

“The final end of government is not to exert restraint, but to do good” - Rufus Choate

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Mayor Delivers State Of The City Address

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter delivered his first State of the City address on Monday night, Feb. 27, in the auditorium at GrafTech International. DeGeeter reiterated the importance of the setting right at the top of the speech.

“I chose the campus of GrafTech for this occasion, because the alkaline battery and the world's first carbon fiber were discovered here,” he said. “And today, this campus is the site of GrafTech's World Headquarters and home to its Corporate Research and Development. GrafTech is a company on the move. How fitting that it sits in Parma.”

He went on to call GrafTech “a symbol of Parma's proud past, of what we are today, and of what we can be.” The setting, he said, is important “because it is as much about Parma's potential as it is about the good things happening in this city.”

DeGeeter recounted some of the good things he sees going on in the city, but before he did that, he outlined some challenges the city faces. The redevelopment of Parmatown Mall and the financial challenges the city will face as a



Mayor Tim DeGeeter delivers his State of the City address

result of state budget cuts are two very big challenges that DeGeeter talked about in depth.

He cited fiscal discipline and regional collaboration as two answers for the budgetary challenges. He reported that his office is already taking small savings steps that will add up – “for instance, I decided against replacing signs at our parks with those that would have had my name on them,” he said. “It's

about \$3,500 we should spend elsewhere on other priorities.”

The Mayor also praised his predecessor, Dean DePiero, who was in the audience, and members of Parma City Council for “performing a great service in tough economic times ... weathering the toughest economy since the Great Depression -- without a significant drop off in services to residents.”

Collaborative efforts mentioned by DeGeeter ranged from major roadway projects with Cuyahoga County, Seven Hills, North Royalton and Parma Heights to an agreement in the works with Seven Hills to share recreation facilities to an agreed-on sharing of costs with Parma Heights for summer band concerts this year. He cited that a potential partnership with Cuyahoga County on IT services that would bolster the current capabilities at City Hall.

A proponent of upgrading the city's use of technology, DeGeeter mentioned one of his pet projects – allowing residents the option to sign up for recreation programs on-line. “Very soon,” he said, “in addition to (registering) in-person at our recreation department at Parmatown Mall, residents will be able to do on-line registration from the comforts of their own home.”

And for those who would like to share their ideas with the Mayor, he described a program he said he would like to start in late spring. “It's called Mayor's In, Mayor's Out,” he said. “I'm going to hold regular office hours each month when residents will be able to come to City Hall or sometimes to another public place, and talk to me directly, one-on-one. It's a way to bring government

closer to residents.”

The advantage to that, he continued, is that the Mayor's office will have a direct line to residents' good ideas. “They can share with me their stories, their challenges, and how they think we can improve our city,” he said. “When I was a legislator, I often said the best ideas came from the constituents I served. And, as mayor, I still believe that is true.”

During the course of the speech, DeGeeter recognized several of the city's institutions and their leaders. Sari

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City Of Parma Scholarships Available

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2012 award season. In its fifth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. Applications may also be obtained at Parma City Hall, any of the Parma Cuyahoga County Public Library branches or any high school located within the Parma City School District.

The Boyko Memorial Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2012–2013 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is April 16, 2012.

For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact Parma Council President Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@sbc-global.net or (440) 884-0489.

“I’ll Make Them Pay” MMA Boxing Gym Now Open

by Daniel P. McCarthy

The brand new I'll Make Them Pay MMA Boxing Gym started by seven-time Open Golden Glove Champion Gary Horvath opened with a great celebration on February 20th. The gym is at 3212 W. 25th. St. The primary purpose of the gym is to provide a place where young people can train and focus on positive character building activities, hopefully to become role models for their peers. I had a wonderful time at the Grand Opening. Gary Horvath was as proud as can be to see the large crowd of people that flocked to the gym for the event. He thanked everyone who was involved, but



Attorney Tim Misny addresses the crowd at the Grand Opening of the I'll Make Them Pay MMA Boxing Gym as Gary Horvath and an unidentified trainer look on.

he took care to mention that if it weren't for Attorney Tim Misny, who was very active in raising the necessary funds to make this project happen,

then this fantastic facility probably would never have come to be. You can reach the gym at 216-280-3458.

Parma Business

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

A 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. Over the years I have taken note that many residents are not aware of many of the programs available to them. Therefore, in this and next month’s columns I want to inform you about some of the excellent programs provided by the City of Parma and Cuyahoga County.

Like you, my wife and I were attracted to Parma for a multitude of reasons. Our fine city has so much to offer. I am always excited when I see new residents moving into our city. That is why I am happy to make you aware of the City of Parma First Time Homebuyer Program. This is a loan to assist income eligible first time homebuyers with the purchase of a single-family dwelling in Parma. The loan is equal to 10% of the purchase price, maximum \$10,000. The loan is forgiven over a period of 5 years. Program applica-



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

tions are available beginning March 1, 2012, by stopping by the City of Parma Resident Services and Economic Development Office at 5592 Broadview Road, checking out their website at

<http://www.cityofparmaoh.gov/cityhall/commdev/residential-services.aspx>

or by calling 216-661-7372. Please help spread the word to any first time homebuyers you might know. We want them in Parma!

Once again this year, the City of Parma with be offering a Home

Improvement Grant Program to residents. Grants are offered to offset the cost of qualified interior and exterior home improvements to owner-occupied, low/moderate income single-family households. Examples include: roofing, plumbing, electrical and furnace replacement. Income limits do apply to this program. To find out more please contact the Resident Services and Economic Development Office.

One of the programs that every homeowner should be aware of, yet, in my experience, often are not, is the Home Enhancement Loan Program (H.E.L.P.). This low interest loan program is available to owners of single family, two-family and multi-family dwellings. In order to take advantage of the program one must qualified for a loan at either Fifth Third Bank, Key Bank, Huntington, PNC or U.S. Bank. My advice is to first shop around for the bank with the lowest rate. The program then guarantees an interest rate of three-percent below the bank’s. Monies may be used to pay for alterations, repair or improvement to a residence. The minimum loan amount is \$3,000, with a maximum of \$200,000. Best of all, there are no income guidelines to take advantage of this program. This program is a no-brainer if you are planning to take out a loan for home

improvements. Call the County Treasurer’s office at 216-443-2149 or visit <http://treasurer.cuyahogacounty.us/> for more information.

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 ideas. If you have any suggestions, feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Happy Spring!



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Mayor Delivers State Of The City Address

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Feldman, Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Library System, was in attendance, as was Tri-C West President, Dr. Patricia Rowell. The Mayor recognized David Browning of CB Richard Ellis, receivers of Parmatown Mall, and Dave Lincheck, Executive Director of the West Creek Preservation Committee, who was in attendance as well.

The Mayor congratulated Parma City Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeff Graham on the district’s “excellent” rating, and praised Mayor Michael Byrne of Parma Heights, calling him “a real friend and partner as we work together on projects that benefit all of

our residents.” DeGeeter recognized Parma City Council members, Parma elected officials and his cabinet team.

Fire Chief John French and Police Chief Robert Miller were also in attendance, and DeGeeter cited the city’s public safety forces, whom he called “heroes every day.” But the real hero of his address remained anonymous.

“Parma is full of good neighbors and I want to mention one in particular,” he said. “Recently, Parma Police officers were able to arrest two burglars on Gordon Drive. They could do this because of the direct actions of a resident who lives in the area and who called the police after seeing suspicious activity. I visited her personally to say

thanks for this because she doesn’t want publicity for just doing what a good neighbor does.”

The Mayor told that story, he said, because “it demonstrates that we are all one community, and that we all go up or down as a community ... that we all have a responsibility to one another, to each other. “By working together,” he continued, “we can grasp Parma’s potential and make tomorrow even better than today in the state’s seventh-largest city.”

Editor's Observation

by Patty Knox

Greenbriar Middle School students in the Builder’s Club deserve special thanks this month. They and the adults who are supervising their efforts have gone beyond themselves and chosen to help the homeless of Cleveland through the Metanoia Project. They are not thinking of themselves, they are thinking of others, which is a rare and precious thing in the year 2012.

Stacey Gepperth of the Parma City Schools contributed this gem and brought sunshine to me on a gray winter day. One of the joys of my job is seeing the news first, prior to publication. To be honest, I don’t recall doing anything this selfless and compassionate during my middle-school years. Those years were spent being self-absorbed. Not so with the members of the Builders. It is heartwarming to see these photographs and hear of these young teens’ hard work. Their efforts will be rewarded in strength of character, empathy for humanity, understanding of their own self-worth, and the admiration of their parents and the community at large.

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Mayor DeGeeter At Parma Hunger Center



Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter dropped by the Parma Hunger Center on Feb. 17 to deliver canned goods and nonperishable food items that were collected during the Oath of Office ceremonies and City Hall Open House in January. On hand to help the Mayor were Hunger Center volunteers Dave Sommer, Andrew McFarland and Phil Berkheimer.

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

Parma Hospital's Adult Day Services Undergo Major Facelift

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital's ElderCenter started out as a simple gathering place for older adults 22 years ago. Today, the Hospital's Adult Day Services provide full-service, medically supported care through several distinct programs that meet varying needs across the adult life cycle. With the support of the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation, the programs are now undergoing a major renovation within the Hospital's Health Education Center on State Road.

"The Center fulfills such a unique niche in Parma Hospital's range of care," says Marcia Ferguson, the Foundation's executive director, who has spearheaded a capital campaign for the work. "The Center integrates the social needs of participants with the medical monitoring and care it provides, and in many cases, fills the needs of working families to have someone looking after a loved one during the work day. So, while a participant may receive meals, their medicines and perhaps personal care such as a fresh shower and hair

styling in the salon, the center of their day is not a 'medical' experience."

"Rather, ElderCenter provides abundant life through the rich social activities, which are known to be critical to good health and well-being. Participants find opportunities for structured activities, companionship, entertainment and just pure fun."

ElderCenter is designed to serve 40 participants per day, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Overseen by a medical director and full-time manager, the 1:5 staffing ratio includes a registered nurse coordinator, activities director, and participant care assistants, most of whom are state-tested nurse aides.

The ElderCenter provides a continental breakfast, nutritious lunches and healthy snacks planned by a registered dietician, medication management and a full range of activities designed to be mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually stimulating.

Activities include light exercise, crafts, games, memory enhancement, singing/dancing and intergenerational programs with the adjoining child care center.

The renovation also includes a Personal Care Center with an ADA-compliant shower and medicine dispensing room. More dignity will be afforded participants with an improved shower facility designed for adults and a separate room for blood pressure and glucose checks and other medical monitoring.

Since so many participants require multiple personal care services during their days while caregivers are working, the newly designed facility will feature a "Main Street" with a beauty/barber shop, family waiting café and a therapy room for its Designed Around You (DAY) program for participants recently discharged from the hospital.

"The Health and Education Center is a vibrant hub of community activity where we work hard to develop appealing program offerings, including its many enjoyable and enriching youth programs and child care," says Laura Matthews, ElderCenter manager. "Our next generation of ElderCenter participants will have very different needs and wants, including more access to information and more informal venues for social interaction in pleasant gathering spaces."

The added bonus is that other community members, including those taking courses through EMS Education, or bringing children to the Child Care Center, or attending community health and wellness classes, will benefit from the comfortable and aesthetically pleasing Main Street, which will open for business later this spring.

The Pay It Forward Cafe Opens In Parmatown Mall



Gene Lovasky, Dona and Jeremy Kiner and Dave Nedrich cut ribbon in grand opening ceremony

by Kathryn Yates

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new "Pay It Forward Café" kicked off as scheduled at 4 o'clock in Parmatown Mall in Area E (the stage area) and offered free entertainment, food, games, and prizes to an enthusiastic public on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012. Jeremy Kiner cut the ribbon as wife Dona, the Director of Community Ambassadors, greeted the well-wishers and helped serve the event's many activities. Aaron and Danielle Powell, fellow Community Ambassadors, and Dave Nedrich were on hand to assist – especially with the stubborn wooden scissors.

"The Pay It Forward Café, at the Parmatown Mall, is an outreach of Community Ambassadors formed to meet the physical and emotional needs of families, individuals, and children who are facing challenging times (www.comamb.org)." They are

a non-profit, Christ-centered missionary team that seeks to "build stronger families in the area", says Dona Kiner. The new location will be open on Saturdays from noon to two p.m. to serve area residents meals and provide family-fun activities to those in need as well as resources for help to the adults who attend. "We are always looking to partner with local businesses and organizations," she says, and several came out to support the event on Saturday.

Among those who contributed were Romeo's pizza, Journey Behavioral Health, the Parma City School District, Holy Family Hospice, and Hugs-n-Bugs (fighting childhood cancer) from Uniontown. Gene Lovasky represented his outreach highlighting "40 Assets" that build better relations in teen-parent struggles and received many inquirers. The St. Ignatius High School Circus Company entertained the

crowd with jugglers Dylan and Kevin as they battled flying hacky-sacks, balls, and wooden pins. No one was hurt, though the front two rows cleared out just to be safe. Games for the youngsters on the agenda included a sucker board, horseshoe toss, bottle fishing and a duck pond. The giveaway raffle – free to enter – awarded gift certificates of \$10 to \$25 from Outback Steakhouse, B. A. Sweetie's, and Noah's Ark Ceramics and More on Smith Rd. Free pizza, a cookie buffet, snow cones, and fresh popcorn were served to the sounds of inspiring, live Christian rock music.

Everyone had a wonderful time and it was a great reprieve from pocket-breaking winter activities that leave families wondering whether it was worth it to have left the house. Come out to the mall on Saturdays and show your support of this great community outreach. Volunteers are welcome and the organization is eager to expand their network in keeping Parma a thriving community.



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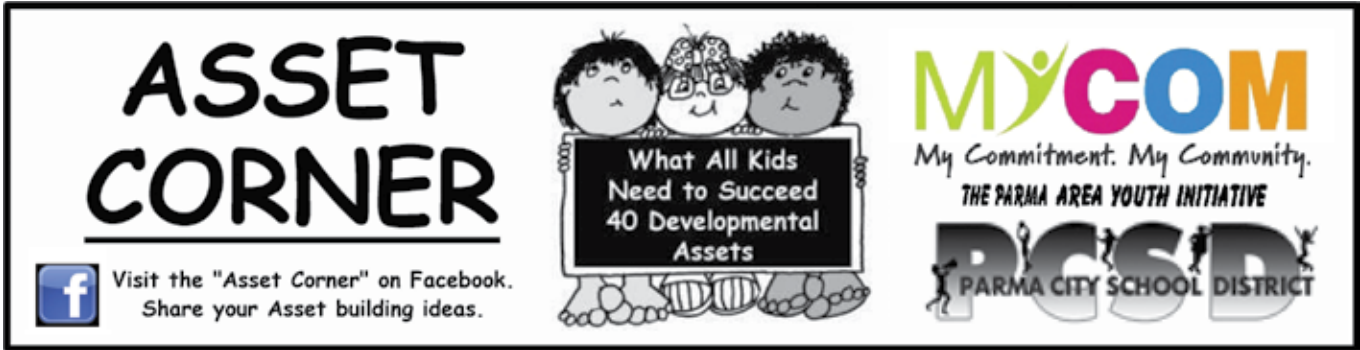
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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #27

by Gene Lovasy

March’s Asset Category: Social Competencies

Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they’re even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life.

This column’s focus will be on.....
Asset 33: Interpersonal Competence
Learning to walk in other people’s shoes

Most young people know how to make friends. They notice when something bad happens to a friend, and when someone is acting differently. Empathy—one of the most important social and emotional skills—doesn’t come naturally to everyone. In fact, learning to walk in another’s shoes is tricky for many adults. After all, some people are easier to read and understand than others. Young people who strive to understand their own needs and feelings and know how to appropriately express them are more likely to respect the needs and feelings of others.

Here are the facts:
Research shows that young people who have empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills are more likely to grow up healthy and avoid risky behaviors, such as violence and alcohol and other drug use. About 45 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they have empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills. Family is the cornerstone of most young people’s lives, but everyone needs friends, too.

Tips for building this asset:
Interpersonal competence involves a young person’s ability to make friends and develop lasting relationships, as well as emotional aptitude. That’s the really tricky part. Parents and other caring adults can help young people learn how to monitor their own expressions of feelings, read other people’s reactions and feelings (even if they aren’t expressed in words), and adjust social interactions based on the situation. Building interpersonal competence is a lifelong process, so be patient. Every relationship in a young person’s life is a chance to grow and learn.

Also try this:
In your home and family: Welcome your child’s friends into your

home. Spend time talking with them and getting to know them.

In your neighborhood and community: Get to know your neighbors—adults and kids—by hosting a dinner party, potluck, or holiday gathering. Be sure to include young people in community social events as much as possible.

In your school or youth program: When new people join your class or program midyear, assign a young person to show the new person around, introduce him or her to people, and adjust to the new environment. This will help the new person feel more comfortable making friends. The young person in the buddy role will also develop greater interpersonal competence!

Demise Of A Nation Affects Us All

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Despite what the headline suggests, no, this is not yet another right-wing, tea party style rant about how this nation is going to hell in a hand basket; the nation that I am referring to is in fact Sandwich Nation. As I pulled into the driveway on Pearl Rd. in early January to drop off papers to Sandwich Nation, I was stunned to see the place bare, with a For Rent sign in the front window. This was a surprise to me, as I had just seen the owner in the store shortly before Christmas. (My attempts to contact him before printing this story have been unsuccessful). Yet another empty storefront in this area. What happened, I wondered?

I ask this question, but really, the answer seems to be obvious; simply put, it is probably because not enough people chose to frequent this truly worthwhile, genuine local business to offer support with their dollars in order to allow this business to grow and prosper. That is a real shame, because if you never had a sandwich from this establishment, then you will never really know just what a great culinary experience you have missed. What you should know is that in an economic climate where it is "winner takes all", and huge international mega-companies gain more and more market share (power), and small local companies struggle just to keep the lights on, there is now one less small local business to be counted. Will our economy collapse as the result of this single loss? No, life will continue, but things definitely won't be the same for the owner of this particular local business, who put his own money, time, and heart into his American dream.

Dan, you say, it's survival of the fit-

ASSET RELATED NEWS:
Most every elementary school has celebrated its second quarter Sundae Bar with its CBS partner. Was your child recognized?

Don't forget about the ongoing CBS sponsored Backpack For Kids program. This cooperative effort on the part of KIKS Office & the Parma Area Family Collaborative would like to give backpacks & basic supplies to as many of our young students as possible. To help please send your check to CBS Office – Backpack Drive, 5311 Longwood Ave., Parma OH 44134. Make sure to include your business name and other pertinent contact information.

Coming soon.....A menu of opportunities for businesses, groups or individuals interested in partnering with our schools.
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 go here <http://www.parentfurther.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.



Shattering

I stand here
My body cracking
Watching pieces fall
Piece by piece
Breaking apart
Leaving black holes
Within
I try to pick them up
Put them where they belong
But the glue is not so strong
To keep the pieces in place
So I stand there
Watching myself
Shatter around me
Sophomore
Normandy H.S.

More About Olivia

by John Allender

We featured a story in the December 2011 issue about Olivia Schultz, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, has gone through numerous treatments and surgery, and continues to endure the effects of this disease. A benefit was scheduled at Flyers in Parma Hts., originally on Jan. 14, 2012, then because of her health condition, was rescheduled for February 25th. Unfortunately, her health did not improve sufficiently for her to be well enough to attend the event, so once again the date has been changed, and this time the location as well. The new date for the Fundraiser For Olivia Schultz is on Saturday April 14, 2012 at the Brew Garden 5513 Pearl Rd. in Parma. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$25.00 each and includes all you can eat teriyaki chicken, rumba pasta, rice with corn salsa, green beans with shallot butter, rolls, plus draft beer

and well drinks. If for some reason you find that you can't attend the event, but would still like to make a tax-deductible donation to the family in their time of need, a fund has been established in the name of the family with a local non-profit organization that specializes in fundraising. Please make your check out to: Empower Families First P.O. Box 30608 Middleburg Hts., Ohio 44130. Also, there is a 50/50 drawing as well, which tickets are available for, at the cost of \$5 each. To obtain tickets for the 50/50 drawing itself, or for general information about this event, you may contact the EFF office at 440-941-4801, Lauren Bono at 440-725-4808, or Penny Schultz at 440-342-0489. Olivia is a wonderful, compassionate person who needs our help at this time in her life, so let's all do as much as we can to ease her burden and make things better for her.

Inspiration

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The focus of this issue is on things that Christians should think about during this Lenten Season. Discover the Bible- the New Testament records the events and teachings of Jesus and the work of his apostles. Jesus is by far the most significant and influential person in the Bible and the world. What follows is an anonymous description of his life:

He was born in an obscure village.
He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.
He became an itinerant preacher.
He never held office.

He never had a family or owned a house.
He didn't go to college.
He had no credentials but himself.
He was thirty-three when the public turned against him.
His friends ran away.
He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial.
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.
While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth.
He was laid in a borrowed grave.
Twenty centuries have come and

gone. Today he is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all of the kings that ever reigned have not affected the lives of men on this earth as much as this one solitary life.

The Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments can be divided into two groups. The first four tell us how to love God. the remaining six tell us how to love one another. God spoke these words saying:

1. You shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments in one word: Love. When asked of all the commandments, which is the most important, he answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor (any person with whom you come in contact) as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

Life and Death. Death is the most certain thing in life, but often prepared for the least. What happens to us after we die? Everyone must answer this question for him/herself and for their children when asked. The Bible says, those who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior will inherit eternal life in heaven (present with God) and those who do not believe will inherit eternal life in hell (absent from God). It's one or the other. On what basis do people make this decision? The Bible states there are two kinds of births:

- * Physical birth which we have nothing to do with and
- * Spiritual birth which we have everything to do with (this is known as the second birth).

Our spiritual birth is a choice. It is a gradual unfolding process that continues throughout life as we become more God-centered and less self-centered. Salvation is our greatest need because we are all born with a sinful nature and need a Savior. Sin is the act of disobeying God's laws. So what is the answer? The Bible provides us with a simple, clear and foolproof three-step plan. We must:

- * Admit that we are sinners.
- * Believe Jesus died for our sins.
- * Commit our lives to trust in Jesus and to love one another.

Parma City Charter - Cuyahoga County Charter Are The Tools Of Good Government

by Mary Galinas

I want to strongly encourage Parma voters to vote "YES" on Issue 3, for a Parma City Charter. The City of Parma is the only city in Cuyahoga County and largest in the state of Ohio that does not have a city charter. Why? Anyone can easily see the benefits that a well-written 'charter' has brought to our county government and the big tax dollars that have already been saved. Cities, counties, school systems cannot afford to allow politicians to have 'total' control. A charter can give the people more power - 'home rule.' Right now Parma follows general rules of the

state – but in today's world we need much more. A city charter can put qualifications into place for top jobs at City Hall, also stop the 'appointments' of elected officials, add a strong ethics clause and so much more.

Kevin Kelley, former Parma School Board member, recently testified that he took money or gifts in exchange for giving Parma schools contracts to consultants, construction companies and a flooring company. While Kelley was serving Parma residents on the school board he admitted that he was part of partisan back room deals, bribery, kickbacks and crony-

ism. Kelley and his political buddies took advantage of a system that did not have enough checks and balances in place at the county level and in Parma. A city charter can tighten up the belt of government and put more rules into place, just like the county has done. A city charter can consolidate positions, putting better efficiencies and transparencies into place. Now is the time for reform, consolidation, and making government more efficient with our taxpayer money.

Familiar city hall insiders who are running for the charter commission do not support a charter; they have said so. Why not? Connect the dots. Citizens for a Better Parma are true supporters of a city charter and I encourage folks to visit the website: www.parmacharter.com which displays a video, a charter example and gives good information about the value of a city charter. Don't be fooled by the folks who want to hold onto absolute power – we need checks and balances, we need a charter!

In Parma, I recommend voting for Issue 3, a city charter. Also please vote for charter candidates that actually SUPPORT a city charter - the ones that brought charter petitions to Parma City Hall. Please vote for the candidates associated with "Citizens for a Better Parma."

Greenbriar Students Help The Homeless



Students work together to decorate donation collection boxes.

by Stacy Geppert

During a three week period the Builder's Club of Greenbriar Middle School was able to collect hundreds of donations to help the homeless. Under student leadership the Builder's Club students chose a project they felt very strongly about supporting - the Metanoia Project. The Metanoia Project was established in 2007 in the interest of serving the homeless of Cleveland. Much needed supplies for the Metanoia Project's Hospitality Center were

donated by the students, families, and staff of Greenbriar Middle School. The Parma Area Morning Kiwanis Club, businessman Bob Gillingham, and teachers Tom Foley and Kelly Gajewski sponsor the Builder's Club. The Builder's Club meets after school at the Greenbriar Cafe. Goals of the Builder's Club include the development of leadership, character-building, and caring for others. Students continue to work together to make a positive impact upon the community.

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Want to write the author?

Daniel Taddeo
6238 Big Creek Pkwy
Cleveland, OH 44130

Political Perspectives

“Parma Art - Dream On”

by Kathryn Yates

With the future of Parmatown Mall up in the air, many are pondering the tract of land like a “field of dreams.” Will the mall be razed and a new shopping strip, similar to Crocker Park, take its place? There is a desire for sophistication in the talk about town – a design that would incorporate shopping with the arts, the latter being one facet sorely lacking in Parma.

This winter, I hunted for local works of art - sculptures, murals, or paintings, and found Parma struggling with its creative expression. The compass in front of City Hall, donated by a 1988 Parma High School welding class, seems to suggest that while Parma definitely has art talent, it has to go elsewhere to further it -like Northeast as the arrow is pointing. And as the crow flies, the cultural hub of Greater Cleveland would be found in that direction, also home of one of the greatest art museums in the country, the Cleveland Museum of Art. But before one dreams of a Parma Art Museum in the closing Macy’s store, for example, it would be enough to suggest a mural on the side



Four Seasons mural - W. 160th and Puritas

of some drab brick building or retainer wall to dare Parma to express its color, its culture, its almost 200-year history. At least one program has ventured to do that for the City of Cleveland.

The west side “Mural My Neighborhood” program, headed by artists Dan Whitely, Chris Luciani, and Pam Griffith are on a mission to give twelve middle school- and high school-aged artists a chance to esthetically improve, through murals, an otherwise bro-midic area of the city. The chosen Ward Council corroborates with the designers as to the location and the theme that would best reflect the culture of

the neighborhood. The young artists attend workshops for three months learning how to prepare, design, and ultimately paint the creation onto the challenge surface through the masterful direction of Dan and his associates. The remaining three months of the program, the youth apply what they’ve learned, and the mural is completed by the August

deadline when they are then paid a reasonable commission. Some of the locations chosen in previous years are: Dave’s Supermarket (Ridge Rd. near Denison), the bank facing Clark Ave. on W. 25th St., and the RTA underpass before Madison Ave. on W. 117th. Also, a retainer wall on Puritas and W. 160th was artfully transformed using a four seasons theme in 2010. Contact Cudell Recreation Center for more info if you know a budding artist who would like to apply for this year’s project. The deadline for applicants is next month.

Understandably, “Mural My Parma” may strike a sour cord in the Old World Polish (OWP) community – the one-mile strip dedicated last May along Ridge Rd. The beautiful cityscape on the side of the Little Polish Diner was defaced by vandals last year, days after dedicating the area, as was a mural in Ukrainian village featuring sunflowers. Perhaps the vandals are too young to remember Michael Fay’s caning for his graffiti in Singapore in May of 1994? Nothin’ says tuff-lovin’ like four smacks on your muffin from a martial arts expert. Fay lived to be the “butt” of American jokes that year. The senseless acts of ne’er-do-wells

shouldn’t keep us from forging ahead, and cheers go out to those that restored the murals.

One other visible art display deserves mention, though it was not in Parma. “Didy Wah Didy”, a political protest by artist Billie Lawless, was erected on the old Junkstock site of Pearl Road Auto Wrecking in 1988 just outside the city limits. Some may remember it well. The confusing neon “masterpiece” had moms in minivans crammed with children desperately searching for the “Atomic Playground” where kids were promised they could “Ride the Big One!” (Yes, I fell for it – twice.) It was dismantled some six years later. A giant turbine stands there now--not a protest against air conditioners, but saving the owner of the salvage lot big bucks on his energy bill.

Probably the closest Parma has to an art “gallery” would be found in the dining area of Eat-n-Park. As you enjoy your all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet, glance around at the paintings on the walls – they are original works of familiar sites. Paintings by artist Linda Weber Kiouis are of Parma homes. Others, by Thomas S. Nickles and Mary Hamilton, are of rural scenes and a rendition of the historical Stearns Homestead.

With 81,000 residents, it’s hard to believe Parma has no collective art district, or even an art festival to lure sophisticates, amateurs, and general appreciators from surrounding communities. Maybe Parma is waiting for someone to get the whisper, like Ray Kinsella in “Field of Dreams” - “If you build it, they will come.”



Old fire station on Snow Rd. painted by Linda Weber Kiouis

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Parma Observer

Public Employment Versus Private Sector Employment

by Lee Kamps

Thirty five years ago this month, I left a secure job at a county welfare office for a job in the private sector with a large insurance company. I grew frustrated with the rigid sal-

ary schedules in public employment as well as the fact that no matter how good a job I did or how hard I worked, I was paid the same as everyone else in my department. Considering my education and job responsibilities, I

felt that I was grossly underpaid. Also having a small child and a large mortgage made it necessary to find a job that paid more.
I took a job with a large insurance company where I replaced a man who

had just retired after thirty-four years at the age of 57. The company had been in business more than 100 years and offered an excellent benefit program that included good health insurance, group life and disability insurance as well as a great pension plan. The company also had an investment plan (later converted into a 401(k) plan) to supplement our pension benefits. In addition I had the opportunity to make as much money as my efforts and ability allowed.

Within two years, I was making more money than my director at the old job and after four years I was making more money than some lawyers my age. In addition, I had the protection and the benefits of a union that represented the agents for that company. I became a local president of that union.

Today that company no longer exists. The name is still around, but the company is no longer the same company I went to work with in 1977. The pension plan and the excellent benefit plan no longer exist. The union was broken in the mid-1980s and the company was in a slide that cost it its reputation as well as most of its business. It was not destroyed by some competitor, but from within by incompetent and greedy management. I was able to witness that from the inside.

During the same period since 1977, public employees in Ohio have continued to enjoy great benefits as well as an excellent retirement plan. Had I been able to remain with that insurance company under the benefits they had in 1977, I would have been able to retire at the age of 56 with company-paid health insurance. Had I remained at my old job at the welfare department, I would still be able to retire before age 60 and have excellent health insurance as well. The difference is that today public employees still enjoy the same benefits as they enjoyed thirty-five years ago while many benefits in the private sector have eroded away.

Today company pensions have gone the way of the dinosaurs. Company-paid health insurance for retirees has also gone the way of the dodo bird. Those benefits have been gradually eroding over the past thirty years.

This reminds me of an old biology experiment. If you take a frog and

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

The Parma Patriots organization was founded in 2009 based on a small number of guiding principles. Among those were fiscal responsibility, limited government and personal responsibility. We also committed ourselves to helping our fellow citizens educate themselves on the issues of our day as well as the forgotten history of the US. We also regularly encourage our members to become active in the community. That may be as simple as attending local School Board or City Council meetings or even running for office themselves. Our government works best when everyday citizens are involved.

Education is our primary focus and to that end we have been involved in a number of different activities including educational opportunities as diverse as studies of the US Constitution and food preservation. All of our activities are open to anyone, most are free and some are available for a very low cost to help offset some expenses.

In keeping with the principles

of limited government and fiscal responsibility, some of our members have decided to become involved with many other members of our community in an initiative in Parma to seat a Charter Commission. That question is on the ballot March 6th along with a choice of 41 candidates running for the commission. The top 15 vote getters will be seated if a commission is approved. That commission would then be responsible for writing a City Charter for Parma that would be submitted to you, the voters for approval. Parma is the largest city in Ohio without a city charter and as such operates under the same rules as tiny municipalities and townships. Those rules are set by Ohio Revised Code and are also what Cuyahoga County operated under until a charter was recently adopted. Operating under a charter has allowed the county government to reduce its number of employees, save millions of tax dollars, implement an ethics policy and cause employees to be held accountable for performing their jobs. Do you believe that type of reform is needed in Parma?

Personal responsibility is the last of those guiding principles but the most important. What I am referring to here is accepting responsibility for your actions or in some cases non actions. If you know of or see something wrong, you have a duty to act. Failure to act makes you culpable. A recent example that illustrates this point is the case of the sex scandal at Penn State University. How many lives were impacted because people either took limited action or looked the other way? Don't be "that guy". Rather be the one who says ENOUGH and addresses the problem

My final thought for this month revolves around responsibility. As American citizens, we are guaranteed personal liberty but as a price for that liberty we have some responsibilities to society. Two of the most important are jury duty and voting. Jury duty will happen when you are called but exercising your responsibility to vote is essential to the well being of our Republic. On March 6th, we will be called to vote. This is your best opportunity to have your voice heard. I will not tell you who to vote for but I will tell you that it is important to research all the candidates for any office and vote for those you feel best represent you.

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Parma Observer

All Faiths Pantry Serves Local Seniors

by Jeffery Fowler

Parma native John Visnauskas, who has worked as a jeweler and as a supervisor at the Cleveland FoodBank, had an epiphany eleven years ago. John V, as he is known to acquaintances, observed that struggling families could pick up free food at one of the local food pantries that sprung up in the last several years. These pantries did, and continue to do, a fine job of serving our food insecure neighbors - as long as they are able get to a pantry and transport the food back home. "What do people with mobility challenges do?" John asked himself.

A program where volunteers deliver groceries to client's kitchens was the answer. All Faiths Pantry evolved from this concept.

I sat down with John to find out how the answer to this question, a mere eleven years ago, became the crucial community resource it is today. Excerpts of our conversation are below. The full interview can be found at parmaobserver.com.

Jeffrey Fowler: There are several other food pantries in the area. What makes AFP different?

John Visnauskas: We deliver food



John Visnauskas, Executive Director of All Faiths Pantry

to people who are unable to leave their homes to go to traditional food pantries. Other pantries often refer to AFP the clients that they are unable to serve.

JF: So most food pantries don't deliver to mobility challenged people?

JV: That's right. That's why we're here.

JF: So you serve recipients over 60 years of age?

JV: Yes, but we also serve a significant number of people who are suffering from a temporary or permanent mobility challenge, such as multiple sclerosis or epilepsy.

JF: How often do you deliver groceries and to how many people?

JV: We deliver about 25 pounds of food once a month, currently to approximately 400 individuals in 300 homes. Most are single person households. About 40% of our recipients are concentrated in HUD subsidized or CMHA buildings. Our service area includes Parma, Parma Heights, Brook Park, Brooklyn, and the Cleveland neighborhoods of Old Brooklyn and Brooklyn Centre.

JF: How do you distribute groceries?

JV: We have over 20 volunteer teams who deliver our food. Each team visits the same recipients every month, and genuine relationships are built. The fact that recipients are participating in a food program is eclipsed when they feel that their food is brought by friends. Our volunteers are also gratified by this work.

JF: Where do you get volunteers?

JV: We get volunteers through word of mouth. There are schools that have sent us volunteers. Many of our volunteers come from local religious congregations. This is fundamental to our model and the reason for our name. Diversity is important to us. We also get volunteers from organizations like Business Volunteers Unlimited and Hands On.

JF: How is AFP funded?

JV: We hold fundraisers a few times per year. Our annual Reggae for Food benefit in October is always a big success. Our next fundraiser is planned for April at a tavern on East 4th Street in downtown Cleveland.

We receive a lot of small individual

donations as well. In December Parma Council President Sean Brennan hosted the Parma Peanut Butter Drive for the benefit of AFP. Over 1,600 jars of peanut butter and more than \$1,000 were donated.

In addition, we are a 501(c)(3) corporation, so we write grants. We have received generous grants from Episcopal Community Services, Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation, the McGregor Foundation, the Cleveland Foundation and others.

JF: Thanks for your time John.

JV: A pleasure. Thanks for telling our story.

All Faiths Pantry can be found on Facebook and at allfaithspantry.org. Call AFP at (216) 496-4329 with specific questions on volunteering, donating, or referring new recipients.

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Parma Observer

Mayor's First Economic Summit Meeting Well-Received By Attendees

by Jeannie Roberts

When Mayor Tim DeGeeter was running for this office, he stressed the importance of ongoing dialogue with the city’s business community. Then, during his transition, he embarked on what he called “a listening tour” in which he visited with local business and civic leaders. When he was officially elected Mayor, DeGeeter promised to have an economic summit meeting with small- and medium-sized business owners within his first 60 days in office. On Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the offices of OSG-Sterling Die, he delivered. “It’s day 53,” the Mayor quipped. “Not that anybody’s counting, but we did say we’d do this within our first 60 days, and here we are.”

The meeting was attended by 35 business owners or representatives, as well as the City Treasurer, Tom Mastroianni, Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis, Council President Sean Brennan and Chamber of Commerce President Dave Nedrich. They listened to presentations from Erik Tollerup and Shelley Cullins of the Mayor’s Economic Development staff, Greg Zucca from Cuyahoga County’s Department of Development, and



Mayor Tim DeGeeter leads the discussion at his first economic summit meeting

representatives from PNC Bank and the Small Business Administration. Then the floor was opened for the heart of the forum - questions and comments. They ranged from desires to streamline doing business with the city to issues with work-force development. When one business owner

brought up the problems he’s having hiring in the manufacturing sector, several others agreed. The conversation that ensued was an exchange of ideas among the business community, from peer to peer, and from the Mayor’s office to the business owners. “Call my office,” DeGeeter urged. “Call Erik

or Shelley. We want to hear from you, and we want to help.” Said Tollerup, “I continue to be astonished by the number of jobs that are available locally for skilled machinists or young people right out of high school with a desire to learn and develop a good work ethic. This is just one example where the city can try and coordinate job training at the high schools or Tri-C to fill the employment needs of our local companies. “ Business owners overwhelmingly praised the event, calling it “a great idea,” “a real eye-opener” and “a good opportunity to be heard.” Bob Gillingham, owner of Gillingham Ford, was especially complimentary about the event. “This is the first time I’ve ever had a mayor call me up and say, ‘I’d like to come out and talk to you and find out how I can help,’” Gillingham said. “He did just that during his transition, and here we are talking directly to the mayor. I think it’s a fabulous idea, especially because he says he wants it to continue.”

Tollerup called the forum “an outstanding opportunity for direct communication on a variety of topics that impact local business,” and added, “too often, government will tell business what they need to do to succeed. Mayor DeGeeter’s approach of listening to business and allocating resources to best address their stated needs will be the most productive.” DeGeeter did say during the meeting that he intends this summit to be just the first of its kind. “We want this to be a series of meetings with different parts of the business community,” he said. “We started with small- and medium-sized businesses because they are the bread and butter of the local economy.”

The Blues-Rock Scene Around Parma Lately

by John Allender

At a recent gig in Parma, a Blues enthusiast presented me with a signed copy of an album from none other than Blues Legend Robert Lockwood Jr. This album was recorded way back in 1975, but what makes it even more unique and exciting is the fact that it was recorded in Parma! The record was made at a studio, probably long gone now, called Nashville North. The accompanying musicians at the recording date were all long-time collaborators and Cleveland natives. This is a real treasure to me, and I will never part with this gem.

My recent gig at Smedley's on February 23rd. was just fantastic. I had the pleasure of jamming with the always fabulous Steve Mascik on keyboards, and the Freebyrds. I'll be back there on March 8th., so come on out. On Friday March 2, I'll be hosting an open jam night at Lucky T's in Parma, starting at 7:00 p.m. and featuring Steve Mascik and the Blue Wail Rythm Section.

(who will also be playing at Lucky T's on March 24th.). That night at Lucky T's on march 2nd is a special occasion for me, as it is my birthday, and Theresa and the gang are nice enough to throw me a little birthday party, and you're all invited. The John Allender Band will be playing at Lucky T's in Parma on Friday March 30th., and in Parma Hts. at Shadows Bar and Grill, 6699 W. 130th. St. in Parma Hts. on Friday April 6 at 9:00 P.M. This place has a lot of things going on, including a benefit for fallen bikers on March 24th., and a 'Battle of the Beats' on March 31st. , a contest where the winner takes home \$500 worth of studio time. They have dart and pool leagues, a full kitchen, extensive wine list, mico-brews, summertime patio, and live music evry Friday. Barb and Ron really aim to please, all in a nice, pleasant atmosphere, so come on out and enjoy some fine music and entertainment during March and April in Parma!



Tea Party Is Out Of Touch With Parma

by Sebastian Tinnirello

I have been reading the articles and letters to the editor about the charter issue and was moved to chime in. I am concerned about the fact that the Tea Party movement is behind placing this issue on the ballot again. As far back as I remember the voters of Parma have voted this issue down several times. I thought the Tea Party was in favor of not wasting taxpayer dollars. They want to slash government programs and services. It seems to me that the thousands of dollars being used to place the issue on the ballot goes against their philosophy. Therefore, the only conclusion I can draw is that the Tea Party is using this issue to get headlines and to detract our city leaders from their truly important work of economic development, fixing infrastructure, providing quality recreation services, etc. In fact, most of those on their slate are not only Tea Party members, but candidates who have lost elections to a Democratic opponent. This fringe group represents only a small number of residents and they are out of touch with the values of a great majority of Parma residents. I hope all Parma voters see the deception behind this issue and will join me in voting “no” once again on the charter question.

Public Employment Versus Private Sector Employment

continued form page 8

place it in a pot of hot water, the frog will immediately jump out. However if you take the same frog and place it in a pot of cold water and then turn on the heat gradually, it will get acclimated to the rising temperatures and will not jump out of the water. In fact, the frog adjusts to the hotter water until it is incapable of jumping out of the water. Then it is cooked.

During the past thirty years,

unions in the public sector have grown stronger while labor unions in the private sector have gotten weaker. It is no coincidence that one result of this is that now public employees enjoy excellent health insurance and pensions with their jobs as well as much better job security and pay while workers in the private sector have seen their benefits, pay and job security erode away.



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Parma Observer

Joe The Coach; My View On Sports

by Joseph L. Finding

This month will be rather different. It struck my eye that some of the PD writers are suggesting or putting thoughts in our heads, that maybe we should trade up with the Browns in the upcoming draft. I just wonder how many of these guys have played Division 1 football in college. The trades I guess would be with Washington, but that is always subject to change.

I feel bad for the QB's every game. Here is a guy running for his life trying to run a west coast offense in the Cleveland tundra. You can't make this offense work if the QB has no one to throw to or to hand off the ball to. Pay-

ton Hillis would be a good back but he has been hurt too often. No one else has shown much. Our wide outs are not out there except for Josh Cribbs and maybe one or two others. Some of our wide outs must have sore breast-bones and ribs after McCoy hits them right in the chest and they drop it.

Why is Colt running for his life? Easy answer: our pro bowl tackle is our only blocker. Instead of just mouthing about trading, we had best look at the problem where it lies, and that is with the offensive line. An offensive lineman has to have a big heart and a burning will to block. They are the unsung heroes. Your football

team is only as good as the guys blocking. My personal belief is that our emphasis should be on shoring up the offensive line first, then work on QB's, backs and wide outs. One step at a time; you have to learn to crawl before you walk, and walk before you run. If the coaches want to trade up to get QB Griffin III, [HT 6-2 - WT 220], they would need to trade with the Rams, and are the Rams willing?

I guess this is the place to end for now.

Next month we can solve the Indians problem. In the meantime, we can annex Haiti. I guess LeBron was strutting around. He was wondering if he would ever come back to Cleveland to play. Personally, I don't care where he plays or anything else about him.

Thanks for listening to my big mouth. I certainly would like to hear from you.

Coach Joe

Parma, Parma Heights, And Cox Communications Announce Partnership On Summer Concert Series

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Parma Heights Mayor Michael Byrne have announced a partnership that will allow residents to enjoy summer concerts while the cities share the costs. Cox Communications will join in the collaborative effort so that local and area residents will continue to have a full complement of evening entertainment on Sundays this summer. The 10-week summer concert series will be hosted by both cities – five shows at Anthony Zielinski Park in Parma and five at the Greenbriar Commons in Parma Heights. "This is a perfect example of the relatively simple ways communities can create partnerships that are mutually beneficial," Mayor DeGeeter said. "Residents of both these communities can still enjoy free summer entertainment while sharing costs. I'm grateful to Cox Communications, our corporate partner, for their part in this as well. Everybody wins."

able to enjoy a wide variety of musical styles at this year's series. "There will be everything from Big Band to the Beatles and from Polka to Motown," he said. In previous years, all shows were held in Parma. Under the partnership agreement, each city will be responsible for \$970 of the cost for the series, and Cox is adding \$1,500 for the series - \$750 to each city. The new agreement results in a savings of \$2,090 for Parma.

The five concert dates for Parma's Zielinski Park are June 24, July 1, July 8, July 15 and July 22. The concerts in Parma Heights' Greenbriar Commons will be on July 29, August 5, August 12, August 19 and August 26. In the event of rain, the concerts will be moved indoors to Parmatown Mall.

Editor's Observation

continued from page 2

They have won my admiration.

Regina Brett of The Plain Dealer recently wrote an excellent column on making Lent a 40-day period of practicing the greatest commandment of all: love. Even if you don't practice Lent, it's relevant: she gave many inspiring ideas on possible loving actions that could be done, one each day, or one big action each week, or kindnesses in increments of 40 minutes, or even little acts that take 40 seconds, to extend to others in need. Need is not always as apparent as homelessness. Homelessness itself is not always apparent. But love is unmistakable.

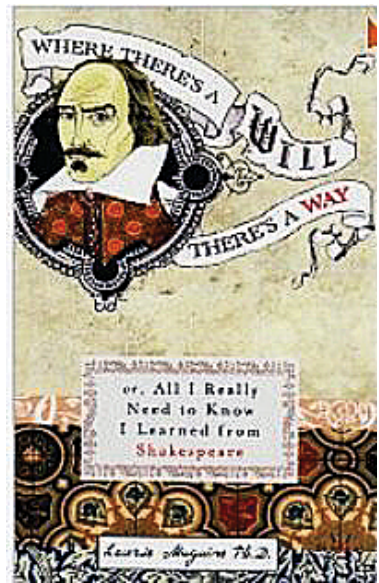
The mature young people of the Builder's Club have learned an important lesson in love. As one wise adult once told me, "Love is not a FEELING. Love is an EFFECT." Love is what is left behind after you've gone. Love is a legacy. May it be your legacy.

Book Review: Where There's A Will, There's A Way Or, All I Really Need To Know I Learned From Shakespeare

by Michelle E. Rice

Laurie Maguire Ph.D. makes Shakespeare's characters relevant today. Human faults and internal conflicts haven't changed. For those that find Old English difficult or incomprehensible, it is clarified to present day speech and shows us how we can avoid, understand or work through our strife by learning from the characters and conflicts in Shakespeare's works.

When Kent tells King Lear to "see better" it is an encouragement to us all in coping with frustration, anger, love, society, stereotypes, loss, acceptance, forgiveness, maturity, our identity, each other. Seeing is not just an optical function, but also a choice, a skill. This is discussed when covering topics of love, imagination and positive thinking.



Our lives are stories and we control the plot. "Know Thyself," may sound cliché but as pointed out, "clichés are simply truths with which we've become bored." Self reflection leads to self correction. How can we be ourselves while still being sensitive to the needs of others and how can we be sensitive to the needs of others without losing ourselves?

How society labels us, is not who we are. While our environment molds us, we still have a will. We negotiate our identity by external and internal derivatives; I am a "profession," "family title," versus, "who I am-ex. generous, stern" The subdivisions are in constant flux throughout our lives and even daily, as we are different people at different times. We try to forge our identity, our story, independent of the expectations and pressures of family, friends and society. While we may be unable to change another or a circumstance, we can change our

Parma-South To Serve Baked Fish Dinner

by Mary Beth Breckenridge

Parma-South Presbyterian Church will serve a baked fish dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 30, 2012 at the church.

The public is invited.

On the menu are baked fish, home-fried potatoes, cole slaw, vegetable, roll and butter, dessert and beverage. Cost for advance-sale tickets is \$8 for adults and \$4.50 for children.

Reservations may be made until 4 p.m. the day of the dinner by calling the church office at 440-885-2652.

Take-outs are available.

Parma-South is at 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights.

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Parma Observer

March 2012 Calendar of Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<div>Special Events</div> <div>* VIP – HUMANA BUCKS ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY RSVP FOR: * JEWELRY WITH LINDA MARCH 15th * CERAMICS WITH LINDA MARCH 26th and MARCH 29th * CRAFTING WITH LINDA MARCH 22nd</div>			<div>1</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * 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. Knitting 3:30 p.m.</div>	<div>2</div> <div>* Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Labor Pains" 12:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting with Adolf 3:00 p.m.</div>
<div>5</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. Speaker "Living Wills" 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>6</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "Minik: The Lost Eskimo" 2:30 p.m.</div>	<div>7</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. * Line Dancing 1:00 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>8</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Sweatin' to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. * Wii Bowling 11:00 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m. Knitting 3:30 p.m.</div>	<div>9</div> <div>* Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "The Pursuit of Happiness" 12:30 p.m.</div>
<div>12</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. Speaker "Prime Time Health" 1:00 p.m.</div>	<div>13</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "American Experience: Wizard of Photography" 2:30 p.m.</div>	<div>14</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>15</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Sweatin' to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. Jewelry Making with Linda 11:30 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m. Knitting 3:30 p.m.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>* Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Pay it Forward" 12:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting with Adolf 3:00 p.m.</div>
<div>19</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. Speaker "Durable Power of Attorney" 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>20</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "American Experience: Ansel Adams" 2:30 p.m.</div>	<div>21</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. * Line Dancing 1:00 p.m. * Wii Bowling 3:00 p.m.</div>	<div>22</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Sweatin' to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. Crafting with Linda 11:00 a.m. Blood Pressure & Blood Glucose Test 12:00 p.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m. Knitting 3:30 p.m.</div>	<div>23</div> <div>* Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "The Help" 12:30 p.m.</div>
<div>26</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m. Ceramics with Linda 2:00 p.m.</div>	<div>27</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Fit and Balance 10:00 a.m. SCRABBLE 2:00 p.m. Popcorn and Movie "American Masters: Andy Warhol" 2:30 p.m.</div>	<div>28</div> <div>INTER WALK 8:30-9:00 a.m. BEG WALK 11:00-11:30 a.m.</div>	<div>29</div> <div>* Chair Dancing 9:00 a.m. * Sweatin' to the Oldies 10:00 a.m. Ceramics with Linda 11:30 a.m. BINGO Bash 2:00 p.m. Knitting 3:30 p.m.</div>	<div>30</div> <div>* Wii Bowling 10:00 a.m. * Zumba Gold 11:30 a.m. Popcorn and Movie "Hollywood Musicals of the 50's" 12:30 p.m. Watercolor Painting with Adolf 3:00 p.m.</div>

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We hope to see you soon!
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