eral Deterrence / Seat Belt and Child Passenger Safety per hour, as well as Checkpoint Productivity relative to Citations and Contacts. Of the five awards for Public Information and Education, Parma was recognized for its Safe Ride Home Program. Patrolman Joseph Duganier was recognized and

received an award for being Parma’s Top OVI Cop for having made 95 arrests for OVI in one year. Duganier missed being top in Cuyahoga County by 6 arrests. Patrolman Michael Tellings was recognized as The Cuyahoga County Top Seat Belt Enforcement Award recipient for having written 699 seat belt citations in one year. Sergeant Ken Gillissie, Supervisor of the Traffic Unit, was awarded for Exemplary Leadership. For their dedication to traffic safety enforcement, and in addition to these individual awards, the Parma Police Department Traffic Unit received approximately \$2,500 in equipment for use in traffic safety and OVI enforcement. It should be noted that cost of this equipment, as well as the majority of this traffic enforcement, was produced by grant monies from the Ohio Department of Public Safety (U.S. DOT/NHTSA and ODPS/OCJS-TS).

Notes From The Treasurer

by Tom Mastroianni

With state cuts coming this year, and next year, as stewards to our city’s funds we need to all look closely at how to continue to balance our budget during these tough economic times. Last year my office started looking at debt currently held to see what ways we can possibly save money for the residents of Parma.

We found an outstanding debt from 1995 that had an interest rate of 5.75 percent, so we decided to look at the possibility of banks to carry our debt at a lesser interest rate. We were able to get

Huntington Bank to refinance our bond at 2.1 percent, which with the two years remaining on the debt will save the city a little over \$60,000.

We will continue to look at outstanding debt in the future to see where we can possibly save our citizens money. I will also be looking at other avenues to see if we can get some savings in the future to continue to fight through these tough economic times that Parma, and every other city in the state, is facing.

Parma Hospital Ranked #1

continued from page 1

oping an in-hospital complication than the national average.

- If all Medicare patients from 2008 through 2010 had been treated at 5-star hospitals, 240,040 lives could have potentially been saved.

- If all Medicare patients from 2008 through 2010 had gone to 5-star hospitals for their procedure, 164,472 in-hospital complications could have potentially been avoided.

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What are patients saying?

"My grateful thanks to everyone."

"I wanted to come back because of the excellent treatment before."

"Staff seemed to be more responsive to every request by patients."

"Nurses, you rock."

"I'm bragging about you with everybody - insurance representatives, neighbors, friends, church, pharmacy, work associates, and anybody else I talk too."

"I was taken care of immediately because of chest pain and a hard time taking a deep breath."

"I would like to recognize Kim and Luda for their exceptional care. They made my stay very pleasant. I also, liked that they were my nurses the entire stay. I didn't feel like I had to explain anything to another person. I felt right at home."

"My care was really exceptional!"

"The staff were all incredible and seemed to truly enjoy what they do. I was more than a patient; that seemed to matter to them."

"From the minute I was picked up by ambulance to the time of my discharge everyone was wonderful and I felt very comforted and cared for."

"Best hospital food I ever had; even better than the meals elsewhere. Every meal was delicious."

"Heart Center was great. Very responsive and caring. Even spent time just talking and assuring me."

"Everyone was wonderful in the ER."

"I think Parma Community General Hospital is an excellent hospital, the best place to get well again, and should get the highest rating."

"It's awfully scary having trouble breathing and they knew how to care for me and calm me."

"I cannot say enough good things."

"2nd stay on cardio floor and am very impressed and pleased with nurses and all staff."

"Things happened so fast I thought I had reservations."

"I feel P.C.G.H. ranks with the best."

"Thanks to the nurses and doctors in the Heart Center for keeping my father alive! They are the best."

Just goes to show that when you put your patients first, the experts put you first.



Parma Observer

Eagles Club Reopens In Spacious Site

by Kathryn Yates

The Eagles Club has moved from their old address at 11729 Snow Rd. to the strip across the street at 12100 Snow Rd., and what a difference in atmosphere! The club now has a party room available for members in addition to the main entertainment room, for a total of approximately 7,000 sq. ft. of space. The move occurred the first week of December, and the club is now the proud owner of the property and no longer renting. It is located across from the License Bureau where parking is more than ample.

The Eagles Club has a simple mission statement of "People Helping People," and is known for its generous contributions to organizations such as The St. Jude's Children's Fund, Malachi House, The Upside of Downs, the Parma Police Dept., and the Parma Fire Dept. among others.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles has been an established not-for-profit organization in America for over a hundred years. They are a great asset to the communities in which they serve, helping those who protect and serve as well as funding research in medicine in areas such as kidney disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's. "It was the Eagles



Eagles members Ed Kandah, Kelly Wojton, and Ward 1 Councilwoman Mary Galinas

who pushed for the founding of Mother's Day, who provided the impetus for Social Security, and who pushed to end job discrimination based on age." (from the website: www.foe.com)

In January's issue of the Parma Observer, City Council President Sean Brennan declared 2012 as the "Year To Volunteer" in Parma. What a great way

to answer that call by joining a fraternal organization such as the Eagles' Club!

Currently, membership is at around 300 and fees are minimal: \$50.00 for men (for the 1st year, then \$30. the following year) and \$27.00 for women, both not including the one-time key card fee of \$10.00. This entitles you to an exclusive membership with



some of Parma's finest "people helping people" as well as the discounted beverages and free use of the party room. Not that it's all work and no play - it is a social club, after all - and socializing is what the Eagles excel at. The main entertainment room has a pool table, juke box, video games, a bowling machine and a huge island bar staffed by volunteers such as Grace Cvijovic.

Grace volunteers because of the benevolent aspect of the Eagles Club as well as the family feeling: "They're like family - if something happens to one person, everyone feels it," says Grace. And that all-for-one and one-for-all camaraderie is something we can't have enough of in Parma. The solidarity of belonging to a group - a good group (worth putting on your resume) is what brought Terri Collins and Ed Kandah to join. "I feel comfortable. I don't like riff-raff..." says Terri, who is a 3-year member and goes 3 to 4 times a week. She is also impressed by the club's "huge amount of charity work."

Memberships are prorated from their annual membership date in May, so if you were to join in February there would be an adjustment for the 3/4 of a year that you missed. Also, all police officers and firemen receive a complimentary membership their first year. Talk about feeling safe! You can contact the organization by phone at (440)885-7050, or e-mail: Mail@ParmaEagles.com. You can also visit their official website: www.424.FOE.com for more information.



New spacious party room for members

Parma Area Morning Kiwanis Welcome Ted Coons

by Joe Germana

Parma Area Morning Kiwanis welcomed Ohio District Foundation Executive Director Theodore W. "Ted" Coons who recently visited the club with an important special announcement about MNT. MNT, also known as The Eliminate Project, that Kiwanis International and UNICEF have joined forces to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus. To eliminate MNT from

the earth, more than 100 million mothers and their future babies must be immunized. It will take \$110 million in U.S. dollars - and the dedicated work of UNICEF and every member of the Kiwanis family. In addition to MNT, Ted discussed the need to also support the Ohio District Foundation whose particular focus on Pediatric Prevention and Service Leadership Training programs including Key Club, Builders

Club, Kiwanis Kids and Key Leader.

Ted Coons, in his fourth year as Executive Director of the Ohio District Foundation, recently announced his retirement to be effective after the Kiwanis Administrative year in October. He was on a tour of Ohio promoting the Foundation. In appreciation for his visit, Joe Germana presented Ted with a check for an Ambassador Program Donation to support the Ohio District Foundation.

The Parma AM Kiwanis meets Wednesday mornings for breakfast at 7:15 a.m. in the upstairs dining room of the Greenbrier Retirement Center, 6457 Pearl Road in Parma Heights, and has service and fundraising projects throughout the year. For more information contact President Joe Germana 440-882-2012 or e-mail joe@fourstarinsurance.com.

Poll Workers Needed For The March 6, 2012 Presidential Primary Election

by Mike West

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is currently hiring for the March 6th, 2012 Primary Election. Poll Workers provide an important service for the community and work on the front lines of the democratic process. Poll Workers earn \$172.10 for their service and must complete training prior to working on Election Day.

Cuyahoga County residents who are interested in serving as a Poll Worker may call 216-443-3277 to complete an application by phone or fill out an online application on the Board of Elections website: www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us

Parma Heights Baseball/Softball Sign-Ups

by Tom Moran

Sign-up dates are Saturday, March 3rd and 10th at Parma Hts. City Hall (6281 Pearl Rd.) from 9 to 11 a.m. We offer t-ball, coach pitch, softball and baseball for children 5 to 18 years of age. Resident fees are \$30; please bring a

utility bill as proof of residency and non-resident fees are \$50. We accept cash or checks only; no credit/debit cards. There will be a \$10 late fee starting March 11th. Contact us at 440-884-9600 ext. 37 or recreation@parmaheightsoh.gov for more information.



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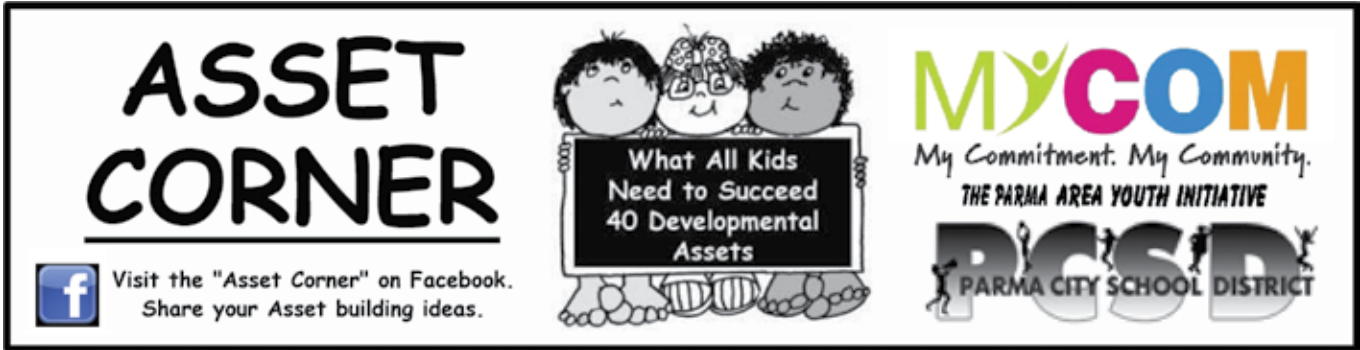
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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #26

by Gene Lovasy

SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: SAY YES A LOT.

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

February’s Asset Category: Positive Values

Values shape young people’s relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends.

- Positive Value Assets Include:**
- #26 Caring** – Young person places high value on helping others. (50%*)
 - #27 Equality & Social Justice** – Young person place high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty. (55%*)
 - #28 Integrity** – Young person acts on convictions and stands up for his or her beliefs. (68%*)
 - #29 Honesty** – Young person “tells the truth even when it’s not easy.” (66%*)
 - #30 Responsibility** – Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility. (63%*)
 - #31 Restraint** – Young person believes it’s important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs. (45%*)

(* The percent of youth who experience or have this asset in their lives. Data based on an aggregate Search Institute sample of 148,189 students surveyed in 2003. The sample included students from 202 cities in 27 states.)

This column’s focus will be on..... Asset 28: Integrity

It’s important for young people to honor their beliefs. It’s one thing to have beliefs and values. It’s quite another to stand up for them, especially when you feel like you’re sticking your neck out alone. Any time young people draw on their inner spark of courage and act based on their values, they have integrity. History is packed with stories of honorable people with integrity. The best way to teach integrity to young people may be to practice and model it yourself. Think of the things you do every day: recycle an empty can if you care about the environment; point out something positive about a person who others are making fun of.

Here are the facts
Research shows that young people

who have integrity feel good about themselves, make thoughtful decisions, and lead others through their positive influence. About 68 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they act on their convictions and stand up for their beliefs, according to Search Institute surveys. Help young people gain confidence to act in ways that reflect their values and beliefs, even when it’s difficult.

Tips for building this asset
Be a role model for the young people in your life: Think about what you believe in and value. Is it being a good friend? Helping vulnerable people? Honesty? Education? Health? Ask yourself whether your daily actions show you are true to yourself and your values. Confidence, trust, and respect are a direct result of integrity, and there

Play 60 Super School Parma Park Elementary Sponsors “Race To The Bus”

by Cheryl Hoover

Parma Park Elementary has been rated as Excellent With Distinction in Academics for the past couple of years. They also have bragging rights for their Health & Wellness programs. For the 2nd year in a row, Parma Park Elementary School was awarded the NFL Play 60 Super School Grant. As part of the proposal and to kick off football season, Parma Park PTA sponsored a Back to Football Friday Event. This tailgate party was held during the students’ recess and involved obstacle courses, football tossing, kicking, running and other healthy activities. The students were encouraged to wear the colors of their team of choice.

After the event, the NFL invited the schools to submit three essays and photos of their event. PTA Health and Wellness Chair, Cathy Sibilski, penned the essay submissions. Since we are in Browns’ town, the NFL \$10,000 grant would be awarded by the Cleveland Browns at a school assembly where everyone was dressed in brown and orange. Not only were there Browns players in the house, but the local news stations had representatives there, too. How exciting for the students, teachers and PTA!

As an added bonus, the NFL requested another essay submission to help locate the “Ultimate Super Parent in Health and Wellness” which was sponsored by Procter & Gamble – PriLOSEC OTC. Since Cathy had worked so hard on both year’s events and essays as well as the other fitness events that she

are many ways adults can help young people foster these characteristics.

Also try this:
In your home and family- Talk with your child about a belief or value you admire and respect in him or her. Brainstorm ways to provide support and positive feedback when your child acts with integrity.

In your neighborhood and community- If you notice a young person who is being teased for not doing something considered “cool” because it goes against his or her values, praise the young person for his or her integrity.

In your school or youth program- Ask students or participants to tell about a time when they acted with integrity, even though it was difficult. Congratulate each person.

Asset-Related News
Have you heard about the newest organization in town? Community

Ambassadors is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the local community in practical, strategic, and effective ways through collaboration. Community Ambassadors also works with local churches to inspire, equip, and mobilize them to become more involved in their communities through service.

As one of their first projects, they’ve assumed hosting the Pay It Forward Café, now located in the south section of Parmatown Mall. Pay It Forward Café partners with local businesses and organizations to provide a nutritious meal, as well as other beneficial resources for families in need, from 12 to 2 p.m. every Saturday.

For more information about Pay It Forward Café or Community Ambassadors, please visit their website at ComAmb.org or call 216-200-7030.

Share your asset-building ideas and/or thoughts about the developmental asset concept by visiting the “asset corner” facebook page. I’m looking forward to hearing from you.
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. Or visit <http://www.parentfurther.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.

Race to the Bus will begin and end at Parma Park Elementary, 6800 Commonwealth Blvd., Parma Heights. The 5K Race will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the Family Fun Walk will kick off at 10 a.m. Goody bags, to include the official Race to the Bus T-shirt – designed by a Park Park Elementary student – will be received by each racer upon checking in on race day.

For the registrants, lunch will be provided by Chuppa’s Catering. Food and refreshments will also be available for purchase by spectators. Other event activities will include health screenings, raffle baskets, two inflatables and an award ceremony.

To find out more information and to register, go to www.hermesCleveland.com.

Below: Cleveland Brown’s Joe Haden’s Arrival



Inspiration

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The topic for this month is, appropriately, love. The word love means different things to different people. The Reverend Harry Wendt defines four different kinds of love. He writes the following: "The word love is sometimes confused with the word 'like.' Perhaps that is because the English language has only one word, 'love,' to explain a number of ideas. The Greek language, however, uses a number of terms:

Eros: Eros acts in response to an attraction in another person; it usually

involves physical or sexual appeal. It is also an act of the emotions and cannot be commanded.

Philia: Has to do with companionship. It has often been called the "friendship" type of love. [For example, that is why the city of Philadelphia, taken from the Greek root word, is known as "the city of brotherly love."]

Storge (pronounced store-gay): Refers to love between family members.

Agape (pronounced ah-gah-pay): This love acts in response to a need in another person. It is an act of the will,

and can be commanded. This word is used to describe God's love for mankind, and the love people are to have for one another in response." - Reverend Harry Wendt

The quotations that follow focus on agape love.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man (an adult), I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And

now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. - I Corinthians 13:4-13, The Bible

"We choose love by taking small steps of love every time there is an opportunity. A smile, a handshake, a word of encouragement, a phone call, a card, an embrace, a kind greeting, a gesture of support, a moment of attention, a helping hand, a present, a financial contribution, a visit- all these are little steps toward love." - Henri J.M. Nouwen

"So loving my enemies does not apparently mean thinking them nice either. That is an enormous relief. For a good many people imagine forgiving your enemies means making out that they are really not such bad fellows after all, when it is quite plain that they are." - C.S. Lewis

God's love is unconditional and people, especially children, need unconditional love. They need to be loved if they are to grow up to be loving. They need love, security, and acceptance from the very beginning. They need praise, encouragement, and instruction more than correction, even when they are not very loving.

Second Sunday Service At All Saints Parma



Taizé in All Saints Sanctuary

by Jeffrey Fowler

On the second Sunday of each month All Saints Episcopal Church in Parma celebrates a Sunday evening service with alternative liturgies and music. On Sunday, January 8, at 6:00 pm we are celebrating a Taizé prayer service.

This style of worship was begun in 1940 in the ecumenical community of Taizé in southern France, where the intention was and is the reconciliation of people with each other and with God.

When we worship in this style, we quiet our minds and hearts and focus on the presence of the living God, that our

faith may be deepened by the power of prayer. The simple but haunting songs of Taizé are intended to draw us into meditation and away from the busy-ness of our everyday lives. The quieting of mind and heart does not happen immediately, but gradually, as we become more comfortable in the silence, as we hear and sing the repeated words of the songs, as we listen to readings from Holy Scripture, and as we give ourselves over to God's peace.

All Saints Episcopal Church is located at 8911 W. Ridgewood Drive. Telephone 440-888-4055 for further information.

Second Sunday At Six Services

All Saints Episcopal Church in Parma, with the assistance of a ministry grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio, has established Second Sunday at Six, a series of services based on liturgies from around the world, including celebrations from Scotland, New Zealand, and France. The 2011-2012 schedule, begun in September, also includes special musical programs.

"Special services at All Saints have always drawn quite a few guests from the community" says Pastor Heather Hill. "To continue our outreach to Parma, Parma Heights, and surrounding towns, we applied for a diocesan grant to begin a monthly service on Sunday evenings with alternative liturgies. We have received a Ministry and Growth Grant to cover the costs of musicians and administration for a year."

The grant also covers the expenses of a community reception after each service, which includes food and beverages in All Saints' spacious hall.

The next service, at 6 p.m. Feb. 12, 2012, is a Jazz Mass. A jazz quartet from the Oberlin Conservatory will perform the music and the reception will feature authentic New Orleans food.

Upcoming services include:

February 12 Jazz Mass

March 11 Tenebrae Service, usually celebrated just before Easter

April 1 Women of the Passion, a dramatic Lenten liturgy

May 12 Dinner Eucharist, based on services of the early church

June 10 Holden Evening Service, originating in a Lutheran retreat center

All Saints Episcopal Church is located at 8911 West Ridgewood Drive in Parma. The telephone number is 440-888-4055.

Parma Police Captain A Recent Graduate Of FBI National Academy

by Marty Compton

Parma Police Captain Joseph Bobak was one of two hundred sixty-six law enforcements officers who graduated from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia in December. This 247th Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 49 states. These individuals represent law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 25 international countries, three military organizations, and six federal civilian organizations.

This academy, known for its academic excellence, entailed eleven weeks of advanced investigative management and fitness training. This training was provided to selected officers having proven records of professionalism within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve

in executive-level positions. Captain Bobak is only the third member in the history of the Parma Police Department to have attended and graduated from the FBI National Academy.

Captain Bobak has been with the Parma Police Department since April 1990. He has been the department's SWAT Commander since 2004 and maintains this responsibility at the present time. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in March 2010. Additionally, Captain Bobak has served in both the Uniform Patrol and Criminal Investigative Divisions. He currently holds the primary responsibility of being the Uniform Patrol Commander.

Captain Bobak said, "This was undoubtedly the best training I've received during my career. I look forward to putting what I've learned into practical use to better serve the Parma Police Department."

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What's Right? What's Wrong? includes a special selection of essays and quotations that have appeared in one or more of Daniel Taddeo's previously published books or in newspaper columns. These concise and relevant topics will challenge you to become more involved in focusing on the true meaning of life and living. They were chosen with the following Scripture passage (Philippians 4:8) in mind: "Whatever things are TRUE, NOBLE, JUST, PURE, LOVELY, EXCELLENT, and PRAISEWORTHY"

Want to write the author?

Daniel Taddeo
6238 Big Creek Pkwy
Cleveland, OH 44130

Political Perspectives

The Key To A More Compassionate Future

by Brandon Yanak

From civil rights to women’s rights, past history has shown that semantic changes are important. Presently, one similar semantic change can make a difference in the lives of millions of animals.

Unfortunately, some individuals today who consider themselves "owners" of their animal companions justify a right to abuse, mistreat, and abandon their "property" at any moment. However, calling individuals "guardians" will raise awareness that animals have their own needs that must be met and feelings that must be respected, while also encouraging people to treat their animal companions with more consideration. The term “guardian,” rather than “owner,” better reflects the loving bond that exists between people



From Left to Right: Mayor Dean DePiero, Anita Carswell of In Defense of Animals, Brandon Yanak, and Councilwoman Mary Galinas pose for a photo on December 5, 2011

and their animal companions and the respect, care, responsibility, and love due to every living animal.

Therefore, with the gracious help of Councilwoman Mary Galinas and

with the support of the Parma Animal Shelter, I brought the idea of “guardian language” before the Parma City Council. I hoped Parma would follow in the footsteps of 17 previous cities, two

counties, and one state that have added “guardian” to their animal codes. On July 5, 2011, those hopes became reality as the city council voted unanimously to add the term “guardian” to Parma’s animal-related ordinance. And as new signs at the entrance to the city will hopefully soon proudly display, Parma became the very first “Animal Guardian” Community in the entire State of Ohio.

On December 5, 2011, in acknowledgement of my work, I was named the Parma Citizen of the Month for July 2011, received a Guardian Award from the international animal-protection organization In Defense of Animals, and was presented with a Key to the City of Parma. While my heartfelt thanks go out to all those who awarded me, I think of how we have all been awarded a key – the key to a more compassionate future.

As we welcome in a new year, I encourage you to adopt a resolution to make a difference. There may be no easier way to do so than adjusting your vocabulary to reflect this simple, yet powerful, word change. Please join people from across the world who have been inspired by this historic happening in Parma. Together, by thinking and acting as “guardians” of your animal companions and encouraging others to do the same, we can end the horrible abuse, abandonment, and mistreatment of animals. A more compassionate, peaceful, loving and just society for animals and their guardians is possible with your help.

For more information, please visit www.guardiancampaign.com. If you are interested in helping your city make this change or have any other questions and comments, you are more than welcome to contact me at bcy-anak@sbcglobal.net. “While owners invest in property, guardians invest in love.” - Justin Lowery

Grand Opening Of: I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym

by Gary Horvath

My name is Gary Horvath and I am a seven-time Open Golden Glove Champion from the 1960s, and I will be opening my new boxing gym on Feb. 20th, 2012. The gym is located at 3212 W. 25th ST. (2nd floor) Cleveland, OH 44109. Please join us for the grand opening from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Hot food and beverages will be served. There is plenty of parking behind the building. Please use the front entrance. Bring your kids, grandkids, and your whole family, everyone is welcome! The gym will offer a free program for children ages 8-16 years old, but all ages are welcome to work out. Program will offer nutritional, spiritual, and scholastic values. A tutor will also be onsite once a week to help the kids with their homework.

I have been involved with boxing for 53 years, and my staff are all volunteers. Joe Santa Maria was the 147 pound

Regional Wrestling Champ. Former Golden Glove Boxer, Dennis Sweeney, is very active with the youth in the community throughout Northeast Ohio as an instructor and guidance counselor. Former Tag Team Wrestling Champ, Jim Wittenberg, who wrestled under the name, "The Destroyer" will also be involved as a wrestling coach. The gym will also offer ZUMBA which will open later on this year. We have a long term lease and expect the gym to grow in popularity with our future leaders. I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym is open Monday through Friday 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. All equipment is brand new thanks to fundraising efforts put forward by attorney Tim Misny; without him, his wife Stephanie, and son Max, this wouldn't have been possible. Local news media will be filming that afternoon, so come early. We look forward



Well known attorney Tim Misny on stage during an Elvis-themed fundraiser for our new gym.

to everyone joining us to celebrate the gym's grand opening. For more information call 216-280-3458. Thank You.

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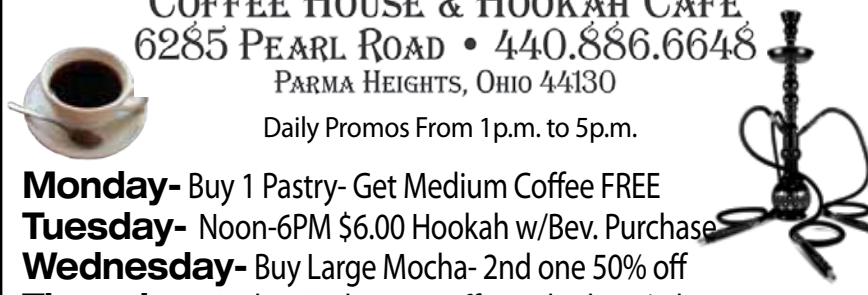
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Parma Observer

Thoughts On The State Of Things

by Michael Marsh

Parma City Charter Decoded: There will be a primary election in March of this year, not so far away from now. All across the state of Ohio voters will be asked to choose different candidates, especially the candidate that will head up the GOP and run against Obama for President. Voters here in Parma will have a unique choice to make. Thanks to the hard work of some good citizens, the issue of whether or not to seat a charter commission will appear on the ballot in Parma once again. The voters will also have a chance to choose those who will be tasked with producing the charter which will have to be approved by the same voters in a future election. One would be hard-pressed to find a better example of “democracy in action.”

A charter for a city is nothing more than a founding document that outlines and defines the size, scope and function of the city government. Here in Ohio, if a city is unchartered or “statutory,” that means it is defined by the Ohio Revised Code or Ohio state law. The state law does not take into consideration any unique features of a city; it is a “one size fits all” approach. The vast majority of the cities in Ohio have adopted a charter of their own to better

deal with their unique challenges. An “unchartered city government” in Ohio has only the powers expressly given to it by the Ohio General Assembly. The Ohio Constitution allows for municipalities to establish their own charters and “rule themselves.” A city can operate on the Ohio Revised Code, as the case has been in Parma; but is having your city government defined by the state code the best way to proceed? If the choices made by the overwhelming majority of the municipalities of Ohio are any example, the answer is no.

Voting to allow a charter commission to produce a charter is not the same as voting to approve and implement a charter. The seating of the commission and the production of the charter are only the first step. Voters will be asked to review and approve the finished charter by vote again before it can be put in place. So, where is the danger in seating a charter commission made up of those who wish to better the city? Is it possible to improve the function and efficiency of Parma City Hall? Is it bad to have concerned citizens involved in the way their city is run? This sounds very much like the fabric of what this country is made of; citizens getting involved, taking responsibility, defining the best future for themselves, their families and their city. Who knows Parma

better than those who live here?

Recently the citizens of Cuyahoga County chose to replace the government of the county with a new chartered government. Prior to this Cuyahoga County had been an unchartered county using the Ohio Revised Code as a default form of government. There were naysayers who didn’t like the change and fought against it. “The County is doing just fine and doesn’t need to change,” they said. Did the sky fall in? Did a huge galactic vortex open up and swallow the county? Were the naysayers the ones who perhaps had the

most to lose personally? The changing of the county government lead to arguably the most important governmental corruption trial in the history of the nation, going on now in Akron.

Voters of Parma, you have a choice on the ballot in March of this year. You are encouraged to do your own research and discover the truth for yourselves. Will a charter for Parma offer a better opportunity for Parma? I think so, but you be the judge. Thanks to a few hard-working citizens who volunteered many hours to collect signatures, you have that choice. All I ask is that you make it count.

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

The Patriot Corner

by Wayned Mahowald

During the early part of my life in Parma, my main concerns were my family and my career. During those years, like most of you, I did not think I really had time to get involved in my community. As my children got older and they became involved in activities such as sports and scouting, a lot of my time was then spent helping with those activities. I met a lot of people during those years, listened to everyone’s perspective and really started to see what was happening in this city, state and country. After a short time, I realized I was not proud of the direction in which everything was going. In fact, I was ashamed of the legacy that would be left to my children. I soon realized that the only way to fix the system was to truly be involved with those whom we have entrusted with positions of power and try to hold them accountable.

In 2001, I watched as this nation came together for a brief period of time with the vast majority of Americans pulling together for the first time in my memory. Shortly thereafter, partisan politics again reared its ugly head and has

degenerated into the power struggle we see today. That power struggle is clearly visible at all levels of our government from Parma to Washington. Washington has become a quagmire with both houses of Congress and the White House pointing fingers at each other. Columbus is almost as bad with the constant threat of referendum on any piece of legislation the minority party does not like. The county government has begun to recover somewhat since a charter has been implemented. The change in direction has resulted in far less cronyism, nepotistic hiring practices and obvious corruption, but we must continue to be vigilant and not allow a relapse into the abuses of the past.

Parma itself is a microcosm of the problems we face as a nation but a potential solution for Parma may well be the same as what is beginning to work at the county level. Quite simply, that is to enact a charter form of government rather than the statutory government we currently have. I believe Parma is dysfunctional and we must make changes. The lack of accountability and transparency in our city government is appalling. It is not uncommon to watch one department pass responsibility on to another, and then yet another and another until eventually it goes full circle with no resolution. The services we pay for through our taxes and expect to receive are being scaled back through furloughs, etc. Our streets are falling into disrepair, our tax base is eroding and we face many other issues both minor and major. Yet our elected officials will tell us all is well and we don’t need to examine or change the way we operate the city. Do you really believe them?

On March 6, we in Parma will have choices to make. First, we must decide if we want to regain some control of our city and elect a commission to write a City Charter that can begin to address some of the issues our city faces free of the shackles of the Ohio Revised Code. We must also decide who we want to serve on that commission. Do you want to elect the same people to those positions who have been running our city for years and continue to tell us that nothing needs to change, or do you want to elect people with fresh ideas and a new vision for Parma? The choice is yours, Parma. Choose wisely.

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Parma Observer

The Literacy Cooperative Publishes Framework For Program Improvements

by Katherine Bulava

The Literacy Cooperative recently published A Framework for Program Improvements in Adult Literacy (the Framework). Completed in the fall of 2011 and unveiled locally and at the U.S. Conference on Adult Literacy in Houston, the Framework is being enthusiastically received in the literacy community. It includes a summary of key research-based best practices in the field of adult literacy; a summary of factors that impact learning outcomes; and an online Program Self-Assessment tool, still in development.

The adult education workforce is largely part-time or volunteer with little formal training in reading and math instruction and/or adult education. In addition, unlike other areas of education or social service, adult literacy has no commonly recognized credentials or other mechanisms to assure quality of practice. In the face of these challenges, the Framework offers practitioners and administrators readily accessible information on best practices in the field that can help shape program structure and instruction, and inform professional training for practitioners. The Framework can also serve as an important resource for literacy grant-makers seeking to identify quality programs or support program improvements among grantees.

The Literacy Cooperative offers targeted trainings to practitioners and administrators on the use and implementation of the Framework. The first of these trainings took place Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, 2011 and will be offered again in 2012. “[The training session] was very informative and it was a workshop that was long overdue for the supervisors and administration of adult education,” said Phyllis East, a GED Instructor for East Cleveland

City Schools that attended a training session. “Here, [information] is presented in such a way that it delineates things that you need to think about when considering and improving your programs.”

Two pieces of the Framework, a Summary of Best Practices and Factors that Impact Learning Outcomes, are available online at www.literacycooperative.org. Organizations interested in printed copies should contact The Lit-



eracy Cooperative at (216) 776-6180 or eyeip@literacycooperative.org.

The Literacy Cooperative is a nonprofit intermediary organization working to improve literacy levels in Cuyahoga County. The Framework is a product of The Literacy Cooperative’s Capacity-Building Initiatives.

Watch Phyllis East talk about her experience at a Framework training: <http://youtu.be/aRnSopgSp8M>

Joe The Coach: My View On Sports

by Joseph Finding

If you have been listening to the TV or radio lately, you know that we have lost a great coach at Penn State. Todd Blackledge probably put it best when he said that Joe Pa died from a broken heart, not from lung cancer. Joe Pa was the winningest coach in college football. I GUESS I fail to see where he went wrong; he notified his superiors, but it stopped there. I suppose he should have gone to the police, but I also think that his superiors should have done that. To fire the man so soon I thought was out of line, but I could be wrong. I guess you will let me know. It's just too bad that it all happened. Why was Sandusky allowed on campus after he was apparently caught by one of the assistant coaches?

Now we are hearing that Tressel from OSU is being offered a pro job. Where did the ethics from the pros come in to play? What I see is that Tressel just walks away. The coach from USC didn't; I don't understand - it must be a money issue. I wonder where the next NCAA school scandal will turn up. Those schools are out there, we all know.

I must admire all of our Parma Senior High School players; they are giving a good account of themselves. They have some catching up to do,

because they have no junior high feeding program. It will take time to reload the rosters. We have good kids - the girls are doing great.

I would like to personally thank Steve Vaughn for the 20 years he has invested in the wrestling program at Normandy High School. I went to Normandy to watch the kids wrestle Parma High; they lost, but they sure were scrappy! My PC is on the bum right now, so I will need to shut down. Please let me hear from you. COACH-JOE61@COX.NET

Research Project At Stearns Farm

by Debbie Sillett

I am involved in doing a research project on farms and gardens in the Parma, Parma Heights and Middleburg Hts area and would like to hear from anyone who can tell me about their family farm or garden from the 1800's-1960's. I am especially looking for the varieties of plants - example, Maiden Blush apple - that were grown in these areas. I am also interested in learning about corn huskings, nut gatherings, maple syrup production, the

canning classes in schools, and Victory Gardens, old seed catalogs, books, magazines (the older the better). Notes about what your grandmother grew and if you are a seed saver and have a plant that has been saved for a generation or two; I am interested. Apple butter kettles and cider presses, grapes, food processing and canning items. If you have a fruit or nut tree or berries on your property that has been there a long time, I'd like to hear about it. Please call Debbie Sillett at 440-882-6234.

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Parma Observer

Caregiver's Kitchen: *The Talk*

by Patty Kno

It's the one talk no one wants to have, but must. It's the "Give Up Driving" talk. The Crankshaft cartoon currently addresses the shouldn't-be-driving problem as matter-of-factly as the Funky Winkerbean cartoon addressed cancer through the character of Lisa and her husband Les. Tom Batiuk, an innovator in using syndicated cartoons as a means to broach serious subjects, shows a great-grandmotherly-type who, due to her height declining with age, can barely see between the dashboard and the steering wheel while trying to drive. Her hesitance and uncertainty result in an accident when her car gets hit by another car. Her diminished reasoning ability leads to her driving away from the scene of the accident, which is where the story is as of this writing.

Could this be one of your parents? Unexpectedly, the morning after I started writing this column, I was hit in the face with the front page Plain Dealer coverage of an 80-year-old woman accused of hitting a young boy with her car and driving away. He died

the next day on his 13th birthday.

My day job is at another newspaper, a daily, in north central Ohio. I'm very proud of my job in the newsroom. Most of the contributions come to me first, and I input them into the system or get them to the right department, and do my best to polish them along the way. Two police scanners are on at all times, and we are located right beside the city fire station, so we know when an emergency is happening. One morning, a policeman with sadness and disgust in his voice reported, "There's an elderly gentleman out here who has no business driving – send the dog warden out, there's an animal that needs to be put down." Someone's family pet had been mortally wounded by someone who had no business driving.

My father would not surrender the car keys. My brother went to great lengths many different times to keep Dad from driving, including disconnecting the battery, hiding the keys, removing spark plugs, putting the car up on cement blocks for some "necessary" repair and then stalling my parents. Dad, believing the car to be

in need of repair, would not wait for my brother to fix it but would pay to have the car towed to the mechanic, who would charge outlandish amounts and bill Dad for unnecessary parts, but would put the car back in motion. Problem solved—for Dad, anyway.

We tried everything. Begging, pleading, offering to drive Mom and Dad anywhere they wanted to go. But they loved their freedom, their leisurely drives, their reminiscing as they traveled through neighborhoods they remembered from long ago, remarking on the changes over the years. They rebelliously rallied against all our efforts to control that last vestige of their independence in an effort to protect them.

Dad had several sets of car keys hidden; we found that out the hard way. Even if we had taken away the car itself, Dad would have called a cab, gone to a used car lot and bought another old car. He would have found some hungry car salesman willing to sell him one. So, our efforts were not enough.

The story doesn't end well. And it's still too painful to put it all down on paper. But I write for the sake of others who are going through this with their loved ones, because I have found out that the laws have changed somewhat. Enough to help save some lives.

is important, however. Instances of unsafe driving must be written down; the BMV cannot act merely on hearsay. A signed letter is necessary. No anonymous complaints will be investigated. While the BMV cannot deny a license to an elderly person who passes a vision test, under certain conditions they can act upon information which would put the safety of a driver or other drivers on the road at risk. Call the Ohio BMV at 614-752-7600 for more information.

On the other hand, there are many safe drivers in their 70s, 80s and 90s who are as alert as they ever were. Their reflexes may not have slowed with age if they are physically fit. Their memory may be as sharp as someone half their age. So I am not encouraging age discrimination. But seniors afflicted with dementia and other debilitating conditions are growing in number, and their self-awareness is woefully lacking.

The Alzheimer's epidemic is proof that we can't ignore the problem and have it go away. Sadly, it is a condition not diagnosed until a person is too far along to be able to see it for himself. My father used to say, "I'm not that bad off yet. When I need help, I'll let you know." And my mother would back him up. "Honor thy father and thy mother," she would quote. How could I argue with God's commandment?

But as difficult as the talk is, have it now. Steel yourself, and speak the truth in love. As we caregivers trade roles and find ourselves parenting our parents, no matter how much we love them, we have to accept that they might still make bad decisions. Just as we did growing up when they were trying to protect us.

Thank you for your encouraging and inspiring emails and letters. Let me know what you think about today's topic at alzheimerannie@yahoo.com. Thank you for reading the Parma Observer.

Food Drive Fills Boxes With Hope

continued from page 1

knowing that there are high school students out there doing things like this should put those worries to rest, I believe. Don't wait for another food drive to help the Parma Hts. Food Pantry -- they can use and would be glad to have any help or assistance that you may offer. If you find yourself in need of their assistance, the pantry is open on Mondays from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. They are located at 6285 Pearl Rd. in Parma Hts., and the phone number there is 440-842-6491.

Ann George received the AARP Ohio Andrus Award for Community Service at a special AARP reception held in her honor at Parma Heights Town Hall on October 18, 2011. She was recognized for having expanded the role of the non-profit organization from being just a food bank to include resume writing services, classes on interviewing skills, and the distribution of clothing, school supplies, and children's books. I think that most would agree that Parma Hts. is indeed fortunate to have someone like Ann George and her wonderful organization in our midst!

Economic Summit Meeting

continued from page 1

"We have to make every effort to be responsible and plan for the future, knowing this is coming."

Small businesses are important economic drivers. Creating and maintaining a stronger business community, and thereby generating more tax income, is imperative to the health of any community. Parma has an array of diverse neighborhoods that offer storefronts reflective of the area's personality, and DeGeeter wants to take advantage of this.

"We want these businesses to be as successful as they can be," he said. "Where there are vacant storefronts, we want to have them filled as soon as

possible, not just for the sake of filling them, but for the service to the residents in that neighborhood, for the success of the small business owner and the overall betterment of the city's business community."

Parma's Director of Community Service and Economic Development, Erik Tollerup, said he can see promising developments in Parma's business growth.

"Parma is one of the few communities in Cuyahoga County that has moved away from property tax abatement and towards payroll tax sharing," he said. "This public/private investment partnership has proven to be a much more

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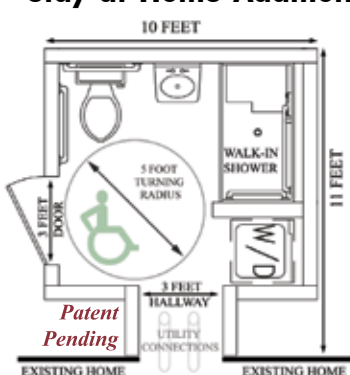
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Parma Observer

Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert Sunday March 4th 2012

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will present a concert on Sunday, March 4th 2012 at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights. The concert will include the Brahms “Violin Concerto” with soloist Andrew Sords, “Selections from the Ballet Gayane” by Aram Khachaturian, and Tchaikowski’s “1812 Overture.”The orchestra, in its 42nd season, consists of 70 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to 2 adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 p.m.The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information see our web-site www.parmasympphony.org or call our Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Born in 1985 in Newark, Delaware, Sords later moved to Shaker Heights, Ohio, and began his violin studies with Liza Grossman. Sords completed his undergraduate education at the Cleveland Institute of Music with violin pedagogues Linda Cerone and David Russell. Sords most recently studied under acclaimed

violinist Chee-Yun at The Southern Methodist University of Dallas, Texas in the Artist Diploma program. During the 2010-11 season, Sords was a featured guest on Nevada Public Radio, NPR Jacksonville, “The Derek and Romaine Show” on Sirius XM Radio, and numerous other media outlets. Sords has also been profiled by the Portsmouth Herald, The Anguillian, Lavender Magazine, Reno Gazette Journal, The Sun News, NPR’s Morning Edition, and Cleveland’s WCLV among others.

The 2011-12 season features international debuts in Mexico, Poland and Australia. Highlights include concerto appearances with the Oakland East Bay Symphony, Cleveland Philharmonic, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, Toronto Philharmonia, Manassas Symphony Orchestra, Balcones Chamber Orchestra, Saratoga Symphony, and the Kalisz Philharmonic. A popular recitalist, Sords will appear internationally in recital on the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society and Pro-Musica San Miguel Recital Series, as well as making his Washington D.C. debut on the Arts Club Series. Additionally, Sords will continue serving as Concertmaster of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since the 2008-2009 season.

Sords commissioned a violin concerto from acclaimed composer Evan Fein, which was completed and recorded with the Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra in early 2007. The recording of the concerto has accumulated a multitude of awards, and will be performed in upcoming seasons. In fall 2009, Sords stepped in on 48 hours’ notice to helm the Boise Philharmonic Orchestra’s season opening concert. In 2007, Sords opened the Great Mountains Music Festival in South Korea with the Beethoven Violin Concerto. Additionally, in 2006, Sords stepped in on 12 hours’ notice to perform on the Franciscan University Recital Series with pianist Eric Genuis.

Sords is the featured violinist in a documentary on violin technique recorded at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Strongly committed to the promotion of classical music, Sords dedicates a portion of his time at nearly all engagements to educational outreach, master classes and community programming. Sords performs on a 1912 Augustine Talisse violin with strings exclusively provided by Warchal, Inc.

Sords is represented by EMC Artists, Ltd. Please contact emcartists@gmail.com for press or booking inquiries.

Economic Summit Meeting

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successful and conservative use of public tax dollars. In each instance when Parma has invested a portion of payroll taxes paid to the city back into the business, we’ve seen job and income tax expansion. With our three oldest agreements now approaching nine years in length, Melin Tool and Marlin Manufacturing have nearly tripled payroll with OSG/ Sterling Die growing by 32 percent.”

If you are the owner of a small or medium-sized Parma business and would like to attend this or future economic development events, please call Tollerup at 216-661-7412 or Economic Development Officer Shelley Cullins at 440-885-8860 to express your interest.

OSG-Sterling Die has been in business for over 55 years and manufacturers fasteners. DeGeeter expressed his gratitude to the owners for their willingness to host this event.



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Parma Observer

February 2012 Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div><div>Special Events</div><div>* VIP – HUMANA BUCKS ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY RSVP FOR: JEWELRY MAKING CLASSES– FEBRUARY 20TH</div></div>		<div><div>1</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>2</div><div>* Sweatin’ to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. * HearUSA–Hear Screenings 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>3</div><div>* Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Easy A" 1:30 p.m.</div></div>
<div><div>6</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>7</div><div>* T'ai Chi 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "Modern Marvels:Golden Gate Bridge" 2:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>8</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>9</div><div>* Sweatin’ to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. Blood Pressure/Blood Glucose Test 12:00 p.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>10</div><div>* Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "The Fantastics" 1:30 p.m.</div></div>
<div><div>13</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>14</div><div>* T'ai Chi 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "Modern Marvels:Mount Rushmore" 2:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>15</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>16</div><div>* Sweatin’ to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. Polka Dancing 11:00 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>17</div><div>* Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Mamma Mia" 1:30 p.m.</div></div>
<div><div>20</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. Jewelry Making 12:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>21</div><div>* T'ai Chi 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "Modern Marvels:Eiffel Tower" 2:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>22</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>23</div><div>* Sweatin’ to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m. Knitting for Charity 3:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>24</div><div>* Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Evita" 1:30 p.m.</div></div>
<div><div>27</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>28</div><div>* T'ai Chi 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "Modern Marvels:Polio Vaccine" 2:30 p.m.</div></div>	<div><div>29</div><div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. WALKING UPLOAD 12:00-12:30 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div></div>		

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We hope to see you soon!
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