

"Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society"- Oliver Wendell Homes, Jr.

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Parma Heights Mayor

Delivers State Of The City Address

by Christine Hnat

Economic Development and Recreation Vital to City's Future

Facing down a \$1.8 million deficit without cutting services to residents or the business community was clearly at the heart of Mayor Michael P. Byrne's first State of the City address delivered on Thursday, April 19 at the Cassidy Theatre. The speech, enhanced with a power-point presentation, came at the mid-point of his first term and gave, in his words, "an overview of where we have been, what we have accomplished and what we need to do now to face today's challenges and prepare for the challenges to come."

The Mayor emphasized that, "I am not out to re-create our city. We are what we are, a bedroom community that features a park within a half-mile walking distance of nearly every residence and a city with a small but diverse business base ranging from mom-and-pop storefronts to world headquarters. Parma Heights is, and has always been, a small-town oasis in a convenient, central location. My goal for the future is to continue to build on and develop these strengths."

The Deficit

Calling 2010, "the most challenging time our city has faced", Mayor Byrne examined how the deficit reached that astronomical number through shortfalls in income tax revenue, re-evaluated property values, rising benefit costs and an unusual 27 paycheck cycle. He then went on to say, "We faced the challenge, dealt with it and have emerged stronger, leaner and ready to face the challenges of the future." He outlined measures ranging from restructuring of departmental director positions, pay reductions, furlough days and salary freezes to employee contributions to health care costs as major players in tackling the deficit. The Mayor stepped away from the podium to directly address the audience regarding the necessity of

implementing a rubbish fee in 2011. After thanking them for their understanding, he offered his assurances that, "Council and I are working to reduce the fees and the new Green Refuse and Recycling contract will help to lower fees in the long run."

Moving forward, Byrne noted further State cuts to the Local Government Fund and the State's elimination of the Estate/Inheritance Tax will create added financial challenges and require additional measures. To that end, the Mayor promised to continue to aggressively pursue grants, particularly for road improvements, and shared services with surrounding communities in an effort to reduce costs while improving services.

During his swearing-in ceremonies, Byrne mentioned two areas that he



would immediately focus on strengthening: recreation and economic development. Two years later, he still strongly believes that "these two departments are priorities and are vital to Parma Heights moving forward".

Economic Development

In 2010, Byrne appointed Joseph E. Sebes, to the newly-created post of Community & Economic Development Director to oversee retention of businesses and recruitment of new businesses. Sebes also assumed the responsibility of coordination and writing the

majority of the city's economic development grant applications.

"I am encouraged with what we have been able to achieve in two years," Byrne said, adding, "As you know – there are no quick fix solutions to improving our problem with vacant stores. I believe in the building by building, block by block, street by street approach."

To illustrate his point, he concluded the State of the City Address with a detailed tour of the city's business districts and highlighted recent investments, expansions and activity including the Drifter Bag World Headquarters acquisition of the former Integrity property; the new, expanded Fratello's Pizza loca-

Read the rest of this online at:
<http://parmaobserver.com>

Polish Celebration Just In Time To Show Off Village Improvements

by Jeannie Roberts

While throngs of people are milling around Ridge Road before and after the Polish Constitution Day Parade on May 6, the newly updated Polish Village will shine with improvements. Over on State Road, in Ukrainian Village? Same thing. The city is using money from the Block Grant's Streetscape Improvement Program, which provides funds to beautify and improve commercial areas of the city. Improvements for Polish and Ukrainian villages include benches – blue and yellow for Ukrainian Village and red for Polish Village – and new trash cans for each village in the same color. There are eight new



trash cans in Polish Village, and two at Ukrainian Heritage Park. Additionally, there are 11 benches in Polish Village and four in Ukrainian Heritage Park.

New entry signs have been installed on Ridge Road to mark the entrance to Polish Village, and along with the signs marking Ukrainian Village, have been fitted with a Graffiti Shield to prevent dam-

age or vandalism. The new Polish Village Entrance Signs are at Pearl and Ridge roads at the Brew Garden Entrance and at Thornton and Ridge roads across from Golubski Funeral Home.

Perhaps the most visually arresting addition on Ridge Road will be a new mural, scheduled to beautify the north wall of Colazza's Bakery, at 5880 Ridge Rd. When

continued on page 12

A Small Wonder, Half A World Away



by CJ Sheppard

David Paul was over 6,000 miles away, serving in Afghanistan, when his daughter was born at Parma Hospital on April 5. Yet a laptop and Skype allowed his wife, Kayla, to talk with him throughout her

17-hour labor in Parma Hospital's Small Wonders Maternity Center. Seeing his daughter,

Alorilyn, for the first time, he said was stunned speechless. "I was blown away," he said. "I wish I was there. I can't wait to hold her."



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. This month I have taken the liberty of informing you of how to contact your representative on City Council. I often have residents contact me requesting this information. Further, in light of the fact that we have three relatively new members of Council, this might prove especially helpful.

Members of Parma City Council pride themselves in their accessibility and may be reached by phone at home or at the City Council office, e-mail, or letter. The Council office number is (440) 885-8091. To reach a member by mail, simply address your envelope to your member of Council, c/o Parma City Council, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, Ohio 44129. Below I have taken the liberty of sharing e-mails and home numbers for



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

- each of the nine ward members of Council.
- Ward One: Mary Galinas** – (440) 842-1532, mgalinas.parma@sbcglobal.net
- Ward Two: Deborah Lime** – (440) 845-1714, Limeward2@gmail.com
- Ward Three: Mark Casselberry** – (440) 842-6710, Casselberryward3@att.net
- Ward Four: Brian Day** – (216) 351-

- 2909, councilmanday@cox.net
- Ward Five: Allan Divis** – (440) 888-7213, Allandivis@yahoo.com
- Ward Six: Larry Napoli** – (440) 845-4547, deblaryn@aol.com
- Ward Seven: Brian Brochetti** – (440) 345-5239, parmaward7@gmail.com
- Ward Eight: Scott Tuma** – (440) 842-8068, councilmantuma@cox.net
- Ward Nine: Roy Jech** - (216) 351-6859, jakester46@aol.com
- To find out the ward in which you live, simply call the Council office or visit

<http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov/citycouncil/index.aspx>

Besides a current map of all nine wards, the site also contains links to the minutes and agendas of Council meetings, the codified ordinances (laws) of the City of Parma, biographical information about the members of Council, etc.

In closing, I want to encourage you to support the Parma Observer. You can do this by patronizing the advertisers and telling them you saw their ad in the Observer. This paper is provided as a free service to the residents of our fine city thanks to these advertisers. We need to prove to them that they are spending

their marketing dollars wisely. Personally, I want to thank them all for being such good corporate citizens.

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 concerning 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. See you in June!

Lions Club Has Arrived

by Kathleen Connors

The Lions Club is an international organization in existence for nearly a century that has as its mission to help with humanitarian efforts around the globe. Although the main focus of the Lions Club is to help people who are blind or visually impaired, Lions have assisted with disaster relief, supported children's health care issues, and provided hearing aids to people in need.

The Parma Hills Lions Club is a newly chartered chapter of LCI (Lions Clubs International) with members from Parma, Parma Heights, and Seven

Hills. Recent club activities include collection of used eyeglasses (on going), a donation to the Cleveland Sight Center for a children's holiday party, and a donation to the Parma Heights Christian Academy to assist with the provision of Thanksgiving food baskets to area families. The Parma Hills Lions are looking forward to becoming a helpful presence in the tri-city community. School personnel or families who know of a child who needs glasses (and who is in financial need) may contact the Parma Hills Lions Club for assistance through the Lions Eye Clinic

at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center.

The club meets the first Thursday of each month (7:00 pm) at the Parma-town Mall Conference Center(near the entrance of JC Penney and the YMCA). Please join us during our spring membership drive at our May 3 meeting.

For eyeglass donations, assistance with the purchase of children's eyeglasses or membership information, call Sylvia Snyderat 216-658-8777 (days). Or contact Kate Connors at 440-278-9135 any time.

Parma ABLE Teacher Wins State Award

by Kimberly Merryman Sherer, MBA,

Parma ABLE teacher Stephanie Schab was named The Ohio Association for Adult and Continuing Education's (OAACE) Teacher/Trainer of the Year for the Northeast Region of Ohio. The award luncheon was held in Columbus on April 20.

The award went to someone who 1) Has some longevity in the field of Adult Education; 2) Has made numerous contributions to the field by going "above and beyond"; 3) Has made contributions to the field at the state and national level and 4) Has qualities that make him/her stand out and "exceed expectations."

The OAACE works with service groups to ensure that their staff and volunteers receive the necessary financial and technical support to carry out their roles in the community. In addition, the OAACE also makes sure that these groups are receive their fair share of funding and support from the local, state and the federal governments.



Stephanie Schab and family



Parma ABLE Staff at OAACE Conference



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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

Adopt A Pet From An Area Shelter

by Amanda Cummings

There are at least five animal shelters in or near the greater Parma area



We need you to come and take us to our new home; we'll always be grateful, and we'll never let you down.

who share the same basic mission of protecting and placing lost and surrendered cats and dogs. They are: the APL on Willey Ave., the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter on Sweet Valley Drive in Valley View, the Parma Animal Shelter on State Rd., the SPCA No-Kill Shelter on Brookpark Rd. near Wal-Mart, and the City Kennel on West 7th in Cleveland near the Steelyard Commons.

As far as I know, only one of these shelters will euthanize a "well" cat or dog after the 72-hr. waiting period, and that is the City Kennel in Cleveland. The animals taken to this kennel are picked up by the city animal warden



A great dog like this for only \$20? You can't beat that. Hopefully this friendly pooch is already in a nice loving home!

roaming free, and many are just not adoptable. Those that are adoptable and go unclaimed are often placed with the Animal Protective League on Willey.

So if your pet ran away, I would check out the City Kennel first as soon as you notice your pet missing. They do not allow adoptions from the kennel itself – it's more like a claiming center. The next place I'd look for a lost pet is the County Kennel on Sweet Valley Drive. It's the largest and wardens pick these free-roamers up as well. They start adopting out unclaimed animals after 72-hrs.

Don't forget the Parma Animal Shelter on State Rd. which has a website you can check for "George" or "Misty" by the photos they post, but don't be

too alarmed if your precious has been renamed "Bubba" or "Sandy" if no name tag is present.

Last but not least, the SPCA Animal Shelter on Brookpark Rd. is my favorite because it is where I got my first kitten from and she's still alive. They are the ones who gave her the shots and medicine she needed. At this animal shelter, I volunteer. What I do is walk the dogs, clean their cages out, give them food and water. I also clean the cats' cages out and give them food and water. I give them some toys to play with and a treat here and there. After I'm all done I take one cat out first and play with them. Then I finish cleaning up and get ready to leave. I just feel bad because I get so attached to the animals – I either want to take them home or not leave because I feel really bad for them. I just tell myself at least they're inside where it's warm and they have food and water plus somewhere warm to sleep. I know they will get a nice home pretty soon, because most of the animals go fast.

I hope after people read this they'll go to the SPCA Animal Shelter at 9555 Brookpark Rd. in Parma. They have "DOG OF THE DAY" for as little as \$20, and many cats go on sale as well.

Stroke Awareness, Caregiver Training Among Offerings At Parma Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Try yoga, sign up for a melanoma screening or ensure that your child is ready for Kindergarten. Each season, Parma Community General Hospital's Health Education Center affords an opportunity to explore a new variety of personal wellness, fitness, mind/body fitness and youth classes.

Registration begins May 23 for summer classes at the Health Education Center at 7300 State Road in Parma. The schedule will be online at www.parmahospital.org on that date, and in the mail to area homes in mid June. You can also call 440-743-2582 to have a schedule mailed to your home.

May programs offered at the Health Education Center include:

Train the Caregiver Workshop, Saturday, May 12, 1 to 3 p.m. – A free workshop presented by the Ohio Parkinson's Foundation, Northeast Region, this two-hour session focuses on techniques to help care-

givers assist loved ones at any stage of Parkinson's.

Stroke Awareness, Thursday, May 24, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. – A free workshop taught by Parma Hospital's stroke coordinator that covers symptoms and treatment for stroke, which affects one person every four minutes in the United States.

Why Should I Plan My Estate? Thursday, May 31 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. – An interactive presentation presented by an attorney covering a range of estate planning issues, including living trusts, avoiding probate and more.

For those looking to try a new fitness class like Circuit Workout, Pilates, Senior Shape-Up or more, ask about the Try a Class Pass. Call 440-743-2582 for details. You can also pay a walk-in fee of \$7 in class. See the schedule online for a full listing of classes.

Parma ABLE Students To Be Honored At Writing Conference

by Kimberly Merryman Sherer, MBA,

Every year the Ohio Literacy Resource Center honors writing accomplishments of adults who participate in Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) programs throughout Ohio.

The OLRC encourages ABLE students to submit original writings for evaluation. All genres are accepted. Winning submissions are published in a softbound book, Beginnings. Students whose work is accepted are invited to attend a day-long Ohio Writers' Conference, along with their teacher and guest.

The 15th annual event will take place in the Atrium of the Ohio State House in Columbus on May 18, 2012. After an awards luncheon, Beginnings

authors are invited to share their work at an open mike session.

Parma ABLE is proud to announce their 2012 winners:

Wanda L. Babb (Teacher: Amy Lewis)

Mary Picone (Teacher: Ann Mathis)

Jerome Hailey (Teacher: Ann Mathis)

Jon S. Bellevue (Teacher: Ann Mathis)

Stella M. Thomas (Teacher: Sharon Forstchen)

Rhonda Hudson-Williams (Teacher: Amy Lewis)

For more information on the Parma ABLE program, please call 440-885-8797 or log on to www.parmacityschools.org/able.



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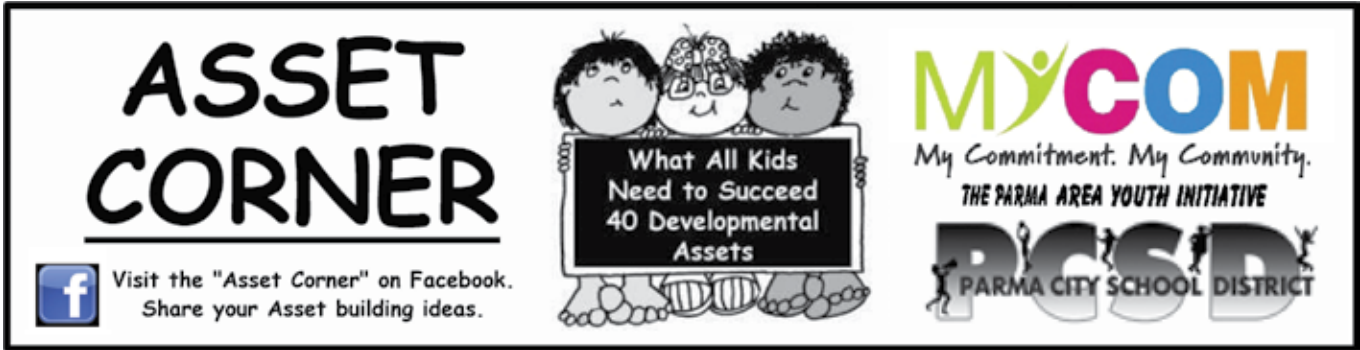


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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #29

by Gene Lovasy
May’s Asset Category: *Commitment to Learning*

Education has improved immensely in the past 20 years. Today, more young people are taking high-level courses, fewer of them are dropping out, math and science scores are on the rise, and more students are entering college after high school. But that doesn’t mean a commitment to learning happens naturally in all young people. Instilling this important trait involves a combination of values and skills that include the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one’s own ability. This commitment is strongly influenced by the school environment and relationships with family and peers.

Commitment to Learning Assets Include:

- #21 **Achievement Motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school. (65%*)
- #22 **School Engagement** – Young people is actively engaged in learning. (55%*)
- #23 **Homework** – Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day. (47%*)
- #24 **Bonding to School** – Young person cares about her or his school. (52%*)
- #25 **Reading for Pleasure** – Young person reads for pleasure 3 or more hours /week. (22%*)

(* 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 in 202 cities in 27 states.)

This column’s focus will be on..... Asset 25 Reading for Pleasure

Reading should be done for fun
Have you ever been so engrossed in a book you skipped watching a favorite TV show, didn’t hear the phone ring, or stayed up too late at night? Now that’s a good book, and as anyone who loves to read will tell you, that’s the best part of reading! Books are the way most teachers instruct their classes. But there’s also a reason for young people to read for fun. The Commission on Reading contends that reading for fun teaches young people how to become strategic, skilled readers. They learn the difference between reading for a test and reading for pleasure. They learn when to read carefully or skim, ask questions or consult a dictionary.
Here are the facts
Research shows that young peo-

ple who read for pleasure at least three hours a week (that’s only 26 minutes a day) exhibit more positive than negative values. Only 22 percent of young people, ages 11–18, read for pleasure three or more hours a week, according to Search Institute surveys. But reading—whether it’s for a grade or not—can open up a new world, transport you to faraway lands, bygone eras, or lives only dreamt of. Reading is important. It uses facts, figures, and emotions to both teach and inspire. Inspire young people to read for pleasure, and they will have a far richer life.

Tips for building this asset
Make it easy for your child—and other young people you know—to read for pleasure at your house. Provide a variety of reading materials such as novels, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Also, set an example with your own behavior. Don’t just read in bed when everyone else is asleep. Let the young people around you see you reading. Discuss issues with them that come up or other ideas you’ve learned from books. Finally, limit TV and computer time.

Also try this
In your home and family: Set aside a family reading time once a week. With younger children, read aloud together. With older children, read different books while hanging out together, or read the same book and then discuss it.

In your neighborhood and community: Volunteer to read books aloud to children in your community center, school, faith community, child-care center, or library.

In your school or youth program: Set up a book club to read popular fiction, nonfiction, or classics. Get together outside of class or during the regular program time to informally discuss the books you read.

ASSET RELATED NEWS
Were you aware of the fantastic resource we have within our district in the form of four large, supportive & very active Branches of our award winning County Library system? If you haven’t lately, you and/or your child should pay one of those Branches a visit. If you’re not sure where they’re located, go here for a map: <http://www.cuyahogalibrary.org/Branches.aspx>. Click on a Branch closest to you and check out all the great events they have scheduled. The summer break will be here before you know it – start planning now to have you child participate in the Library’s popular Summer Reading program
Results from the *CBS Partner-*

ship Activities & Opportunities Survey reported here last monthare in, being tabulated and a data base is being designed. We hope to have the system operational by the start of the new school year. **Would you like to help a child w/their reading or math? How about presenting to a class as an “expert” sharing information about your particular job or unique skill? These and other opportunities are listed on the Survey available for download at www.parmacityschools.org/cbs.**

By the time you read this Shiloh Middle School’s bi-annual Career Fair

Tot T-ball Registration Exceeds Expectations

by Jeannie Roberts
City recreation officials weren’t quite sure what to expect from the first year of offering Tot T-ball to three- and four-year-old aspiring all stars. What they got was an overwhelming response – enough players to field 10 full teams. With 12 on a team, that’s 120 tots! Recreation Department officials are stunned at the positive turnout for the brand new program. "We are extremely pleased and proud with the overwhelming response to this new program," said Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi. "Our department is always looking at offering different and/or additional recreational opportunities for our residents." But who knew there were 120 Parma three- and four-year-olds who wanted to get a formal T-ball introduction? "I really didn’t know what to expect," said Roberto Disenza, the Rec Department’s assistant director. "But the turnout has been really strong."

The “season” is expected to begin next month, although the league is instructional in nature and not competitive. “We just want them to get familiar with being on the field with other kids their age, and

on May 4th put on by Parma Hospital will have concluded. At last count 16 departments, including representatives from Tri-C ‘s Health Career Dept will be demonstrating their skills for students at this all day signature Business/School partnership event. If your child is a student at Shiloh, ask him/her how it went.
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 supply 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.
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.

to have fun,” Vittardi said. Mayor Tim DeGeeter personally understood the need for this program when his then-three-year-old son Jack had to play T-ball in Seven Hills last year because there wasn’t a program for kids that young in Parma. DeGeeter decided his wasn’t the only child who would take advantage of having the program right in Parma. Even still, he is surprised, too, at the highly successful registration.
“It’s really great that the response has been this positive,” he said. “The Rec programs are very popular anyway, but adding this allows us to serve a whole new population. Parma is such a great place to raise your family, and there are a lot of families with young children who can now become involved in city programs.” After leaving Tot T-ball, which serves three- and four-year-olds, youngsters can then participate in T-ball (5 and 6 years old) and stay in a city sponsored league until they leave high school. “Our residents have access to excellent recreation facilities and programs, and we are proud to offer this new program that makes them even better,” DeGeeter said.

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Inspiration

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The topic for May is: Time. Time is something in a very limited supply. Why not invest it in our children? When parents spend time with their children, they pay them the highest compliment they will ever receive. The Bible cautions us about not taking time for granted. "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

Using time wisely means establishing priorities. Children should be

first on your list. They can't wait. You should be involved with every facet of their lives. Children can't survive physically or emotionally when left on their own. They need loving care and guidance especially during the pre-school years. This is when they can absorb the best character-building values they will need the rest of their lives. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." If these values are not learned at an early age, they may never be learned. The Bible tells us: "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a

time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck what is planted."

Time between parents and children is needed to focus on the following:

- Enjoying them for what they are.
- Building up their self-esteem
- Helping them set small and large goals.
- Making home a happy place to be.
- Teaching them to accept the bad along with the good.
- Helping them to be good at as many things as possible.
- Encouraging them to become as independent as possible.
- Helping them develop realistic self-concepts.

- Showing them how to do things.
 - Reading to them.
 - Loving, talking, singing, touching and playing.
 - Allowing them to help.
 - Getting to know each other.
 - Learning about God and praying together.
 - Encouraging them to make the most of their God-given gifts.
- Acknowledging differences in children by not comparing them.
- Time spent with children helps parents learn about their personalities, opinions and talents. What a joy to discover the individual that God created! Time with your children is a priceless gift from God. Wasting time dishonors Him.

TWO SONNETS

By Bryan N. Griffin Jr.

"Toss & Turn -- A Shakespearean Parody"

I toss and turn about in my old bed,
But I cannot seem to fall asleep;
Words and phrases keep dwelling in my head
Hindering my will to fall asleep.
Will I recall the day's material
Or will I forget them before class?
Are there clues in my alphabet cereal?
Better come back fast, so I can pass
My test today. The bus is coming, I
Have to go before I miss it; gotta run
As fast as Hermes himself; I gotta fly.
There is the bus, he's fast as a gun.
I peddle my feet as fast as fast can be.
Made it for my test; I hope I score a B.

"Pegasus -- A Petrarchan Tribute"
Somewhere in a distant, ambient, ancient land,
Wild and free, roaming high into the mystic sky,
Pegasus spreads its massive wings so it can fly
Like wings of a bird, they contract and expand,
Taking it to majestic, exotic, wonderful lands.
Pegasus traveled from Rome to Africa to Delphi
Its graceful flight, such a wonderful, beautiful sight!
A blessed beast, a winged creature so grand.
Like the Muses, Pegasus seeks to inspire those
Who write poems, songs, and fantastic stories
About its adventures and dangerous excursions
People sing of it from the valleys to the boroughs
Astronomers watch it from their observatories
Pegasus gives us a break from reality, a nice diversion.

Coming Events In May And June

by Ruth Revecky

The months of May and June burst forth
In full bloom.
Colorful flowers appear in front yards,
Backyards, along highways, and in
Public parks; wild flowers pop up in
So many unexpected places.
The landscape is greening, giving new
Life to dreary places.
School children toss heavy jackets away,
Substituting them with lightweight,
Long-sleeve sweaters.
Engaged young women are planning
Their much anticipated June weddings!
The month of June is, of course, for brides
And grooms.

Youngsters look forward to June for
Different reasons--schools close down
For summer vacation.
All they think about is swimming, baseball,
Cookouts, and long-awaited vacations.
Parents have a different approach! Dad
Has yard work, Mom has her older
Daughter's wedding to contemplate,
While Dad can only think about its
Cost!
May and June have warmer temperatures,
Which mean that air conditioners must
Be in working order.
All in all, May and June are busy and
Exiting months for everybody.
Just don't forget to enjoy the greening
Trees, shrubs and lawns, as well as our
Bright colorful flowers!

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Friday- \$4.00 Hookah All Day

Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM

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Political Perspectives

Commonly Asked Computer Questions

by Nicholas Hnat

Hi, I'm Nick Hnat with GT-Computers in Parma Heights and I will be answering 10 commonly asked computer questions in this column in the coming months. For starters we have "What are some basic things I can do to make my computer run faster?" and stay tuned next issue for "What should I look for when purchasing a new computer?" If you have a question about computers that you wish to ask, please send us an email at contact@gbtnonline.com.

And now on to the question "What are some basic things I can do to make my computer run faster". First off, you have to take the age of your computer into consideration. Computers that are 8 years of age and older are usually only powerful enough to browse the web and do some word processing. If you are looking to do some more intensive things like photo editing or gaming with a machine that old it may be time to consider an upgrade. Remember, computers are not like cars and even with proper maintenance will run slower and break down as time goes on due to programs and operating systems (Windows, Mac OS, Linux) using more system resources (fuel).

Secondly, here are some operations you can perform to free up some system resources and improve the overall performance of your machine. You can defragment your hard drives once a week, we recommend that you use Auslogics Disk Defragmenter instead of the one that is already installed on your machine due to the fact that it does a better job and also has an "optimize" option. Defragmenting puts every bit of each file together (they get scattered as changes are made) so your hard drive spends less time looking for each piece. You can also run a tool called Ccleaner from Piriform, this program

will clean out your systems temporary files and fix registry errors which can clog up and slow down your computer. The key to using these tools is remembering to use them regularly which can be, depending on the age of your computer, as little as a week in between running.

Lastly, you could consider hardware upgrades. The major thing that has changed in the last 10 years of computing is RAM (Random Access Memory). Most computers built 10 years ago had about 512 Megabytes of

RAM whereas a computer built now may have 4096 Megabytes or more. Programs have, in turn, evolved to use this much RAM and when RAM is not available your processor has to do more work loading and unloading things. RAM upgrades may cost as little as \$20 for the part so they are very economical and can extend the life of your current computer by a couple of years. Other upgrades may include purchasing a larger hard drive or a graphics card, however, these usually have a smaller effect on the performance of

your machine. We recommend that you have a professional perform these upgrades because you could cause harm to your computer.

I hope that those basics can keep you computer running a little stronger for longer. If you have any questions feel free to give us a call at (216)769-3333 or stop in to our store located at 6627 Pearl Road in Parma Heights. Remember to pick up and read the next issue where I will be answering the question "What should I look for when purchasing a new computer?"

DeGeeter Debuts Mayor's In, Mayor's Out Program

by Jeannie Roberts

As recently promised in his State of the City speech, Mayor Tim DeGeeter will begin a new program this month aimed at directly increasing residents' input and accessibility to the Mayor's office. The program is called Mayor's In, Mayor's Out. "I want to use this program to help residents feel closer to their local government and to encourage them to actively participate," DeGeeter 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 that is true."

Mayor's In, Mayor's Out will begin on May 23 at City Hall at 5 p.m. Here's how the program works: Each month, DeGeeter will announce when he will hold office hours that month and whether he will be "in" or "out" – he will alternate between his office at City Hall and a public place such as a city park, a school cafeteria or a library. On months when the mayor is "out", announcements of the date, time and location will be made in advance, using social media and local media outlets.

On the designated evening, residents can show up and have five



minutes to talk to the mayor one-on-one - with a note-taker present as well - on a first-come, first-served basis. If an issue requires the expertise of a particular department director, it will be brought to the attention of that director by the mayor. On some evenings, select directors will also be in attendance. Then, shortly after the event, every resident who participates will receive a letter from DeGeeter and one from the appropriate director, if applicable, addressing the issue that was raised.

Even though residents already have an opportunity to air their opinions, thoughts and concerns at City Council meetings, DeGeeter understands that not everyone needs to address City

Council as a whole. "Sometimes people may be shy about asking a question to all of City Council, but they just need an explanation of how a certain program works," DeGeeter said. "I am here to hear their questions and concerns. If they just want to express an opinion, I will listen. If they need an answer, I'll do my best to get it for them. The point is, they can ask me directly." DeGeeter has made it a priority of his administration to make City Hall more technologically available and to bring residents closer to City Hall. "Anyone who wants to come and talk to the mayor about anything should be able to do that," he said. "This program is a way to ensure that that happens. I am looking forward to getting it started."

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Political Perspective

Why “Medicare For All” Would Work

by Lee Kamps

The fate of the ACA is now in the hands of the supreme court and the future of the act is unsure. Even if the supreme court upholds the act as well as the individual mandate, there is no guarantee whether the ACA would actually cover most of the uninsured or that it will reduce the increasing cost of health care in the United States.

However I sincerely believe that if the ACA is either repealed, thrown out by the supreme court or is allowed to fail, then the answer will be for the United States to join the rest of the developed world and adopt some form of single payer health insurance system where every citizen is insured for basic health care.

Of course the simplest way for the

United States to have a single payer health insurance system would be to expand Medicare to cover every citizen. Medicare has been around since the mid 1960s and it has worked fine for more than forty five years. With a little adjustments, Medicare can be made solvent and around long into the century as well.

Here is why I believe that Medi-

care for everyone would work:

It is already here. We don't have to reinvent the wheel.

The benefits are the same all across the country and it covers most basic medical services.

It does not cover everything. Medicare has stiff deductibles and co-payments that require some cost sharing.

There has been a vibrant market in private Medicare supplements and advantage plans all across the United States. In addition there are existing programs to help those with low incomes deal with the deductibles and co-payments from Medicare. These have worked very well for many people as well as allowing the choice of different options and plans.

Medicare is not free and everyone has a financial stake in the program. There are no free riders. Medicare has always been financed through a payroll tax where everyone pays the same rate and is based in their ability to pay. In addition, Medicare beneficiaries are required to pay a part B premium.

Medicare operates on an efficiency that no private health insurance company can match. Medicare has the lowest percentage of revenues spent on overhead and administration.

Expanding Medicare to cover everyone would not cost as much as many fear. That is because right now, Medicare covers the oldest and sick-est people in the country. Expanding Medicare to cover everyone will bring in many young and healthy people as well as everyone in between. The risk pool is expanded to cover the entire population. With electronic medical records, electronic claim filing and uniform claim procedures with standardized claim forms, Medicare could be made much more efficient. This could reduce costs even more.

Sure the funding for Medicare would have to be changed as well as the rates needed to finance the program. But that is the job of actuaries who could easily come up with the means for funding the program.

Sure expanding Medicare to cover everyone would require increases in the Medicare taxes we will have to pay. But how much are we or our employers already paying for our health insurance? Remember that when your employer is paying health insurance premiums, that is money that they are not paying in wages and salaries. In addition, employers would not have the additional costs of administering their benefit program and keeping in compliance.

With Medicare expanded to cover every American, there would be no uninsured, no uncompensated care and a much healthier population. Over time, this will reap unimaginable benefits as far as reduced health care costs, a healthier country, a more productive country and a workable system of health care for all Americans. This is an idea whose time has arrived.

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

Recently, President Obama’s campaign released a video called “The Road We’ve Traveled” about his first term in office. The title reminded of a book I was familiar with called “The Road We Are Traveling” by Stuart Chase. In that book, Mr. Chase outlined characteristics of political economies that he had observed among Russia, Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain between 1913 and 1942 as the influence of Fabian Socialism spread throughout Europe. Look carefully at this list of 18 characteristics and compare them with the United States of today.

1. A strong, centralized government.
2. An executive arm growing at the expense of the legislative and judicial arms.
3. The control of banking, credit and security exchanges by the gov-

ernment.

4. The underwriting of employment by the government, either through armaments or public works.
5. The underwriting of social security by the government – old-age pensions, mothers’ pensions, unemployment insurance, and the like.
6. The underwriting of food, housing, and medical care, by the government.
7. The use of deficit spending to finance these underwritings.
8. The abandonment of gold in favor of managed currencies.
9. The control of foreign trade by the government.
10. The control of natural resources.
11. The control of energy sources.
12. The control of transportation.

13. The control of agricultural production.
14. The control of labor organizations.
15. The enlistment of young men and women in youth corps devoted to health, discipline, community service and ideologies consistent with those of the authorities.
16. Heavy taxation, with special emphasis on the estates and incomes of the rich.
17. Control of industry without ownership.
18. State control of communications and propaganda.

Beginning with the establishment of the Federal Reserve and the implementation of the Federal Income Tax in 1913 and continuing through the passing of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and even today with the passing of the NDAA and the perceived attempt by President Obama to intimidate the Supreme Court and the admitted use of Executive Orders to bypass Congress, the influence of Fabian ideas on American culture can clearly be seen.

One of the founders of the Fabian Socialist movement, George Bernard Shaw, said "Under Socialism, you would not be allowed to be poor. You would be forcibly fed, clothed, lodged, taught, and employed whether you liked it or not. If it were discovered that you had not the character and industry enough to be worth all this trouble, you might possibly be executed in a kindly manner; but whilst you were permitted to live, you would have to live well." Is that the America we want?

Recently, we have seen an acceleration of the move toward socialism as the government has implemented even more controls over the economy under the pretense of protecting the people from potentially “evil corporations”. This has also manifested itself in the “Occupy” movement and the cries of 1% vs 99%. No matter how you feel about this movement, the intentions are clear.

In the minds of Fabian Socialists, the State is the protector of the common man on all fronts. The price we will pay for that protection is our liberty. In essence, this will become a modern feudal society with all wealth belonging to the State.

Just how far have we travelled and is this a road we want to be on?

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Parma Observer

Joe The Coach; My View On Sports

by Joseph Finding

This month, I can see where the Browns and the draft are going to cause me problems and nightmares. I had lunch last week with ex-college coaching friends of mine and we had a good conversation of what we thought the Browns should draft. We came to the conclusion that they should not trade their draft positions, but keep them to draft what they really need. All of us but one thought we should draft a quality right offensive tackle to help our QBs. But who is that guy? Adams, from OSU, or someone else? We definitely see a need for an offensive right tackle who can block and physically hold up. Seeing that during free agency we didn't invest in a QB, the Browns must feel what we have will work out. We shall see. We also felt that a quality receiver is a real need and free agency didn't help us there, either. Justin Blackmom seems like he would be a good draft choice and a big wide out we need. The group thought that too. Oh, yes, we forgot Southern Cal's Matt Kallil. he might be a good fit in at offensive tackle if available at draft

time. We thought if the Browns want a QB, Texas A.M. Ryan Tannehill might work out, but some of the coaches thought that Brandon Weeden might be able to work in; your guess is as good as ours. If Josh Cribbs keeps driving at 103 miles per hour, we might miss him. He is a good kid through a personal conversation, and I really don't want to see him hurt or killed. He truly wants to win, we need to use him more. From here on we really didn't agree on much except that we were all in favor of the overtime rule this year. And a couple of us have decided to donate our brains to science to study, from the number of concussions we've had. I just heard on ESPN that the NY Jets want to trade up to number 4 to get the wide out they want. I think the Browns would be hurting themselves to trade away the 4th pick, take the best athlete with it, they need a receiver too. Enough about football for now. Let me know what you think.

We are getting down to playoffs with most teams with only a couple of games. The pros had a short season. I understand that Ron Aretest made his season even shorter by throwing an elbow and giving his opponent a concussion. Boy, there was no reason for that. I am really enjoying the young Cavs. They really play hard and never quit. It's so nice to watch a young team that plays as a team. Maybe they can pick up a true center through the draft. Make all the games exciting, especially Irving, he makes LeBron look like a nobody. But we have a lot of young talent on this team. Our championship might be red before LeBron's. Wouldn't that be great? Unfortunately, Jamison and Parker probably won't be back, and they were stabilizing members of this team. Maybe they will reconsider and stay another year: thank you guys! At least there will be two teams that will finish below the Cavs in our division. Maybe next year we will be in the play-

offs.

Can you believe the Indians are only 1/2 games out first place? I didn't think we would be close, the way the season started, and here we are in second place. Our hitting seems to lack any consistent hitters, but I hope they come through quickly. I personally wish that Acta would let our starts finish a game, even when they hit their 100 pitch count. If the pitcher of the opener would have finished the game, we would have won. Our hitting leaves a lot to be desired, but they are young. Hitting will be a real challenge to teach. Hope the kids can learn quickly. I guess Hanahan is coming into his own, and

I see he will fight if he believes someone is wrong. I hate to see any pitcher throwing at anyone. I was a catcher and batted without a helmet, like your Dads, and we know that ball is hard. The bull pen looks pretty good, and I hope they keep it up. The bull pen is most of the key to a season.

I am sorry to our local kids in Parma, but I am running my article too long. I promise I will make it up to you next time. I am sorry even to my own eight grandchildren because they are in sports, but Grandpa hasn't mentioned them yet. But I will get to all the kids of the Parma area.

The First Year Pilot Of SPARK Cuyahoga Delivers Significant Results In Preparing Children For Kindergarten

by Katherine Bulava

The Literacy Cooperative has received and analyzed data measuring the first year pilot of SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids) in Cuyahoga County and the results are very promising.

As part its mission to improve lives by enhancing literacy, The Literacy Cooperative is piloting SPARK in selected communities in Cuyahoga County as a model for increasing early childhood literacy and school-readiness. SPARK is an in-home tutoring program that links children and parents in at-risk communities with a Parent Partner who guides the child and parent through a proven curriculum and also serves as a resource, providing parents with ways to incorporate learning into daily home activities. Parent Partners also help connect children and families to resources they may need.

The Literacy Cooperative collaborates with Invest in Children and

Family Connections to offer SPARK in partnership with elementary schools in the Maple Heights, Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Cleveland school districts. The schools that participated in the first year of SPARK Cuyahoga are Boulevard, Noble, and Oxford Elementary Schools in Cleveland Heights; Raymond Elementary School in Maple Heights; and Michael R. White, Clark, and Clara Westropp Elementary Schools in Cleveland.

SPARK results are measured in a number of ways. First, the results of the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment - Literacy (KRA-L), a literacy readiness assessment given to all Ohio children prior to or shortly after their entrance to kindergarten, were compared for children that had participated in SPARK versus those who had not. KRA-L scores fall into three bands: children in Band 1 (scores 0-13) require intense instruction; children

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Parma Observer

Guitarmania Blends With Tri-C Students For Artistic Tunes

by Jack Marschall

Meghan Pierce speaks with a non-stop tempo that quickly displays her passion and determination for accomplishing goals. Her personality is appropriately built for speed because she has a lot on her plate. Her latest project is a nine-foot tall Fender® Stratocaster® guitar.

Meghan's artistic talent is painting, not playing, the giant replica as part of the United Way's annual Guitarmania® fundraising campaign. She is an art therapy student who describes her studio as tiny lair, a cramped, backstage corner of the Tri-C® Western Campus Theatre that is accessible only by an exterior entrance at the end of an overhead walkway. In reality, it's a refuge from Meghan's hectic lifestyle.

Meghan is one of four art students (list of others below) chosen from hundreds of Tri-C applicants to paint a guitar at each campus. Meghan's design concept -- fishing -- was a given. Fishing, particularly with her cousin Michelle, is a hobby Meghan enjoys for the serenity it provides. She admits that weaving fishing into a winning application was the tricky part.

"I was hoping to tie-in fishing with Cuyahoga Community College and I thought of the Cuyahoga River. I had the idea to show the river and paint the fish that live there, like Catfish and Walleye. I just started drawing it from a picture of my cousin and me. The concept has always been when you fish, you are providing for yourself. Then it hit me, "Teach a man to fish," just like



Meghan Pierce

Tri-C does with education and opportunities.

"It was perfect -- pulling people up and giving them the tools they need to be successful. The happy, bright colors are a tribute to Tri-C and how I feel about nature and about my school." Meghan's guitar is called, "Teach a Man to Fish and You Feed Him for a Lifetime."

Meghan, 27, graduated from Brecksville High School in 2003 and decided to put her plans for college on hold. Instead, she entered the local business world. Her many jobs included managing an Arabica coffee house, working as an assistant manager at a pizza shop and becoming the lead cake decorator at a Giant Eagle Supermarket. Last fall, she decided it was time to hit the books and make Cuyahoga Community College her full-time job.

Meghan says she likes working with people and expressing her feelings through colorful paintings of people,

places and even oversized guitars. Her love of art is equal to her affection for Tri-C. She is a walking public service announcement for the college.

"I'm taking 19 credits this semester, so I'm like a freshman and a half," said Meghan, laughing as she painted her multi-colored guitar. "I'm lucky to be in the Honors program at Tri-C, and I'm lucky to have a four-point average. I'm also keeping busy by running for student government.

"I'm majoring in psychology, but I want to be an art therapist for our growing elderly population. My dream is to go to Columbia University in New York for my master's and, if I'm lucky, my Ph.D. It'll be a lot of schooling, but I think I can do it. I know I can.

"There is so much going on here, I can't believe it. I'm treasurer of the Philosophy Club, vice-president of the Psychology Club and I'm going to be the secretary of the Science Club. The opportunities are endless. Tri-C reaches out to the community to help make things better for everyone. We are environmentally friendly and we offer programs for all ages, especially for those in need. I like the idea that Tri-C makes education a more affordable option to people in the community because there aren't jobs available that

used to be out there, and now education is almost mandatory in order to become employable. Tri-C is a stepping stone to go to the next level, whatever that may be, so that no one in our community falls through the cracks."

As Meghan finishes one project, it's on to another. She says you never know what's around the corner. "I've got a full class load, club meetings, the student government election, and now I've got a giant guitar. I can't believe how lucky I am."

United Way will soon display more than 60 painted Guitarmania guitars around Greater Cleveland before they are auctioned-off as part of the organization's fundraising effort.

"If I end up in New York, I'll just have to find a comfortable fishing spot along the Hudson River. I know I'm ready for that, but I also know I'll miss my time spent at Tri-C."

Other Tri-C Guitarmania artists:

Eastern Campus, James Stubbs is painting "Notes from the Sol" on his guitar

Metropolitan Campus, Storm Blanchard is painting "Peace of Mind"

Westshore Campus, Danette Konkloy is painting "Shining Light of the West Shore"



Tri-C student Meghan Pierce puts the finishing touches on her Guitarmania artwork, "Teach a Man to Fish and You Feed Him for a Lifetime."

Fire Safety - Helpful At Any Age

by Kimberly Merryman Sherer, MBA

You are never too old to learn fire safety. That is what students from the Parma Adult Education program learned on April 3. Inspector Ciarrone from the Parma Fire Department explained to students what to look for to keep their homes safe, how to put out fires and provided useful demonstrations. Some even tried on their special fire gear.

Teacher Kelly Cooper said, "This truly was the best field trip I have ever been on with my students. They learned so much and so did I. We are grateful to Inspector Ciarrone and the Parma Fire Department for sharing so much information and educating us on fire safety."

The Parma ABLE program offers free GED and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes throughout Cuyahoga County. If you would like more information, contact 440-885-8797 or log on to www.parmacityschools.org/able.



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Parma Observer

Caregivers Kitchen:

Are They Really All Right?

by Patty Knox

One of the most frequent thing I hear in talking to others who have aging relatives they are concerned about is, “They seem to be doing all right.” Or, “There haven’t been any serious problems yet.” Or, “They haven’t asked for any help, and I don’t want to offend them.”

Let’s think about this together. If you were listening to a friend describe the same scenario as your loved one is in, what would you advise?

Too often, we err on the side of not wanting to interfere, of not wanting to offer advice that’s not wanted, of being afraid of stepping on toes in suggesting less independence and more assistance. But all too often, we don’t find out until something tragic does happen. Our loved ones don’t want to bother us, they don’t want to worry us, and they are afraid of giving over what little control they have left over their own destinies. It might not be that they don’t trust us to help; it may be that by accepting our help, they are afraid of admitting that they can no longer function independently, and they aren’t ready to admit that to themselves, let alone someone else.

Stubborn people. More than anything else, that’s what seems to plague the caregiving Boomers about their parents. One coworker friend is a good example: his mother passed away a few years ago, his father lives alone in a place that’s too big for him and won’t downsize. His daughter lives some distance away and isn’t in a position to be able to move. The father could get a much less expensive apartment in the same large apartment building where the daughter and also another son live. The daughter could visit daily,

feed him homemade food instead of the expensive, less nourishing food he’s eating now, and she could spend more time with him without it being the hardship it is now. But he won’t move, and he can’t take care of himself. He just won’t give up where he’s used to living. He complains of having no money, but he’s in denial about the expense of maintaining his former lifestyle. The son who now manages his finances and is accused by the father of all sorts of false things couldn’t be more honest; his father just insists on living beyond his means, which puts a huge strain on the children to try to keep the father happy at great sacrifice to themselves, all because of stubbornness and an unwillingness to face facts.

While I am still in my right mind, I will write out my wishes along with my expectations that if these are a huge burden to my children to carry out as stated due to unforeseen circumstances, then they are to do what seems best to them. Before such a time as I may get paranoid or suffer from any number of old age illnesses, I will con-

The First Year Pilot Of SPARK Cuyahoga Delivers Significant Results

continued from page 9

in Band 2 (scores 14-23) need targeted instruction; and children in Band 3 (scores 24-29) are considered ready for kindergarten.

2011 SPARK Cuyahoga children, who attained an average score of 19.3, scored statistically significantly higher than their non-SPARK peers, who scored an average of 16.5. SPARK children are more likely to be ready for kindergarten than their non-SPARK peers.

In Cleveland, the effect of SPARK participation on KRA-L scores is even more pronounced; SPARK children in three CMSD schools (Clark, Clara Westropp and Michael R. White) averaged 17.2 on the KRA-L while their non-SPARK peers averaged 12.8. SPARK children inClevelandare four times more likely to be ready for kindergarten than their non-SPARK peers.

Additionally, SPARK Cuyahoga children experienced significant improvement in letter word identification, story recall, understanding directions, spelling, passage comprehension and applied problems on the Woodcock-Johnson III assessment.

In an effort to promote parent engagement, SPARK Parent Partners guide parents in a variety of activities to promote learning in the home. Parents

are encouraged to use learning materials such as books, puzzles and games to provide academic stimulation and to engage in conversation with their child to increase vocabulary and comprehension. Using a measurement tool called the HOME (Home Observation Measure of the Environment), SPARK Cuyahoga data shows a significant number of SPARK Cuyahoga parents moved from “below the national median” to the “national median or above in all three categories: in use of learning materials, language stimulation, and academic stimulation. Again, withClevelandparticipants the positive results were even more pronounced.

“We are excited to see such positive results for SPARK Cuyahoga,” said Robert E. Paponetti, Executive Director of The Literacy Cooperative. “As we expand and refine the program, our goal is to significantly enhance future opportunities for children to begin kindergarten ready to learn.”

SPARK is generously supported by the United Way of Greater Cleveland, The PNC Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, The Martha Holden-Jennings Foundation, The Third Federal Foundation, The Stocker Foundation, and The Abington Foundation.

Background information on

ence.

And here is my favorite World’s Best Homemade Macaroni and Cheese recipe to give you some comfort and prepare quickly in the microwave (or bake if you prefer).

RECIPE WILL GO HERE!

Praying for a smoother month ahead for you and your cared-for. Caregiving is hard enough, without having your loved one doubt your intentions; not to mention relatives who are quick to criticize but nowhere around when help is needed. Take a break. Relax. Know that you are appreciated by the one who sees all things, and knows the thoughts and intents of every heart, the Lord God. He sees how much you do, how hard you work. He knows you’re doing the best you can. Smile and know that you are loved.

Let me know what’s on your mind at alzheimerrannie@yahoo.com. Thanks for reading the Parma Observer and this column, and have a merry month of May!

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Parma Observer

Safety Walkabouts Off To Successful Start

by Jeannie Roberts

By all accounts, Parma's Safety Walkabouts are off to another rousing start, if the first two weeks are any indication. Parma safety officials visited residents on streets in two wards last month, and by the end of fall, hope to make it to all nine wards. This is the sixth year that members of Parma Police, along with the Mayor, and members of City Council, have visited Parma residents door to door in an effort to educate residents and to listen to their concerns about street or neighborhood safety. The program, says Safety Director Greg Baeppler, is all about communication. "It's really an exchange of information," he said. "We talk to them about basic household and property safety, things like 'don't forget to close your garage door' and they have the opportunity to tell us about things going on in their neighborhood. It's a great program all the way around."

Mayor Tim DeGeeter agrees completely. "Residents are very receptive to this program because they understand that we are being proactive about the

safety of their homes and neighborhoods," he said. "We want to know what their concerns are because knowing that helps us all to do our jobs better."

Ward Four Councilman Brian Day enjoyed the interaction with residents in his area. "I think the residents really appreciated us getting out in the neighborhoods and interacting with them," he said. "The Walkabout Program gives us the opportunity to address issues, answer questions and provide beneficial safety information. "Some issues that were discussed, according to Day, involved more police presence in the neighborhoods, questionable activity in the neighborhood and having property maintenance issues addressed. "The weather was very nice, so there were many residents outside enjoying the sunny day," he said. "The response was excellent."

Ward 2 Councilwoman Debbie Lime also had good things to say about the success of the Walkabout in her ward. "The residents love it, and when they see everybody walking down

the street, they wonder what is happening, and then they are waiting for us when we get to their house," Lime said. "It's awesome. I wish we could do more of it." Lime cited the convenience for the resident that the Mayor, the Safety Director, the Police Chief and the Councilperson are all right there on their front doorstep. "They automatically have someone's ear right there," she said. "They don't have to come to City Hall to meet their safety officials. City Hall comes to them."



Councilwoman Debbie Lime joins Mayor Tim DeGeeter on Ward 2 Walkabout

Polish Celebration Just In Time To Show Off Village Improvements

continued from page 1

it is installed – probably by mid-June, it will be the ninth building mural in Parma. The others are at Nikki's Café, Good Old Daze, Parma Lock Shoppe, Lviv International Foods, Dr. Baiko (2), State Meats and Little Polish Diner. Colazza's mural will have a colorful, Italian theme.

The Polish Constitution Day celebration will last all weekend, culminating in the 64th annual Polish Constitution Day Parade on Sunday at 2 p.m. The parade will start at Parma Circle on Ridge Road and proceed north to Essen Avenue. Following the parade, there will be an after-party behind the Little Polish Diner (5772 Ridge Road) featuring Polish food, live music and dancing.

Before the parade, though, there will be a Polish Happy Hour, including live music and homemade Polish foods, on Friday, May 4, from 6 p.m. until midnight at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. The following night of May 5 will host the Polonia Ball at the Smallwood Center featuring live music by Jimmy K with Ethnic Jazz.



For more information and reservations for the nights of May 4 and 5, please contact Wayne Machnicki at (216) 288-8948 or visit www.polishamericancongress-ohio.com

Polish Constitution Day celebrates Poland's May 3, 1791 adoption of the first constitution of its type in Europe which was a milestone in Poland's – and the world's – legal history, as well as in the history of democracy. It was the first constitution to follow the 1788 ratification of the United States' Constitution and showed notable similarities in the approach to and design of a political system.



A new yellow bench in Ukrainian Heritage Park on State Road is like red ones in Polish Village on Ridge.

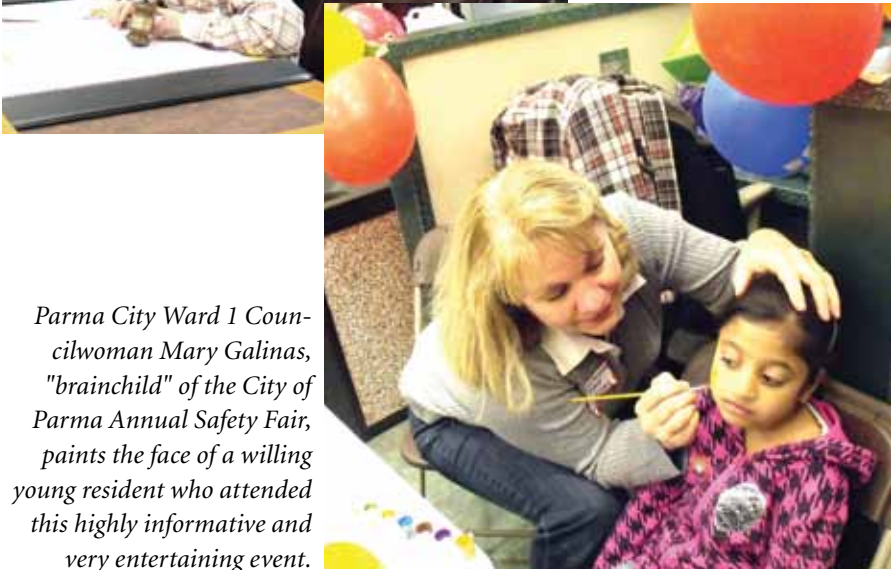
Parma Safety Fair April 28th



Parma Police Chief Robert Miller listening to the concerns of a resident attending the City of Parma Annual Safety Fair held at the Parma Justice Center on April 28th.



Parma Municipal Court Judge O'Donnell helps a young citizen to understand the justice system and to experience what it feels like to sit behind the bench in her courtroom.



Parma City Ward 1 Councilwoman Mary Galinas, "brainchild" of the City of Parma Annual Safety Fair, paints the face of a willing young resident who attended this highly informative and very entertaining event.