

“ The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be”- Paul Valery

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Mayor's In, Mayor's Out A Hit With Participating Residents

by Jeanie Roberts

One resident said he feels like he's making a direct difference in his city. Another cited Mayor Tim DeGeeter's pro-active approach in asking residents to speak to him directly about their issues. A third added that he feels "really listened to" and that his concerns were given sincere attention. Regardless of the issue they brought forth, every resident who showed up to speak with DeGeeter on his first Mayor's In, Mayor's Out evening – about 10 - said the same thing on their way out: "What a great program – this is a very good idea."

The mayor felt that way, too, after his first two-hour session greeting residents who came to his office at City Hall for one-on-one conversations about the subject

of their choice. "Some of the things that people brought to me are things that we already know are concerns," he said. "Other things were brand new ideas for Parma, and some of them really intrigued me. I enjoyed the conversations, and I hope that residents did as well. I appreciate people taking the time to come and talk, and I am following up on what they brought to me."

The program will continue this month "out" at a public location – the time and place will be announced in local media outlets, on the City of Parma Facebook page and from @ParmaMayor on Twitter. "As a concerned resident and businessman who is committed to making Parma all it can be, I was very pleased with the attention my concerns and ideas received



Parma resident Craig Hartman speaks with Mayor DeGeeter at Mayor's In, Mayor's Out.

Parma Hospital's OR First In Cleveland To Integrate 3DHD Laparoscopy

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital is the first hospital in the greater Cleveland area to integrate a three-dimensional (3D) high definition (HD) surgical vision system into its operating room. The addition of the 3DHD Vision System from Viking Systems provides the hospital with a fully integrated 3DHD laparoscopic operating suite.

While surgeons performing open procedures could view a patient's anatomy in three dimensions using their eyes, the advent of laparoscopic surgery limited such visualization to two dimensions in favor of the patient benefits offered by minimally invasive laparoscopy. Some surgical specialties have been re-introduced to the benefits of 3DHD vision through the hospital's robotic surgical system. Laparoscopic visualization comes full circle with the introduction of a stand-alone 3DHD visualization system.



A surgeon with the 3D HD system.

"Operating with 3DHD is the best of both worlds," says Carson Wong, MD, FRCSC, FACS, medical director of the Center for Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery at Parma Community General Hospital. "Our patients continue to

continued on page 2

from the mayor," said Wayne Mesker, owner of Worldstock Entertainment. "I consider myself a fairly good judge of character, and I find Tim DeGeeter to be sincere, honest and open-minded." As did Craig Hartman.

"It was immediately apparent that the mayor was ready to listen to each and

every person who took the time to come and meet with him," Hartman said. "It was also interesting talking to the others in attendance before my turn, realizing that our feelings about the city were very similar, although our comments and issues we were bringing to the mayor were very different."

That's one of the reasons DeGeeter believes in this program. "I know that Parma residents are passionate about their community, and this is a way for me personally to know what their concerns are and to consider ideas that they bring about how to make Parma an even

continued on page 2

Parma Resident Peg Gautcher Celebrates 100th Birthday

by Myrtis Litman

Margaret (Peg) Gautcher, nee Winters, was born May 10th, 1912. She attended Jane Adams High School, majoring in dressmaking. She became a professional dressmaker, specializing in wedding gowns.

About 50 of her family, friends and bridge buddies gathered at daughter Barb Glynn's Parma home, where Peg lives, to celebrate her 100th birthday.

Peg has been playing bridge since she was 12 years old. A dearly loved regular at the Parma Senior Center Friday Bridge Group, she holds her own with the best of the players.

Peg has three children, six grandchildren, seven great

grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. Cameras

were busy taking five-generation pictures.



In this photo, Peg is seated right, with some of her bridge buddies. Around her clockwise, also seated, Barb Murdoch, standing is Dan Taddeo, Joe Biel, Bob Murdoch, and me, Myrtis Litman.

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. Normally my column represents the latest in a series in which I will provide you, the reader, with a monthly glimpse into your local government. However, this month I have decided to go on a hiatus and write to inform you about an issue and related local events that are near and dear to my heart and, I trust, many others in the community.

Ten years ago I became involved as a volunteer with the American Cancer Society (ACS) Relay for Life. I had never really had anyone very close to me affected by cancer, but I had several friends who encouraged me to join them in the cause and it sounded like fun. Needless to say, after my first Relay, I was hooked on this extremely moving event that raises millions of dollars for cancer research, outreach programs, etc. In fact, here in Parma, we became a \$1 million Relay last summer, after raising well over \$100,000 a year over the past several years.

In March, 2011, my mom called me to give me the bad news. The breast cancer she had beaten the previous fall was back with a vengeance. Our entire family was devastated, but ready for the fight once again. Tragically, on April 18, about twenty minutes after I left the hospital in Sandusky on my home to Parma to get a few things in order before going back to be with mom, my sister called and begged me to get back right away – that mom had taken a very sudden turn for the worse. When I arrived, mom was gone. I will never forget the dizzy feeling I felt when I arrived

Parma Hospital's OR First In Cleveland To Integrate 3DHD Laparoscopy

continued from page 1

experience the benefits of laparoscopic surgery, while our surgeons gain the critical depth perception we lost with conventional 2D laparoscopy."

The new 3DHD Vision System complements the da Vinci Si robot surgical platform Parma Hospital began utilizing last year. Parma Hospital has the only fully integrated 3DHD minimally invasive operating suite in the greater Cleveland area at this time.

"Parma Community General Hospital understands that being at the forefront of the technology curve is of value not only to the surgeons and the hospital but also our patients," says Terrence G. Deis, Parma Hospital's president & CEO. "We are pleased to be the leader in this area, and it emphasizes our commitment to providing high quality care in a more personalized, community environment."



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

at the hospital and saw mom on the bed. I will never forget the last hours I spent holding her hand that last day. It took me back to the days when I was a young boy holding her hand crossing the street, walking through the mall, prancing on the beach...Where have the years gone?

I know that many of you can relate to the pain, the frustration and sadness that cancer causes the patient and the caregiver. That is why I am even more committed to the mission of the ACS than ever before. In fact, this summer I am directing the Second Annual American Cancer Society Parma Area Relay for Life 5K Run/

Walk for the Pierogies sponsored by Parma Community General Hospital on Saturday, July 7, at Cuyahoga Community College's (CCC) Western Campus at 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road. I want to invite you to stop by to run or walk with us. You can run or walk the entire 5K (3.1 mile) course, walk the one-mile course or simply make a donation and watch the crowd. Last summer we hosted 433 runners and walkers and are hoping to top 500 this year!

Pre-registration is \$20 and includes your entry fee, a t-shirt, drinks, snacks, door prizes, awards to the top males and females in various age groups, and pierogies courtesy of Parma's own Little Polish Diner and Krakow Deli. Registration may be completed online at www.hermescleveland.com or by calling (440) 884-0489 for a registration form. The race/walk will begin at 8:30 am. I hope you will consider coming out for a great cause and a great time!

Later in the month on July 27, the American Cancer Society Parma Area Relay for Life will take place at CCC-West beginning at 6:00 pm. This is the annual culminating event and is always so much fun. If you have never experienced a Relay for Life, I encourage your to check it out. You are sure to be moved by the Survivor Lap and the many other wonderful events that take place during this twenty-four hour fes-

Mayor's In, Mayor's Out A Hit With Participating Residents

continued from page 1

better place to live."

Another resident was pleased that Mayor DeGeeter is just as earnest as was Councilman DeGeeter.

"He was my Councilman before he became state representative, and he has always been pro-active," she said. "He was always out walking, trying to get input from people in the neighborhood. If there was a problem, he took care of it right away, got right to work on it. So it doesn't surprise me that he's doing these one-on-ones."

She continued: "To think that the city could enact suggestions from its residents is very empowering. For the mayor to take time to talk to the 'little guy' was just a wonderful experience."

Added another resident: "I just want to thank the mayor for the opportunity to bring my concerns to his attention. Even though what I brought was a problem, he listened sincerely. I really hope that this program continues, as it can only be seen as a benefit to the whole community."

Summer Band Concert Series Starts This Month

by Jeanie Roberts

Maybe you remember that Parma and Parma Heights, in partnership with Cox Communications, signed an agreement earlier this year to present a series of summer band concerts that will entertain residents in both cities and beyond.

Well, the time is nearly here!

The first of 10 shows will begin this month, on June 24 at Parma's Anthony Zielinski Park. This summer, five shows will be held at Zielinski Park in Parma and five at the Greenbriar Commons in Parma Heights.

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.

"This is a perfect example of the relatively simple ways communities can create partnerships that are mutually beneficial," Parma Mayor Tim 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."

tival. To find out more, simply Google "Parma Area Relay for Life" to find the homepage, Facebook page, etc.

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 and community. Thank you to the many folks who have contacted me with ideas. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilman-brennan@sbcglobal.net. See you this summer!



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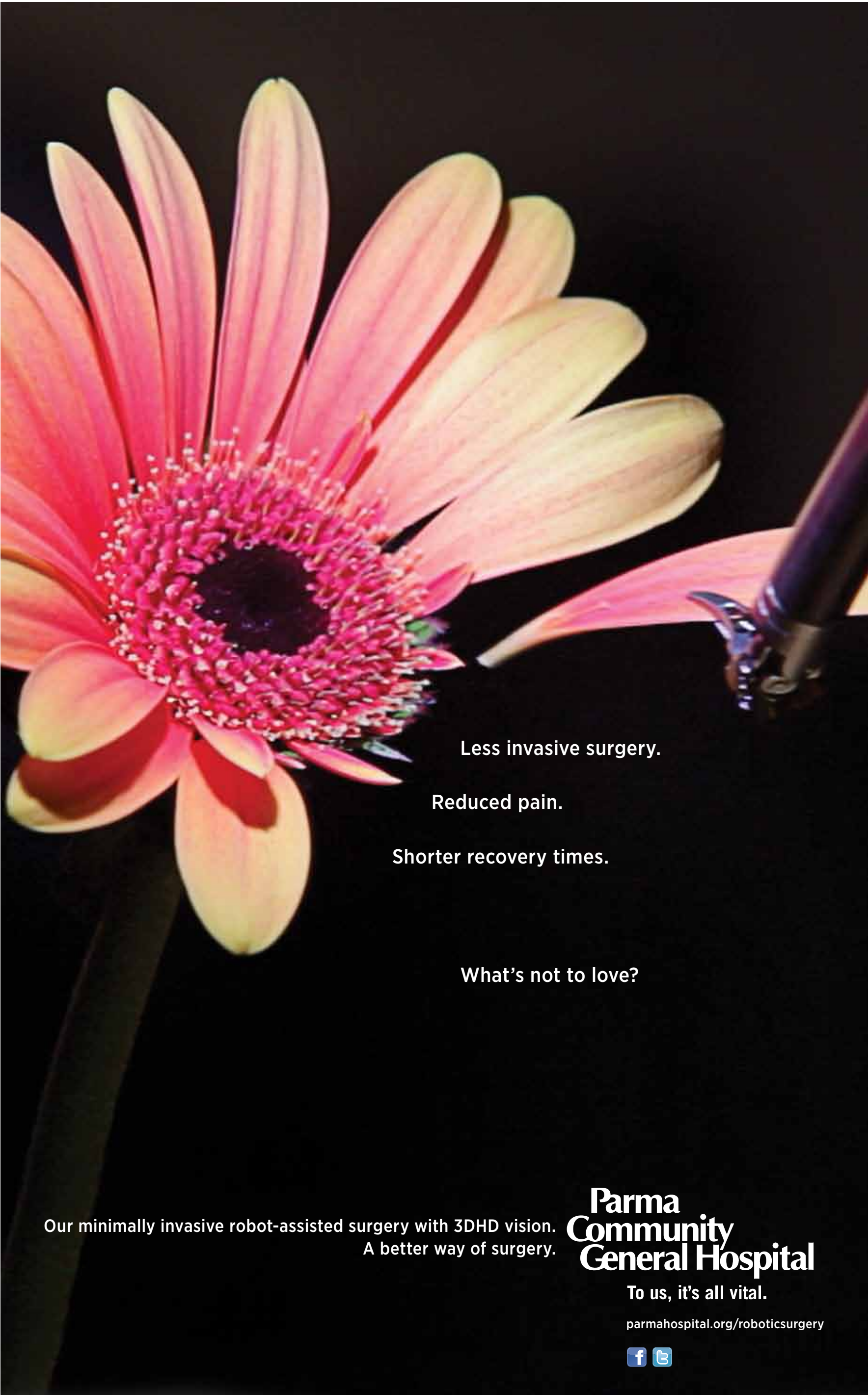
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Parma Observer

ElderCenter Offers Driver Assessments For Older Adults

by CJ Sheppard

Stay behind the wheel – or retire – with confidence after receiving a driver assessment at Parma Hospital's ElderCenter.

Parma Hospital's ElderCenter now offers Beyond Driving with Dignity, a valuable service to the older population that is a program of Keeping Us Safe, a national organization founded by a retired Ohio State Highway Patrolman to keep older drivers safe on the roads.

Older drivers and their families have a new advocate for evaluating driver safety skills through Lisa Profio, an LPN with nearly four decades of experience in nursing, primarily with older adults. Profio has been professionally certified to assess drivers through Beyond Driving with Dignity. At ElderCenter's Club program, Profio runs a daily program for participants with early stage dementia or Alzheimer's disease in memory enhancement, civic projects, exercise and socialization.

"The driver makes the decision at the end of our session based on how they do with all the tools and exercises," Profio says. "The



Lisa Profio of the ElderCenter evaluates older drivers through Beyond Driving with Dignity.

outcome is either that they drive, perhaps with restrictions such as no nighttime driving, or they retire from driving. In the end, it's their choice."

The program costs \$250 for the assessment, which includes a workbook and resources to keep. For more information or to register, call 440-743-2777.



Jeremy Cottrell holds ribbon while Dad get ready to cut

Yorktown Lanes Celebrates With Grand Opening

by Kathryn Yates

The newly refurbished Yorktown Lanes on Pearl Rd. in Parma Hts., held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the re-opening of the alley after the devastating fire on August 16th, 2011. Although the lanes had been opened to the public for several weeks, the event made it official and hundreds of well-wishers, along with public officials and media were in attendance. City Council member, Jim McCall and Council-At-Large, Robert Verdile assisted owner Michael Cottrell, his son Jeremy, and a host of family and friends as they stretched the ribbon across the expanse of at least six lanes. Prior to the ribbon-cutting, the public was treated to a 20-minute video montage of the fire and the toll it took on the bowling alley, as well as the clean-up and rebuilding.

Mr. Cottrell recalled the night the fire happened, it was his birthday, he said. Mike had gotten a call from his sister-in-law and he "thought the firemen were there to blow the candles out on his cake!"

The owner then swung the attention to four firefighters in garb who were present at the event. They smiled humbly amidst the applause

and camera flashes as the crowd parted to view them in admiration.

The extensive fire damage as well as the smoke and water damage made it necessary to give the facility a complete overhauling. Only the mechanical pinsetters, ball returns, and lanes were not replaced. The service counter, snack bar area, lounge, and even the bathrooms have been tastefully renovated and the carpeting and lane backdrop express a desire to move forward in time and space.

"The Mayor wanted to congratulate you for getting through these eight months," said Jim McCall, "and look for many more years."

Scheduler to Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Michael Patterson, presented Mr. Cottrell with a Congressional Certificate of Recognition. The owner was visibly touched.

The family has owned the bowling alley since 1959.

Scheduler for Congressman Kucinich, Michael Patterson presents owner Michael Cottrell with Congressional Certificate of Recognition

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Asset Corner #30

by Gene Lovasy

June’s Asset Category: BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATION

Boundaries are important to young people because they give clear messages about what’s expected, what is approved and celebrated, and what deserves censure. By the same token, caring adults who expect young people to do their best help them to learn good judgment. Every day young people face many options and choices. Boundaries and expectations provide young people with the support they need to choose wisely.

Boundaries and Expectation Assets Include:

- #11 Family Boundaries – Family has clear rules & consequences & monitors the young person’s whereabouts. (46%*)
- #12 School Boundaries – School provides clear rules & consequences. (52*)
- #13 Neighborhood Boundaries – Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior. (47%*)
- #14 Adult Role Models – Parent/s & other adults model responsible behavior. (27%*)
- #15 Positive Peer Influence – Young person’s best friends model responsible behavior. (63%*)
- #16 High Expectations – Both parent/s & teachers encourage the young person to do well. (48%*)

(* 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 14 Adult Role Models

Young eyes are watching you.....

Sometimes adults do things they aren’t proud of—swear, watch too much television, abuse alcohol, argue. Making mistakes is understandable, but remember young people look up to adults. They see you—especially if you’re a parent—as the type of person they want to become someday. They want heroes. That’s why it’s so important to be the best person you can be.

Here are the facts:

Research shows that young people are more likely to exhibit positive, responsible behavior when they have parents and other adults in their lives who model positive, responsible behavior. Having good role models is one of the greatest desires of most young people. However, only 27 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say

their parents and other adults model positive, responsible behavior, according to Search Institute surveys. Let’s all try a little harder to “practice what we preach.”

Tips for building this asset:

According to experts, what most young people need more than anything else in their lives is positive social interaction with adults. These interactions expose young people to real-life heroes. Be a role model for the young people around you, and help them find other responsible adults to be part of

their lives as well. The more positive role models young people have, the better!

Also try this:

In your home and family: Do your best to model appropriate behavior at all times. When you make mistakes, admit them. Apologize for missteps.

In your neighborhood and community group: Don’t be afraid to start a conversation with a young person in your neighborhood. Begin by asking: How did you meet your best friend? What is your favorite family tradition?

In your school or youth program: As a group, list questions young people



Parma H.S. DECA students, Kelly Quinn (L) and Brittany Klatt with Bryan Stanton, Parma Area Family Collaborative Care Supervisor.

Observations: God's F.L.A.G.

by Daniel Taddeo

This article evolved from gleaning a devotional that appeared in "Christ in Our Home" by writer Anna Seden. Faith is having confidence, trust and dependence on something that cannot be proven, especially by reasoning. "It is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see and without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Hebrew 11:1.6

Faith then, is confidence in the absolute truthfulness of every statement, which comes from God. It requires complete unquestioning acceptance, especially something not supported by reason, even in the absence of proof. Love is an active and positive response to the need(s) of another person(s). "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always

protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments in one word—Love. "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself." God promises that those who live by these words will be blessed and be a blessing to others.

Allegiance is a formal tie to that which one may choose to devote his or her loyalty. The focus here is God’s laws as recorded in the Scripture. "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all of His commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you (and your country) high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. You will be blessed when you come in and be blessed when you go out." Deuteronomy 28:1-3, 6. Blessings are the product of obedience. Also, it needs to be noted that the opposite is just as true.

Grace is the love and favor that God shows toward people even though

they do not deserve it. It frees us from our sinful nature. Our good works, as important as they are, cannot do it alone. "For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so no one can boast." God’s grace has the power to reclaim us from our sins and free us from its bondage, making Salvation a reality. We are saved not by what we do but by God’s grace according to our faith. Thus, our good works will be a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives. As we continue on life’s journey, may we focus on the virtues stated above; they are consistent with Biblical teaching:

ASSET RELATED NEWS:

A special thank you to the Parma Rotary for once again hosting the always popular fishing derby for over 100 special students from Pleasant Valley Elementary. Mother Nature, Pine Hills Golf Course, GFS Food Service, Rotary members and a host of volunteers all contributed to making this a truly memorable event.

Though unavailable by press time watch for and expect to see a variety of summer programs and/or events for our youth hosted by the Parma Area Family Collaborative and MyCom/Shiloh Café.

The final amount received for the Backpack For Kids project came to over \$2,500. This means that at least 230 kids will be attending the 2012 - 2013 school year with brand spanking new backpacks filled with a quantity of appropriate supplies. Thank you to all the individuals & companies for their donations and congratulations to the Parma Area Family Collaborative and KIKS Office for all their hard work. A special thank you goes to Parma H.S. DECA students Kelly Quinn & Brittany Klatt who organized an in-school fundraiser, raising \$300 for the project.

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.

they do not deserve it. It frees us from our sinful nature. Our good works, as important as they are, cannot do it alone. "For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so no one can boast." God’s grace has the power to reclaim us from our sins and free us from its bondage, making Salvation a reality. We are saved not by what we do but by God’s grace according to our faith. Thus, our good works will be a reflection of God’s grace at work in our lives. As we continue on life’s journey, may we focus on the virtues stated above; they are consistent with Biblical teaching:

- FAITH to wear
- LOVE to care
- ALLEGIENCE to bear
- GRACE to share

May our attitude be one of gratitude for what we have, rather than focus on what we don’t have. May choosing to pledge allegiance to God’s F.L.A.G. prove to be a blessing to you.

Observing Education

Tri-C West Connects Cleveland High School Students To Career Opportunities At Annual Hispanic Education Conference

by Jack Marshall

More than 100 Cleveland high school students learned of technical career opportunities, April 27, during the 19TH Annual Hispanic Education Conference at the Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Western Campus in Parma. Those participating attend James Rhodes, Max Hayes, Lincoln West, Garrett Morgan and Cleveland Central Catholic High Schools.

“One of our many goals is to break down the stereotypes for these students and help them understand that they control their own destiny,” said Diana Del Rosario, Dean, Student Affairs Office at the Tri-C Western Campus. “The reality is a two-year college is more affordable and attainable at a time when many of these students have a fear of what they’re going to do when they finish high school, not to mention finding the money to pay for classes. We offer tools such as financial aid and scholarships to reach out to them in a practical and meaningful way.”

“The highlight of this year’s event is featuring what you might consider to be ‘hot’ jobs for young men,” said

Sylvia Royle, Administrative Assistant, Hispanic Council. “Cleveland schools have told us they are graduating only 20 to 30 percent of their male, minority population, and that includes Hispanics. This is an ideal recruitment tool to encourage them to stay in school while helping them become employable.”

“We know the only two populations growing in the city of Cleveland are Asian and Hispanics,” said Del Rosario. “We want to make sure their earning potential and their contribution to our region is greater as they’re being educated. Working to earn a degree helps them stay on track, remain in school and stay motivated. That’s what this day is all about – saying, ‘yes you can.’”

The event was entitled Career Pathways. Presentations included the following: College, Careers & Money, Advanced Technology Academy, Auto Tech, Apprenticeship and Fire Academy. The program was sponsored by the Tri-C Hispanic Council.

For more information, you can contact Sylvia Royle at 216-987-5359 or Sylvia.royle@tri-c.edu.



Cleveland Public School students listen to presentations at the 19th annual Hispanic Education Conference April 27 at Tri-C West.

Parma Students Among 750 Undergrads Celebrating At The 162nd Commencement At Baldwin-Wallace College

by Shawn Salamone

A number of students from Parma and Parma Heights were among students who were urged to "leave a wake" during the 162nd commencement exercises at Baldwin-Wallace College. Two prominent Northeast Ohio leaders delivered inspiring advice to 1,015 graduating students at two different ceremonies.

Christopher M. Connor, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Sherwin-Williams Company, spoke to undergraduate students, their family members and friends on Sunday, May 6, while Thomas G. Bordenkircher, Associate Vice Chancellor of Academic Quality and Assurance with the Ohio Board of Regents, delivered the address at the Saturday, May 5 graduate ceremony. Both men received the honorary

degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the College.

At the undergraduate ceremony, held in Finnie Stadium, Connor described the "no wake" signs that are often posted to require small boats to slow down. "Today those signs are down," he told the grads. "I want to see a wake behind you. I want to know you were here on the planet and left your mark."

Connor also had praise for B-W President Richard Durst who was presiding over his final commencement exercise before entering retirement. "He leaves behind a Cleveland business community that respects him immensely and a college grateful for his leadership," Connor said. "He left a wake."

More information at: <http://www.bw.edu/news/commencement2012/>



Presenters at the 19th Annual Hispanic Education Conference at Tri-C West include: Marcos Rivera, Western Campus Director of Counseling, Noel Nazario, President-Elect of the Tri-C West Student Government, Gustavo Rosales, a physical therapy major from Honduras, Central America, Miguel Sanchez, a sociology major who desires to work with at-risk youth and Diana Del Rosario, Dean, Western Campus Student Affairs Office.

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Parma Community News

Parma's Second Economic Summit Meeting Held

by Jeanie Roberts

During his transition to the mayor's office, Tim DeGeeter had a vision of free-flowing dialogue between city leaders and local businesses. To that end, he visited several local businesses before he took office, to familiarize him with the local economic landscape.

After announcing that within his first 60 days in office he'd hold an economic summit meeting, he did exactly that, on day 57. On May 24, he did it again, holding the second in a series of meetings to gauge the feelings and concerns of local business owners.

This one was held at Shynok Party Center on State Road in the Ukrainian Village business district. It was attended by representatives of 17 local businesses. Two speakers – Joe Gross from Cuyahoga Community College, who is the director of the 10,000 Small Businesses project, and Parma Police Chief Robert Miller, who spoke about safety and crime prevention – presented and answered questions, and then the floor was opened for questions and comments.

The mayor was pleased at the participation.

"This series of meetings is doing exactly what it was intended to do – get the businesses together with the city and with each other, to talk and exchange ideas," Mayor DeGeeter said. "A healthy local economy depends on independent businesses of all sizes, and we all have that goal – a healthy local economy – in common."

Barry Axelrod, of Axelrod Buick GMC, said he finds it helpful as a networking tool. "I always like the opportunity to network with other business owners. We are able to talk about common issues. This is a really good thing."



Mayor Tim DeGeeter at recent economic summit meeting

Victor Mileti, who owns Mileti Optical and Hearing Center, echoed Alexrod's comments: "This was informative and a great way for business owners to voice their concerns and issues. And it's great to put a face to neighboring businesses."

The Chamber of Commerce is a partner in the meetings as well, providing refreshments and a Chamber presence to answer questions as well. "We have a great working relationship with the city and there is no issue that can't be resolved because of the relationship we have," Chamber president Dave Nedrich said.

The mayor has indicated that he would like to continue the economic summit series and will announce new meetings and sites in the future. City treasurer Tom Mastroianni, who has attended both meetings so far, says the importance of the meetings can't be overstated: "It's a great way to bring businesses, city and elected officials together to help us all understand how we can grow business in Parma," he said.



Dave Maggio, President of CPS Partners, LLC, cuts the ribbon at the Grand Re-Opening ceremony for the Sears Hardware and Appliance Center at 7490 Broadview Rd. in Parma on May 19th.

Sears Grand Re-Opening Ceremony

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On Saturday May 19, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at the Sears Hardware and Appliance Center at 7490 Broadview Rd. in Parma, to celebrate a Grand Re-Opening of the store under a new franchisee, CPS Partners, LLC. Cheryl A. McIntosh from the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce presided over the event, which was attended by many members of the DeGeeter Administration, Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, as well many business and community leaders, including former Seven Hills mayor and now councilman David Bentkowski. Also present, of course, were the proud new owners from CPS Partners, LLC. Dave Maggio, President of CPS Partners, LLC, wielded the giant scissors used to cut the ceremonial ribbon, and in doing so ushered in a new era for the store, which means that CPS, the largest franchisee in the Sears network, now owns all 11 of the Sears Hardware and Appliance Centers in our local market area.

Dave Maggio seemed to be enjoying the entire event, and says that he has a good feeling about being in Parma, and plans to spend a fair amount of time in this area when he's not home in his native Dallas, Texas community. He states that he has assembled a fantastic team at this location, and they are excited to provide customers with professional advice, great prices, and exceptional service. "I look forward to being actively involved with other businesses and organizations that support the community", said Mr. Maggio. CPS Partners, LLC is a welcome member of our business community, and I'm sure that citizens will be stopping by the store to take advantage of the sales and other offerings being presented; having been raised in a household where I was virtually surrounded by products from Sears, almost exclusively, I am no stranger to this store, and I for one am pleased to see that it is indeed in good hands, and will no doubt continue to be a great community asset.

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Political Perspective

To Reform Health Care, We First Have To Reform Our Beliefs

by Lee Kamps

When I was involved in the first Earth Day event back in 1970, there was a saying from the old comic strip Pogo that went "we have met the enemy and they are us" I was thinking about that recently when reading some articles about how our attitudes and beliefs

toward health care have contributed greatly to the crisis in health care today.

If the USA is ever going to get control of health care cost and access, we must re-think and change some long held beliefs regarding health care. Already most European and Asian nations have already done this to a great

extent, but here in the USA, we cling to some old notions that have caused our health care costs per capita to be more than double any other nation on earth while our outcomes seriously lag behind most other nations.

Here are some beliefs that must be changed:

We must first take more personal responsibility for our own health. This is the simplest and perhaps the greatest thing we can do to rein in health care costs. There are three things that we can do right away that could have a great impact on our health and well being: quitting smoking, eating healthier and getting more exercise.

We must get over the notion that someone else is paying for our health insurance.. Most Americans under age 65 receive their health insurance through their employment. The money that our employers pay for our health insurance is money that is not being paid to us in higher wages and salaries. Just about all Americans over age 65 are covered through Medicare which is paid for by the government through taxes paid by those working

We must all realize that we are subsidizing health care for the uninsured. Right now it is estimated that more than 15% of our population is uninsured for health insurance. Much of the care given to the uninsured is uncompensated, so that cost is then shifted and passed on to those who can pay.

We must do a better job of policing the medical establishment. Much discussion has been done about tort reform to rein in malpractice costs and defensive medicine. How much talk has been done about doing a better job of policing the medical establishment and rooting out many of the causes of medical mistakes that result in large malpractice judgments? We must make it easier to get rid of incompetent and impaired doctors and other health professionals.

We must get over our belief that more care and expensive care equals better care. This couldn't be more wrong. Very often the least costly course of treatment may be the most effective.

We are an overmedicated society. We rely too much on a "magic pill" to make us feel better. No other nation in the world uses as many prescription drugs per capita as we do here in the USA. But does all that prescription usage give us better outcomes? The pharmaceutical industry spends billions of dollars advertising their drugs to consumers. Why does anyone think those drug companies spend so much money advertising? It creates demand for their new and profitable drugs.

We spend too much money on terminal patients. A recent study was made by a large health insurance company that discovered that more than 70% of all claims costs were incurred during the last two years of someone's life. How much of that money spent really does any good for the patient?

It is time to realize that we "have met the enemy and they are us" with our beliefs and attitude toward health care. If those do not change, no legislation on health care reform will work no matter what is proposed.

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

Next month, we will celebrate the Fourth of July or Independence Day. I think this is a good time for us to reflect on some of the history of the Declaration of Independence and what that document truly means. The Declaration of Independence may not have been signed on July 4th, 1776 as most of us have been taught. In fact, on July 2nd, Congress had declared independence from Great Britain. On July 4th, the wording of the Declaration of Independence was ratified by Congress. Several copies of the Declaration were widely distributed in various forms, including the copy that is now on display in Washington DC. The actual signing of the Declaration is believed to have occurred on August 2nd.

Certainly the best known segment of the Declaration and arguably one of the most well known sentences from any document is the second sentence.

That sentence reads as follows:

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Many people in this country seem to have forgotten the meaning of these words. We are constantly being bombarded with opinions from talking heads on both the left and right who seem to believe that our rights come from the government. Yet our Founders clearly stated that our rights come from our "Creator". To settle this conflict, one must simply ask the question; can government create life? Clearly, the answer is no. Therefore, one must conclude, as our Founders did, that since life is not created by government, none of our other rights are created by government. Rather, they are derived from Natural Law or as referenced here, our

"Creator".

Let's also examine the meaning of "created equal". Does this mean as some would have us believe that we are all entitled to equal levels of success? Does this mean we are all born with equal talents? No, it does not. What this means is that simply we are all entitled to equal treatment by the law. None of us are supposed to be given special status and we all are innocent until proven guilty. Yet somehow, we are being led to believe that we are a nation divided along many lines and that the government is supposed to be the great equalizer and give us all what amounts to equal results. Evidence of this kind of thinking can be seen in many aspects of our daily lives. From our children being awarded trophies for participating rather than winning, through the belief that somehow the government must be the safety net for everyone and recently evidenced through the class warfare demagoguery that is being spread by certain leaders, many of us have clearly lost sight of the concepts that this nation was founded upon.

Returning this nation to its founding principles will be a long and arduous road. We can not achieve the goal by stepping back from our responsibilities as citizens. We must each be willing to hold our leaders accountable for their actions, be responsible for our own and not be afraid to speak up when we see something being done contrary to our core principles as Americans. "One man with courage is a majority" Thomas Jefferson

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Parma Observer

What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up, Or What Will You Be When You Grow Up?

by Michelle E. Rice

Going into the workforce involves making more decisions than one would expect. Everyone wants to do work they enjoy. Some decide to work their way up, some plateau, while others go on to further education. College can be extremely expensive, especially if you don't plan ahead and don't land the career you hoped that would pay back the student loans.

No school can, or is required to guarantee a job with the degree you earn. Student loans can not be written off in bankruptcy. Almost everyone qualifies for financial aid (student loans) and almost everyone is accepted somewhere. Schools are businesses. So make it your business to be sure that the further education is worth your time and money. Generally, people go to college so they can do work they enjoy, work with prestige, and work that pays well. However, if you aren't sure what you want to do, invest the time and energy in volunteer work, even if for a couple of hours a week to find out if it is something you really want to do. Once deciding on a career, be sure to accompany it with an internship, so you have related work experience on your resume. Call and request an interview with those in the field, ask them what you would need to learn to land that particular job. Ask them what they like and dislike about their job. Learn about the field, the job, before you invest your time and money. People, who don't have a passion for their work, don't do it well.

Even without a dream job, there are things to be considered when choosing a job and keeping that job. If you can't have the dream job, consider what you can tolerate. When deciding where to apply, research the company. Most have websites. If their value sys-

tem is aligned with yours, mention that in the interview. You may also be asked why you want to work for them. Prepare yourself and consider: temperature, sitting, standing, driving, physical labor, the pace, proximity to home, travel, your work schedule, the people, the boss, the values of the company, opportunity for advancement, in addition to income and benefits. At least one third of your day is going to be spent working.

If you don't mesh with the people you work with, you probably won't stay working there very long, either of their doing or your own. Besides, if you

really are unhappy where you work, it will make you unhappy outside of work, even affecting your health. Any person, whether it be a fellow student, co-worker, boss, professor, other professional people, neighbor, or a family friend that know your capabilities, character and would speak well of you, ask them if they would be comfortable giving you a recommendation in the future if ever needed. I would also advise ensuring that those you ask are well-spoken, responsible and emotionally mature. Trade contact info and keep in touch to maintain the relationship. If you ever are going to use them

as a reference, contact them prior and let them know, as well as informing them of the position applying for. This is part of net-working that could really prove to be an asset in your life.

Deciding what you want to do for your livelihood is a serious decision. It determines your finances as well as the people that will be in your life, which affect your happiness and your health. You are responsible for your life and responsible for your happiness. No one else is as invested in your career, happiness and ultimately your success as much as you. It's up to you what you will be when you grow up.

Classic Car And Bike Shows

by John Allender

On May 12, the Blue Line Bar and Grill at 4305 Brookpark Rd., in cooperation with 2 Men and a Wrench at 4211 Brookpark Rd., held a Classic Auto and Motorcycle Event. The weather was perfect for this show, and there was a variety of vehicles from the 50's all the

way up until some very modern cars and bikes. Blue Line owner Kevin Dunley and Joe Osborne from 2 Men and a Wrench both love these classics, and they want to have more and more people take part in letting the community at large come and enjoy viewing this fine machinery in a nice, relaxed set-



A Ford Pantera shows up, a true Angelo-American classic.



1958 Volkswagen Beetle

ting. As it stands now, there is a show planned for every other Saturday this summer, beginning at 3:00 p.m. Both of these local businesses are advertisers in the Parma Observer, so we urge our readers to support them in any way that you can. Come on out re-live some memories from back in the day when these fabulous cars were everywhere, or stop by and see first hand some of these cars and bikes that your Dad is always talking about. If you need to find out some more information about these events, you can reach either establishment by calling the numbers in their ads. See you there!

Free Maternity Housing Available

by Tricia Kuivinen

OMaggie's Place, a community of hospitality homes for expectant women, announces that openings for pregnant women exist at The Zechariah House located in Northeast Ohio. Maggie's Place provides safe housing, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, employment and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted, and may stay up to 18 months.

The Zechariah House can lodge up to nine pregnant women and has a structured yet compassionate program for helping women complete their pregnancy with dignity and get back on their feet. The pregnant women who come to live at the Zechariah House typically face numerous life challenges which are further complicated by preg-

nancy. These include homelessness, poverty, low literacy and job skills, poor self-esteem and often, a sense of hopelessness. The stability and positive family atmosphere provided by the Zechariah House are key ingredients to helping many of these expectant mothers overcome the odds and begin a brighter future for themselves and their children.

Each mother in residence at Maggie's Place has the opportunity to complete life skills sessions such as budgeting, parenting, job searching and personal growth and discovery. Mothers can also increase their educational level while living at The Zechariah House, by completing their GED, job training or attending classes, positioning them for better job opportunities. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 10% and the

child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place is playing an important role in the lives of new parents.

Maggie's Place welcomes referrals from social service agencies, hospitals, schools and other organizations. Women can also inquire about openings directly online or by calling 440.886.2620. For additional information on Maggie's Place, please visit www.maggiesplace.org

About Maggie's Place

Maggie's Place is a community of homes that provide hospitality for pregnant women who are alone or on the streets. We have a two-fold strategy in assisting mothers to grow. First, Maggie's Place provides for the immediate physical and emotional needs of our guests including shelter, food, clothing, and a supportive community.



The Zechariah House

As such, we are a family and a community. In addition, Maggie's Place connects the mothers to the appropriate agencies and resources including prenatal care, health insurance, low-cost housing, and education programs so mothers can reach their short-term and long-term goals.

Parma Observer

Is Painting My Aluminum Siding A Bad Idea?

by Don Milewski

Many Northeast Ohio homes that were built in the '60s, '70s and '80s were finished with aluminum siding. Homeowners were led to believe that the exteriors of their homes would be “maintenance free.” If you own a home that was built in that era, or if you own a home that was re-sided during that time, you have no doubt realized that this is not the case. Because of exposure to the sun, most aluminum siding begins to become “chalky” and fades after about 15 years. Once this hap-

pens, the original baked-on enamel coating washes off with heavy rain.

If this describes your home’s exterior, you may be looking for a way to improve its appearance. Many homeowners are quick to dismiss the idea of painting their aluminum siding for fear of it chipping right off. But is replacement really your only option?

The Possibilities of Paint

Actually, repainting your aluminum siding is a great solution if it is done correctly. Under normal circumstances, a properly completed job will

last upwards of 15 years. Most homeowners will power-wash their siding before painting, and this is an essential step. However, the key to a long-lasting job is to hand-scrub the entire exterior surface with detergent during this process. Many people—even some painting contractors—skip this step because it’s very time consuming and requires a lot of elbow grease, but this single step can make your paint job last up to four times as long! It is also important to note that some companies mix bonding additives to the paint

before applying it, claiming this allows them to skip the power-washing and scrubbing steps entirely. At Neubert Painting, we have found that this solution is not effective because the paint still needs a sound surface with which to bind.

So why not just replace it with a vinyl product? First, it is much more cost-effective to repaint aluminum siding. In fact, refinishing aluminum siding is approximately one-third the cost of new vinyl siding. Moreover, vinyl siding is not as “maintenance free” as you might think. After about 15 years, the vinyl begins to fade and lose its finish as well. Finally, while vinyl siding manufacturers may offer a dozen or so color choices, paint offers almost limitless color possibilities.

Better to Hire a Pro?

While it is possible to repaint your aluminum siding on your own, keep in mind that the materials and equipment needed to do the job are expensive. This cost, coupled with the extensive prep work exterior painting requires and the fact that mastering a paint sprayer is harder than it looks, might make house painting too challenging for most homeowners.

If you decide to hire a professional for your siding project, research the contractors that advertise this service. Ask for references that extend back at least five years. This will give you a better idea of their workmanship and the longevity of their completed jobs. Also, check with the Better Business Bureau. A good contractor should have an A rating, or at least will have resolved any complaints made against their company. Also, make sure that all job specifics, including products to be used, length of time to complete the job and any warranty information, is spelled out in the contract. Repainting aluminum siding is a viable and economical solution. However, getting a professional result requires intense surface preparation, high-quality products and proper execution of the project from start to finish.

1st Annual Fundraiser For I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym

by Gary Horvath

I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym is having our first ever fundraiser on June 14, 2012 from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm at Massimo da Milano, located at 1400 W. 25th ST., Cleveland, OH 44113. Tickets are \$25.00 and include a dinner buffet, soft drinks, coffee, beer and wine. Tickets are available at the door, please call ahead of time so we know how many tickets to have available.

All coaches at the gym are volun-

teers and they work hard to provide a safe environment for boys and girls, ages 8-17 years old. All children are taught physical fitness, nutrition, personal hygiene, discipline, and responsibility. The gym also offers tutoring.

I'll Make Them Pay MMA Old Angle Boxing Gym has no sponsors or supporters-the upkeep & equipment is possible thru donations. The gym is in need of replacement equipment, any donation made is tax deductible. All

money raised is to be put back into the gym for the upkeep and equipment. Please come out and support our community gym. Hope to see you there!

For more info, call Gary: 216-280-3458.

(Gym is located at: 3212 W.25th ST. (2nd floor), Cleveland, OH 44109)

Hours of Operation are: Mon-Fri 3:30 pm-7:30 pm & Sat-Sun 12:00 pm-3:00 pm

Stearns Homestead Farmers' Market Opens New Season

by Debbie Sillett

The Parma Area Historical Society in cooperation with the City of Parma will open this season's Farmers' Market at the Stearns Homestead. beginning on Saturday, June 23rd from 9am to 1 pm. The market will offer a variety of vendors featuring fresh produce, local honey, pierogies, bakery, soaps, and more.

Stearns Homestead's own Youth Group-the Homestead Hoofers will have a booth featuring the farms own

fresh eggs- but be quick-they go fast! Senior coupons will be accepted by eligible vendors.

The City of Parma will be hosting a booth also. Gaughan Bee Dancin'-our local bee keepers will be educating the public on why honey and the insects that provide it are so important. The Ukrainian-American Youth group will be featuring pierogies.

This is a great place for family to visit-There are two historical houses to explore as well as animals to see and

feed. Hours are generally Noon to 4 on weekends. Monthly events will also be held. You can look forward to a antique and collectibles event, the Farm-City day, and rummage sale. Tours and cabin rental are also available. Please see the website at www.stearns-homestead.com for more information. We are senior and handicapped accessible in most areas. Parking is free and adjacent to the market. There is a bus stop right in front of the farm. If interested in being a vendor or for more information call Debbie at 440-882-6234

The farm is located at 6975 Ridge Road in Parma Don't forget the camera!. Come and have a great day on the farm!

Parma Heights Food Pantry Needs Special Volunteers

by Mike Byrne

Mayor Parma Heights

The Parma Heights Food Pantry is in URGENT need of two specialized volunteers.

1.) Someone with retail experience to oversee the clothing room. The volunteer would need to be willing to devote one day/evening per week during open hours. Further time would be needed during the seasonal swap over.

2.) Someone with a truck and a good driving record who would be

willing to drive to the Cleveland Food Bank to pick up weekly orders. The pick-up times tend to be in the morning. For further information, please call the Pantry at 440 842-6491.

Hours of operation:

Monday 9:00 a.m. – noon

Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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If you call outside these hours, please leave a detailed message (including your phone number) on the answering machine.

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Parma Observer

Francine, The Beautiful Monarch Flapper

by Ruth Revecky

Francine is a beautifully colored Monarch butterfly who needs to flap her wings in order to fly. Called a Monarch flapper, she is a type of butterfly that many people admire. She knows that she is beautiful and that people stop to watch her as she flits from flower to flower, sipping, dipping, diving, and selecting only the flowers with the best, sweet-tasting, honey-like nectar.

Francine is a very selective Monarch flapper and seems to know that many gardens are planted especially for her.

She, naturally, isn't friendly with all flappers, at least not with night-flying moths. After all, Francine is a royal Monarch. She flaps her wings only during the day, enjoying the bright, warm sunlight; most moths only fly during the night. They look like gangsters huddling in groups around glaring, bright lights. Moths are creatures of the night; Monarch butterfly flappers are creatures of the day, enjoying the bright sunlight, and then resting at twilight. On rainy days, Francine clings beneath a large leaf in an effort to stay dry.

Francine does a great deal of travel-

ing, but she only visits the most exotic places. For instance, every fall she flies to the high mountain-tops of Mexico or to the warm, breath-taking mountains of California. On her flights during daylight hours, she flies over high mountain ranges, iron-flat plains, deep, dark valleys, and tumbling, sparkling rivers. Francine marvels at the spectacular sights. At dusk, she lands on the ground, finally clinging to and sleeping on a tree limb or a tree trunk. Francine, by nature, only travels with her own kind; and when these beautiful Monarch flappers reach their destination, they relax momentarily before beginning to search for a mate. Francine, the beautiful Monarch butterfly flapper, is filled with great expectancy.

During the summer, watch for these beautiful Monarchs with wings that are decorated with black veins, a cinnamon orange color, and white dots, which are sprinkled on the black bordered edges of both wings.

Beautiful Monarch butterfly flappers will, from time to time, visit your blooming, rainbow-colored flower gardens. Be sure to look for them . . .

Songs Of The Singing Ocean

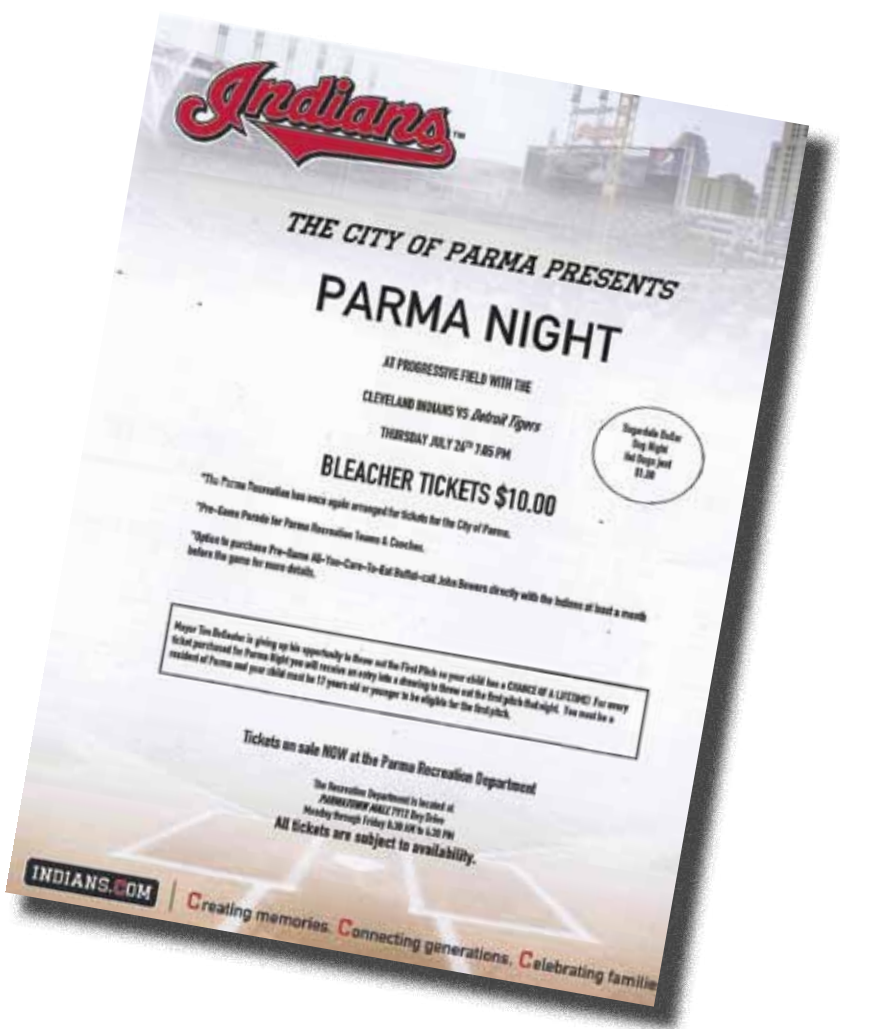
by Ruth Revecky

I raised the beautiful soft pink shell to my ear, and
Heard the humming of the singing ocean. Then I
Gazed across the miles and miles of sparkling, hot
Sand and watched the tiny green turtles and the hard-
Shelled crabs scurry and scramble to reach the briny
Ocean. Seaweed floated on the

cresting waves,
Resembling tattered green lace, which rocked back
And forth in the ocean's cradle-like motion and
Then traveled on and on to far-distant shores.

Sailboats looked like jack-in-the boxes, dipping
Their noses into the inhaling and exhaling
Sluggish waves; the puffed-out sails looked like
Clouds, which had been bleached a sparkling white,
Giving the impression that they were far too
Wearry to lift off into the icy blue sky.

In my mind's eye, I envisioned hundreds and
Hundreds of ghostly white balloons being released,
Rapidly rising and then vanishing into endless
Space. I decided to carry the lovely pink shell
Home with me so that I could, once again, listen
To the songs of the singing ocean whenever it
Pleased me . . .



Parma Night At Progressive Field

by Jeannie Roberts

The next time the Detroit Tigers come to Progressive Field to play the Indians, the series will feature Parma Night at the ballpark. On July 26 at 7:05 p.m., Parma residents can enter Progressive Field with \$10 bleacher tickets. The pre-game festivities will include a parade for Parma recreation teams and coaches. That night will also be Sugar-dale Dollar Dog Night with hot dogs selling for just a buck each.

The evening also offers an especially neat opportunity for Parma youngsters. Mayor Tim DeGeeter is giving up his opportunity to throw

out the game's first pitch – an honor customarily bestowed on the mayor – so that a Parma child can have that thrill. For every ticket purchased in advance through the Parma Recreation Department, an entry is gained into the drawing to choose the winner. The child must be 17 or under and the tickets must be purchased by a Parma resident at the Parma Recreation Department. Tickets are on sale now, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Rec Dept. offices at Parmatown Mall, 7912 Day Drive.



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Parma Observer

Closing Schools Host Open Houses

by Kathryn Yate

Oh, the irony! The four elementary schools slated to close their doors on June 5th of this year all hosted open houses on a serene Sunday afternoon last month. Drawn by rumors of time capsules being unearthed and opened, the general public and media flocked to State Rd., Pearl Rd., and Hanna Elementary schools in Parma, and Col. John Glenn Elementary in Seven Hills to reunite and reminisce with faculty and friends while they walked the corridors and classrooms of their early education.

There were great turn-outs at most locations, but the rapid disappearance of smiley cookies from the dessert table at Pearl Rd. Elementary suggested a masking behavior all the sugar in Willie Wonka’s factory couldn’t completely coat.

“We’re all sad it’s closing...” lamented Mrs. Kovach, a 26-yr. veteran 2nd grade teacher there. “I think it’s going to hit us when we’re packing it up.” At the other end of the building in room 109, her long-time friend and colleague, Ms. Piwinski sat at her desk and reflected on the 28 years she’d been a third grade teacher at the Pearl Rd. school. Being with the kids and seeing them grow were her favorite memories. “I love coming to work every day”, she said. Moments later, a group of former students clustered around her and began to tease her memory. She smiled as she recalled their names... and behaviors.

Rumors of a time capsule were fielded by Principal, Mr. Patrick Yarmann, who said that he believed they’ve located the site, but have not unearthed it as of yet. Jerry Jackovich was a student in the 4th grade when the capsule was buried and recalled the year was 1967. “That means it has five more years before it’s opened”, he said.

At State Rd. Elementary, the opening of their time capsule was slated for May 17th, during an Ice Cream Social. I was graciously invited back for that fun event and watched as Principal Craig Phillips was mobbed by excited students as they pulled items 15 years old from

the Rubbermaid “capsule”. Among them were a Denny’s menu and some outdated software. Principal Phillips read the note he had unknowingly written to himself back in 1997 for their 75th Anniversary. The capsule was not to be opened until the 100th Anniversary of State Rd. Elementary in the 2021 – 2022 school year. Among the statements read back by Dr. Phillips: “Is there a cure for cancer?... Baldness? I hope the Y2K predictions... aren’t true!” And the topper: “Has the National Debt been eliminated???” A great sense of humor helped to ease the disconsolate juxtaposition of the premature opening of the capsule and the imminent closing of the school. Again, I couldn’t help notice the superabundance of gummy shapes and colored sprinkles garnishing mounds of whipped topping as if ice cream were made of bitter greens. Is there a connection?

State Rd. Elementary and Pearl Rd. Elementary schools are almost identical in architectural design, and touring



Principal Craig Phillips is mobbed by students eager to see time capsule contents.



Typical classroom on display at James E. Hanna Elementary.

both in the same afternoon brought on a déjà vu affect. In the State Rd. school library, a life-sized, stuffed Dalmatian sat next to a rack of children’s books. A book entitled “A Fine, Fine School” by Sharon Creech was prominently displayed and seemed to echo the sentiments of students and staff alike.

James E. Hanna Elementary School had visits Sunday afternoon from a former student who is now a Parma Municipal Judge, Kenneth Spangiel as well as the Superintendent of Parma City Schools, Jeffrey Graham. Unfortunately, no one at Hanna knew of the existence of a time capsule or when it was buried, if ever. The school was opened in 1955 as Snowview School, but was renamed after the death of Principal James E. Hanna, who died suddenly at the age of 37. Few remember now, but when St. Bridget’s Church was built in 1956, the first mass was actually held in the gymnasium of this school. This is also

not the first time that James E. Hanna Elementary was closed; in 1982, the school was closed and was used for the next 16 years by the US Army Reserve to house their medical unit, until the school was re-opened in 1996 when the district needed more classroom space once again.

In Seven Hills, space-aged John Glenn Elementary was ahead of its time in architecture, and had already opened their time capsule the week prior to the open house. The capsule’s contents were on display in a hallway showcase and included some Simpson’s trading cards, troll dolls, student papers, and a copy of the Sun Courier. Don’t tax your memory if you can’t quite place Homer and Marge next to Rick and Lucy in a television line-up. The capsule was buried only twenty years earlier. Visitors to this open house were treated to a lavish goodie table and souvenir booklets chronicling the school’s history. The entranceway greeted incomers with an impressive “Wall of Fame” and included framed letters by former U. S. Vice President, Al Gore who has visited the school and former Ohio Senator and astronaut, John Glenn. Reminders of the final frontier are reflected in the décor throughout the building enhancing its new age architecture. I was a-mazed trying to find my way back to the front entrance, though I saw the dessert table go by three times.

It too, had been ravaged.

Parma-South Plans Strawberry Festival

by Myra Breckenridge

Parma-South Presbyterian Church invites the community to share in the sweetness of summer at its annual Strawberry Festival and Bake Sale on Sunday, June 10.

Hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes and strawberry desserts will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Meals are \$6 or \$8, and menu items can also be purchased a la carte. Meals for children 10 and younger are \$4; children younger than 3 eat free.

A steel drum musician will entertain, and free pony rides and games will be provided for children.

Parma-South is at 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights. For information, call 440-885-2652 or visit <http://www.parma-south.org>.



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