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Major Investment In Parma

by Kathryn Yates

Hummingbird Pointe Apartments (formerly Parmatown Apartments), located on Ames Rd. just off of Independence Blvd. in Parma, hosted a grand opening of their new, state-of-the-art, 15,000 square

foot Activity Center on Thursday, June 21st, 2012. They describe this transformation as a stunning re-imagining of the former location, and having seen the results, I am in agreement with that description. Over a hundred members

of the community attended, including local business leaders, members of City Council, media, and Forest City representatives. The first speaker was County Executive, Ed Fitzgerald, who spoke of the necessity for companies to make these kind of investments in suburban Cuyahoga County, followed by Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, and finally Sam Miller, the Co-Chairman Emeritus of Forest City Enterprises. Mr. Miller joked with the audience that he did not have a prepared speech and had in fact planned for his partner Al Ratner to make the address. He went on to speak eloquently about his personal history in Parma, which is a long one, and made it crystal clear that by making this sizable investment, Forest City will continue to be a major part of the future of the Greater Parma area. He mentioned the fact that he is 91 years old, and had seen firsthand how Parma grew from a city of 35,000 peo-



At the ribbon cutting, Sam Miller wielded the scissors, as Cuyahoga County Executive Ed Fitzgerald, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Forest City Regional Manager Joyce Emerick, and others look on.

ple to a population of 105,000 in a very short period from the 1950's through the early 1960's. Afterwards, the ribbon was cut and attendees were treated to a tour of the new facility.

The new center occupies over 14,500 sq. ft. of space in front of the apartment building and to the left of the front entranceway, and is accessible indoors throughout. There is a library and a wi-fi café with a fireplace, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a grand

room with a spacious reception area, as well as a private dining room and a catering kitchen on the western portion of the facility. The new garden courtyard graces the area between the east wing and the west wing with an open view from the café and library. The east wing houses the pool and locker rooms with a beauty parlor, creative workshop, a convenience store, a vending machine room, and a mail

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"Mayor s In" His Office On July 30th

by Jeannie Roberts

The third month of Mayor Tim DeGeeter's Mayor's In, Mayor's Out program is scheduled for July 30 from 5-7 p.m. in his office at City Hall. This comes after a successful first month of "Mayor's In" in May and a "Mayor's Out" month in June.

The new program is designed to encourage one-on-one dialogue with the Mayor, and residents are responding positively so far. Residents and DeGeeter are hopeful that the program will yield real results. "People want to know that they are listened to and are being heard," DeGeeter said, "and I am genuinely open to their comments and questions and ideas. That's what this program is all about."

Here's how the program works: each month, DeGeeter will hold office hours either "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. 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, on a first-come, first-served basis. Afterward, the mayor's office will follow up with appropriate city departments and directors.

Appointments are not necessary and are not taken in advance.

Parma Hospital Partners With YMCA For Community Health, Wellness

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Hospital has partnered with the YMCA of Greater Cleveland and the City of North Royalton to bring therapy services to the new location on State Road.

The North Royalton Family YMCA contains over 50,000

square feet, with an eight-lane, 25-yard competitive swimming pool, a whirlpool and sauna, an elevated indoor track, a 4,500-square-foot fitness center. The facility, located in the former site of the Avalon Event Center, also has a group exer-

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Parma, Seven Hills Agree To Share Recreation Facilities

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma and Seven Hills residents can significantly expand their recreation options at affordable prices, thanks to the two communities recently finalizing details and approving an agreement to share recreational facilities. The new policies allow Parma residents to use the Seven Hills Community Recreation Center for reduced prices and Seven Hills residents to use Parma's ice rink, outdoor pools and Ridgewood Golf Course at reduced fees. The discounts for Parma and Seven Hills residents make their costs less than those for non-residents of other cities. New rates are effective immediately; mayors Tim DeGeeter of Parma and Richard Dell'Aquila of Seven Hills signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the communities at the Seven

Hills Community Recreation Center, located at 7777 Summitview Drive, shortly after the two councils approved the deal.

"This agreement will help enhance the quality of life of our residents as we look for ways to collaborate with our neighbors," said DeGeeter. "This is a real win for residents of both Parma and Seven Hills – it underscores the commitment that we all share toward enhancing the quality of life for our residents through collaborative agreements." Approved rates will immediately apply to Parma residents who become new members of the Seven Hills Recreation Center. Parma residents who are already members at Seven Hills Recreation Center will receive a 15% discount off of the non-resident rate they are paying and will receive two free guest passes – a \$20 value

- for the remainder of 2012.

Seven Hills Recreation Director Jen Burger said that some people who were members in the past but who had not renewed in a while, came back and still got the 15% discount and free guest passes. "They were very happy with the experience," Burger said. "Those who haven't been here in a while should stop in – we have lots of new stuff to offer!"

It's also worth mentioning that members of the Recreation Center get better pricing on programs such as Learn to Swim, Summer Day Camp, and Adult Programs. Seven Hills offers a half-day Preschool Day Camp, Summer Day Camp and a Teen Camp this year.

All Seven Hills residents are eligible for discounted rates at various facilities - outdoor pools, golf course, ice rink - offered by the City of Parma, a

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 more about our community. This month I want to educate folks on something I have found many do not understand. Let me begin by posing a question: If oil, gasoline, fertilizer, paint or radiator fluid enters a storm drain on your street, where does it end up?

Most people want to protect their local streams, rivers, and lakes. They value their clean water as a drinking source and for recreation, as well as fish and wildlife habitat. Did you know that these same people are responsible for the contamination of local waterways? Most of the pollution in our waterways does not come



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

from industries or factories (point source pollution). Today, 80% pollution affecting streams comes from nonpoint sources, such as storm

drains. This means that pollution does not come from a single point, but comes from storm water (rainwater) running across the land, picking up motor oil, insecticides, fertilizers, road salts, grass clippings, pet droppings and garbage before depositing it in streams.

Storm drains along our neighborhood streets collect the contaminated water and dump it directly into streams, without being treated first. Storm drains are merely pipes of waste transfer – from our streets to our creeks. In fact, if you live on the west side of Parma you reside in the Big Creek watershed, so all of our storm water ultimately ends up in Big Creek, then the Cuyahoga River and, finally, Lake Erie. On the other hand, if you live on the east side of town, you reside in the West Creek watershed, which also eventually leads to the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie. Nonpoint sources are more difficult to control and eliminate, so that is why we need a joint effort by businesses, industries, and citizens like you!

Please join your neighbors to discuss the issue of storm drain pollution and take steps such as not dumping grass, household hazardous products and pet droppings into storm drains, sweeping excess fertilizer from your sidewalk and driveway, 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. Thank you for doing your part to keep Parma’s watersheds clean and have a Happy Independence Day!

Parma Relay For Life

by Ruth Teper
The Parma Area Relay for Life is one of the largest in Northeast Ohio. This year’s event is chaired by Sarah DeSiero (sdesiero@mail.bw.edu), Shelly Matushevski (smatushevski@gmail.com) and Cindy Weekley (cin-week2@yahoo.com) with the help of community organizations and leaders to assist.

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

nizations, churches, and community volunteers, to participate in the fight against cancer.

Organizers hope to add to the \$1 million dollars raised since it began the annual fundraiser to support the American Cancer Society’s efforts in finding a cure against cancer.

This year’s Relay will be held at CCC Western Campus starting at 6:00 p.m., Friday, July 27 until 12:00 p.m., Saturday, July 28. Opening ceremonies will be at 6:00 p.m. on July 27 with the survivor walk at 6:30 p.m. There will be entertainment all day long and many booths of fun things to do. The theme this year is “Playing for a Cure”. The luminary walk will begin at dusk with the closing ceremony to follow. For more information contact the chairs at the above e-mails.

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HealthiHer Members Benefit From Low-Cost Screenings

by CJ Sheppard
Members of Parma Hospital’s women’s health program HealthiHer can take advantage of \$200 worth of health screenings in July for only \$25. (And membership to HealthiHer is free!)

This member exclusive takes place the mornings of July 12 to 14 at Parma Hospital’s Health Education Center. Health screenings include cholesterol, posture, bone density, glucose, blood pressure and skin cancer. Enjoy light refreshments following your screenings.

Ladies, are you registered? Call today: 440-743-4900. If you’re not a member, you can join over the phone or go to www.parmahospital.org/healthiher.

Other benefits of membership include discounts on exercise and wellness classes at the Hospital’s Health Education Center, an opportunity for a complimentary consultation with trained health and wellness coaches, a free one-day nutrition analysis by a registered dietitian, and members-only electronic newsletters.

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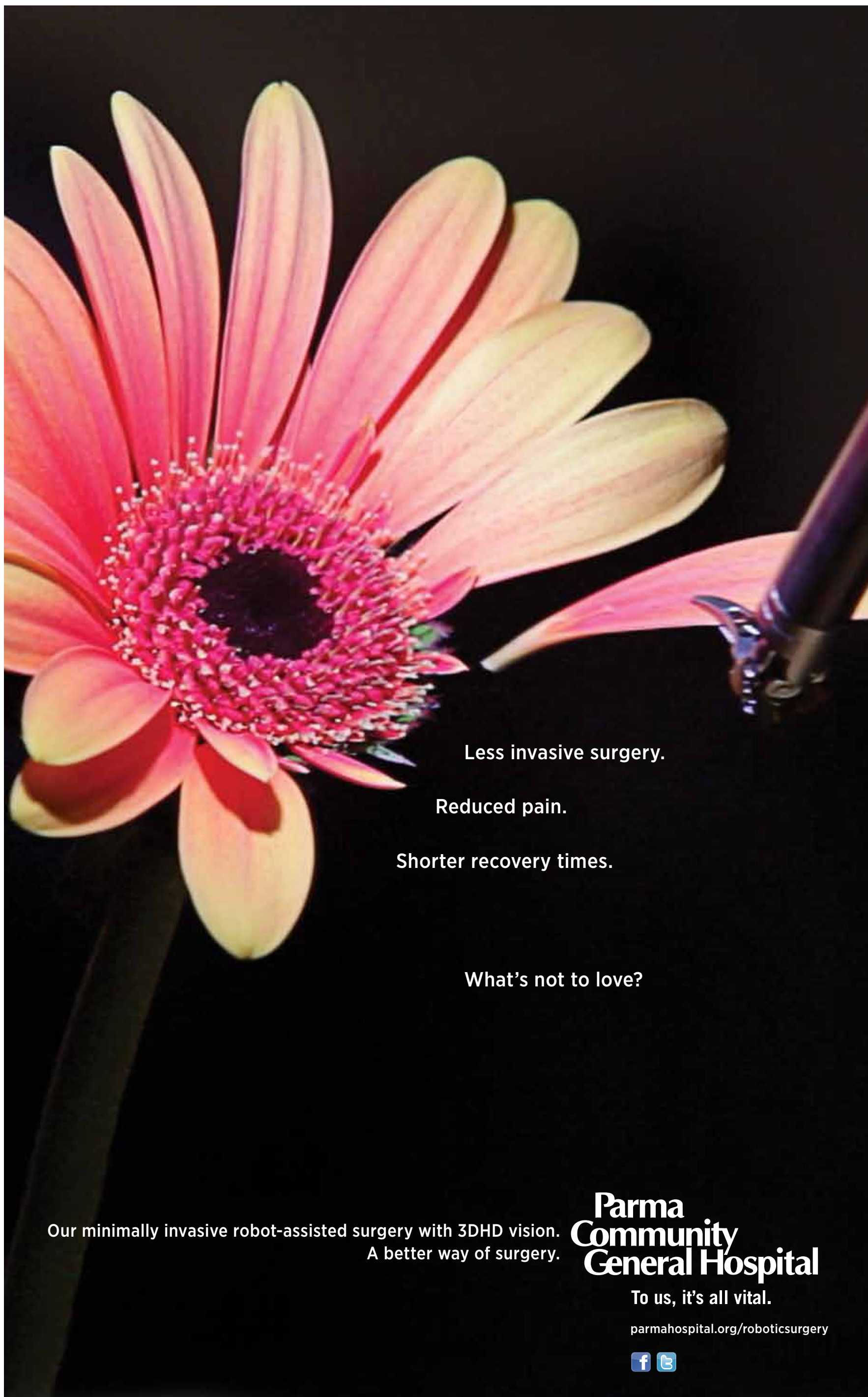
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Parma Observer

Cuyahoga Land Bank, Career Development And Placement Strategies Inc. Create Partnership

by Katherine Bulava

The Cuyahoga Land Bank and Career Development and Placement Strategies Inc. (CDPSI) are launching a pilot program that provides home renovation training to formerly incarcerated fathers through hands-on participation in the renovation of three Cuyahoga Land Bank properties during an internship period. Fathers seeking workforce re-entry and to strengthen their families are screened and selected for program participation. The Cleveland Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Office of Re-Entry are funding partners in the project.

"The Cuyahoga Land Bank's program can benefit the community by being strategic on deploying resources to rebuild - our homes and our people - in an approach that will



Room renovated through the program



build neighborhoods and teach new skills that translate to today's work force and employment opportunities," said Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald.

If the pilot is successful, every couple of months, two fathers that have completed CDPSI's Rising Above Job Readiness Program will be employed as full-time interns on the renovation of three Cuyahoga Land Bank properties under the supervision of a general contractor. During the course of their internship, these two fathers will earn \$9/hour and receive comprehensive training on the various aspects of home renovation, including: how to estimate project costs; project management; work schedule preparation; proper dress codes; OSHA safety certification; drywall; tool usage; selection and

purchase; painting; trim/millwork; framing; door and window installation/removal; and flooring.

In addition to on-the-job training, the interns will also receive entrepreneurship training focused on providing the basics necessary to start and run a renovation business as a sole proprietor. This training will introduce the interns to contract development, budgeting, mechanic's liens, invoicing, insurance and bonding.

Once the interns have successfully completed the 560 hour training program, they will receive a Certificate of Completion, a recommendation from the general contractor that has been acting as their supervisor and will receive priority consideration from the Cuyahoga Land Bank for selected future renovation work.

The Cuyahoga Land Bank and CDPSI have come together to make this workforce development program possible.

"We are always looking for ways to create opportunities for the community using the resources that we have," said Gus Frangos, President of the Cuyahoga Land Bank. "Through this partnership with CDPSI, we are able to transform our properties into training platforms. The end result is at least six successfully renovated properties a year and at least four lives that have been permanently improved."

The Cuyahoga Land Bank will make three homes available per internship cycle as well as up to \$45,000 in program administrative costs per home, which will be recovered once the rehabilitated home is purchased by a qualified buyer. Furthermore, CDPSI will provide for the funding of tools and materials for each of the renovations and cover up to \$300 in transportation costs for the interns in the form of RTA passes. CDPSI will recruit and hire the interns as well as the general contractor and provide administrative support.

"Our mission is to provide workforce and personal development training opportunities to our target population. We are privileged and honored to be in partnership with Cuyahoga Land Bank, which gives us the ability to add technical skills training to existing programming that has a proven track record of success," said Maurice Stevens, Executive Director of CDPSI. "Thanks to the County's Fatherhood Initiative Program and the Community Endeavors Foundation. Historically, our participants have been faced with multiple barriers to becoming successful in the employment market. This will assist in eliminating one critical barrier – the lack of experience to be competitive in the job market. Clearly, this partnership will create economic and job development for the greater Cleveland area."

Parma Municipal Court Goes Wireless

by Joel Gaiser

Parma Municipal Court has launched a new wireless access point to assist citizens and attorneys representing individuals at the Court, according to Administrative Judge Deanna O'Donnell. Judge O'Donnell said, "Clerk of Court Marty Vittardi and MIS Director Chris Castro were extremely helpful in developing a secure access point for the public. Our goal was to provide more tools to make this Court "user friendly."

The idea to offer wireless access was a collaborative effort by the Parma Bar Association and the Judges of the Parma Municipal Court. Parma Municipal Court 440-887-7400 ext. 7466 www.parmamunicipalcourt.org

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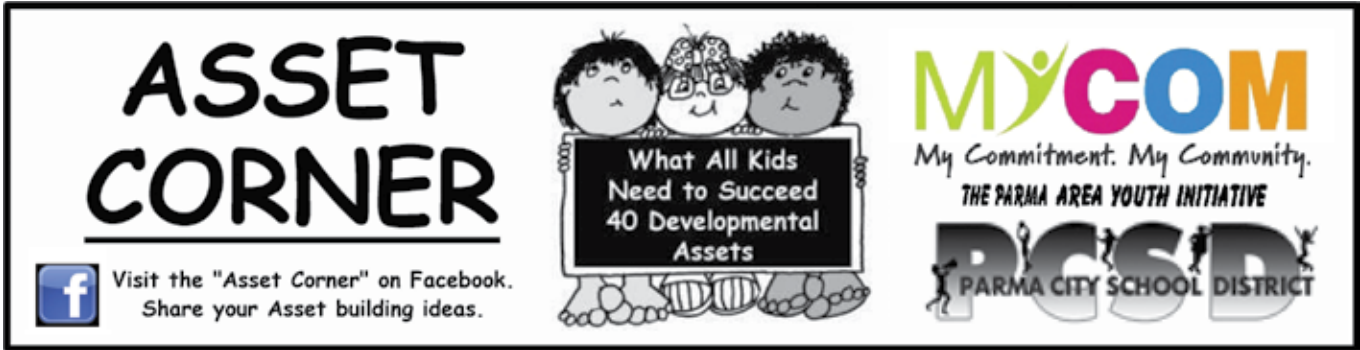


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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #31

by Gene Lovasy

June’s Asset Category: BOUNDARIES AND EXPECTATION

All work and no play can be boring and stressful. The pace of everyday life varies depending on the activities young people participate in. These fluctuations are normal, even healthy. As long as young people don’t consistently have too much to do or not enough to do, they’re right on track. Problems arise when the balance begins to tip too far to one side or the other. Too much involvement can lead to stress or anxiety. Too little involvement can be a sign of depression or isolation. Ensure that young people constructively use their time for both fun and learning.

Constructive Use of Time Assets Include:

#17 Creative Activities – Young person spends 3 or more hours/week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts. (21%*)

#18 Youth Programs – Young person spends 3 or more hours/week in sports clubs or organizations at school and/or in the community. (57%)

#19 Religious Community – Young person spends 1 or more hours/week in activities in a religious institution. (58%*)

#20 Time at Home – Young person is out w/friends “with nothing special to do” 2 or fewer nights/week. (51%*)

(* 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 19 Religious Community

Meeting the needs of the spirit

Young people involved in a faith community benefit in at least three ways: 1. They are more likely to have positive values; 2. They have strong bonds with people of different ages and interests; and 3. They spend less time experimenting with risky behaviors than those not involved in such a community.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who spend at least one hour a week involved in activities within a faith-based organization are more likely to: provide service to others, enjoy youth programs, follow and provide positive peer influence, and exercise restraint when it comes to risky behaviors. About 58 percent of young people, ages 11–18, spend one or more hours a week in activities in a religious institution, according to Search Institute surveys. Providing a place for spiritual growth

and exploration could help reduce violence, alcohol and other drug use, and sexual activity among young people.

Tips for building this asset

Faith-based organizations strongly emphasize their ideas of positive values. It’s important for parents to choose carefully. When you find a faith community that supports your family’s values, your kids are more likely to internalize these values and make responsible decisions. Visit various faith-based organizations, and include your children in decisions about how and where to be involved. If you’re already part of a faith community, welcome new parents and young people into your organization.

Also try this

Observations

by Daniel Taddeo

Consequences are the results of actions taken by people based on their definitions of right and wrong. The differences are beyond one's imagination. On the one hand are those who say, "Treat me the way I want to be treated." On the other hand are those who say, "Treat me the way you want to be treated." Everyone else falls between those two extremes. Who's right? Who's wrong? Although many people disagree with the numerous aspects of what's right and what's wrong, they do agree that society could not survive without laws that define some form of right versus wrong behavior. Obviously, this is why laws that conform with accepted standards of right and wrong and have endured the test of time have been established and put in place.

History records that when people keep the established moral and civil laws, the consequences are positive. When people fail to keep these established laws, the consequences are negative. Each person is held responsible for deciding which road to take and what choices to make. The consequences will certainly be there. Those choosing to break the law will be found guilty and suffer the negative consequences. Those choosing to obey the law will be found innocent and experience the positive consequences.

Negative behavior produces negative consequences. Positive behavior produces positive consequences. We reap what we sow. It can't be any other way! The time span between the actions and the consequences will often vary. In fact, it's possible that they may not become known in one's lifetime. But, one thing is certain: someone, some

In your home and family: Include faith and spirituality into your family’s daily life. Choose ways that best fit with your values, traditions, and culture.

In your neighborhood and community: Become an active member of a faith community and help promote the well-being of young people in your community.

In your school or youth program: Avoid scheduling events that conflict with families’ spiritual or cultural commitments. Use a community calendar of events to help with your planning. If your community doesn’t have such a calendar, consider creating one.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Now that school is out for the summer take advantage of all the great programs and activities that are available throughout the area. Visit your

local library & sign up for their summer reading program. Call Parma Hospital’s Health Education Center, your local Recreation Department or Rec. Center to find out what they have to offer. The Parma Area Family Col-lab/MyCom is again sponsoring their annual Summer Daze program at Wal-ters Grove Park, 4400 Walter Rd. and at James Day Park (Nike Park) 11828 W. Pleasant Valley Rd. The programs run Monday thru Friday from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm beginning Monday, July 2 thru Friday August 3. This is a supervised program and all children ages 3 – 12 are welcome to participate.

SHARE YOUR ASSET BUILD-ING 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.

time, somewhere will inherit the consequences.

To what degrees people abide by civil and moral laws will determine whether the consequences of their actions will be positive or negative. The following character traits are just a sampling of the results of hundreds of moral principles and guidelines by which people live: abusive, anxious, envious, generous, grateful, greedy, honest, kind, loving, patient, promiscuous, successful. Readers are encouraged to analyze and determine what effects they might have in their lives and then apply these insights to the many other facets of their lives. What determines which road you travel on your journey of life? What is your moral compass?

Everyone subscribes to some kind of guiding force or god to determine what's right or wrong for them: atheism, fame, humanism, money, popularity, power, secularism, success,

witchcraft, to name a few. What one chooses to value most becomes his or her god. Just as following natural laws, such as gravity, protects us from physical harm, obeying civil and moral laws shields us from much of life's needless suffering. This makes it more possible for us to live more meaningful, constructive and productive lives.

The guiding light for this essay is the Bible, particularly the Ten Commandments. Martin Luther (1483-1546) said, "Every thought, word, and deed contrary to God's Law is sin; all evil in the world is the consequence of man's sinning." When asked which commandment is greatest, Jesus said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor (any person with whom one comes in contact) as yourself.'"

The key word in living is LOVE.

Dean Depiero's Ninth Annual 5K Run/2K Walk Is Biggest Yet

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On June 23, former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero held his ninth annual 5K Run/2K Walk at Byer's Field. With more than 300 entries, this was the largest event yet. The Master of Ceremonies was WJW Fox 8 anchor Bill Martin. The weather was just about as fine as it gets on a sunny morning in June. Everyone was in extremely good spirits as they participated in this worthwhile event, from which all proceeds benefit the Parma Hospital Foundation. The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce recently honored this 5K run/2K walk with their "Pride Award" for "Best Community Event". This race is near and dear to Dean DePiero's heart, and he offered his deepest thanks to everyone who participated or attended. This was my third time attending, as an observer, of course; the only time I'll be running 5 kilometers is if I'm being chased by a grizzly bear!



Dean DePiero and Ward 3 councilman Mark Casselberry stand and rest after both of them finished the race.

Observing Education



Kiwanis President Joe Germana welcomes Key Club President Sara Schaffer

Normandy Key Club Visits Kiwanis

by Joe Germana

At their June meeting the Parma Area Morning Kiwanis welcomed Normandy Key Club President Sara Schaffer. President Schaffer outlined the accomplishments of her club's 2011-12 school year. A benefit dinner was organized to assist a Normandy teacher's family who's child was fighting cancer. Happy meal bags including small toys and fruit snacks was also provided. Food and supplies were collected for 30 Normandy student's families in need over Winter Break. A Christmas party and gift exchange was held at Panera Bread in Seven Hills this year. Six members attended the Ohio Division Fall Rally in Columbus. Officers attended leadership training at the Key Club Division 24 and in cooperation with Rachel's Challenge. Two members attended the "Key Leader" weekend leadership retreat hosted by Ohio District Kiwanis. Members raised money and walked in Suicide Prevention "Into the Light Walk". Updated T-shirt design was adopted for wear during service projects. Members of the Key Club assisted with a beautification of the school project. Homemade cookies were packaged and given to School staff (janitorial staff, secretaries, media ladies, hall monitors, cafeteria ladies, etc) along with Thank You cards in appreciation for their service to the school community. Many pounds of aluminum pop can tabs were collected and donated to benefit the Ronald McDonald house at the Cleveland clinic to aid in the expansion of accommodations for families of sick kids. Newspaper coupons we collected for military families as they are able to use them beyond the normal expiration dates. Red Ribbons were sold and money collected to benefit the fellow students at Chardon

High School. Dog toys were made and collected for Golden Retrievers In Need (GRIN) Rescue Group and jeans were collected for the "Jeans for Teens" project

The Normandy Key Club meets biweekly after school in Key Club advisor Erin Greene's room 332. Be sure to listen to morning announcement for more information and service opportunities or contact Mrs. Greene.

The Parma Area Morning Kiwanis is a local chapter of Kiwanis International that is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis's primary focus is giving an opportunity for children to learn leadership skills while providing service to their home, school and community. For school age children they sponsor the Kiwanis K-Kids at Pleasant Valley and Green Valley Elementary Schools, the Greenbrier Middle School Builders Club and the Normandy High School Key Club. They also sponsor a "Terrific Kids" Sundae Bar at Ridge-Brook Elementary, for kids who "Bring Up Grades" and exhibit good citizenship. Their "Young Children Priority One" initiative for pre-school children includes car seat safety and providing adult interaction in arts & craft projects with kids with disabilities in the district's First Step program.

The Parma AM Kiwanis meets Wednesday mornings for breakfast at 7:15am, and has service and fund raising projects throughout the year. For more information see their website parmaareamorningkiwanis.org, find them on Facebook or contact President Joe Germana 440-882-2012 or e-mail joe@fourstarinsurance.com

Tri-C Radiography Student Chosen For National Leadership Program

by Jack Marshall

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) Western Campus student Terra Lunsford has been chosen to attend the annual Student Leadership Development Program June 28 – July 1 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Terra was the only Ohio college student chosen, from more than 170 submissions, to attend the event, sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT).

The program allows students to experience the governance functions of the ASRT, attend educational courses and learn about leadership positions in the association. Applicants were required to write an essay on "Why I chose the radiologic science profession" or "What I hope to gain by attending the national governance meeting." Judges based their selections on originality, quality, organization of material and mechanics. Lunsford chose the topic, "Why I chose the radiologic science profession."

"My jaw dropped when they told me I was going," said Lunsford. "It was very surreal, even now as I tell my relatives and friends that I was chosen to go to a prestigious national program like this one." The Radiography degree for Lunsford, 32, is her second associate degree. She earned a two-year degree in Health Administration from Tri-C. Lunsford worked at Progressive Insurance for six years before heading back to the classroom for what she calls a rewarding career.

"When you see the X-ray pop-up on a screen, it's so unique and hi-tech," said Lunsford. "I had a feeling I would enjoy the work before I started. I knew I wanted to be in the healthcare field, but I wasn't always sure until now exactly what I wanted to be."

Radiologic Technologists perform



diagnostic imaging examinations; producing X-ray images of anatomy to assist physicians diagnose disease or injuries. Their training includes examination techniques, equipment protocols, radiation safety, and basic patient care.

"This is a unique healthcare field of study," said Tri-C Western Campus Program Manager Elizabeth Gild-one. "You have to be able to achieve a balance between providing patient care – having good bedside manners – and understanding the technology that we deal with because it is constantly changing. There's a great deal of nursing care in the field, but there's that technical piece and that artistic piece, so these students must be adaptable and have a solid basis of multiple strengths."

"I have mixed feelings about graduating because I love Tri-C so much," said Lunsford. "It is a smaller class size and we have all become friends. You get a sense of family from the students and the teachers. I will definitely miss it when it comes time to start working as a radiologic technologist."

The ASRT represents nearly 145,000 members who perform medical imaging procedures or plan and deliver radiation therapy. The society is the largest radiologic science association in the world.

For more information, contact 216-987-4247 or healthcareers@tri-c.edu.

Register Now For Remaining Summer Classes At Health Education Center

by CJ Sheppard

More classes are beginning in July and August at Parma Hospital's Health Education Center, 7300 State Road.

Choose from Personal Wellness offerings like Food for Life: Kickstart Your Health, a five-session cooking class beginning July 9, Therapeutic Touch on July 20 or Resourceful Parenting on August 9. A wide range of youth classes, including Kindermusik and Ready Set Kindergarten, take place in July and August.

And don't miss the health screenings, such as bone density and cholesterol, or the Prostate Cancer Screening and Treatment talk with renowned urologist Carson Wong, MD.

For a full schedule, call the Health Education Center at 440-743-4900 or go to www.parmahospital.org.

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Parma Community News

In Season: Stearns Homestead Farmers' Market

by Debbie Sillett

Stearns Homestead Farmers' Market opened its third season with beautiful weather and a strong show of support. We had a few vendors absent because the crops were not ready yet, but if God allows, they will be there with the produce from the fields, in season, which is the topic of my article this month. I have folks who come to the market and have been so blitzed by the big market store chains having every kind of produce imaginable, almost any time of year, that they don't understand only in a big chain store will you find produce that comes from all over the world, is shipped and gassed to hasten ripening to be able to be in the big store chains, and just how vulnerable and weak that can make us in this country.

Farmers' markets are known to support local, regional agricultural products. In other words, crops that were grown in this area and governed to produce by what time of year it is, and the weather and the rainfall. At a farmers' market you should find produce and generally the farmer that grew it or the person that made the product is right there behind the counter. Here in Ohio, sweet corn, watermelon, and most tomatoes will not be ready until mid-July and on throughout the rest of the year. Crops like lettuce, spinach, early onions, strawberries, just to name a few, would be available earlier. This year for example, has been bad for strawberries and probably quite a few more; we had 80+ degree days in March (not normal) that brought the flowers

into bloom which make the fruit, and then in April we had several freezes that made the flowers die with no fruit being formed, or the fruit frozen and spoiled. Strawberries in this area are typically not available until near the middle of June. We also have what is called ever-bearing strawberries which will bear fruit over the summer, but they may have still been affected by the weather. Apples, cherries, peaches and pears also. People not so long ago knew where their food supplies were and when they they would be ready to eat or get ready to can, so they could have it later when it was out of season. This is still important today. It is a false sense of security to walk into any store and take for granted the things you like to buy will always be there. In the U.S it is estimated that

only 2% of the population grows everything to feed the rest of the population of this country and the rest of the world. However, there are places where we now import most of our produce from. One earthquake, one hurricane, one major war or political upheaval, and that food supply is gone. Can you imagine having a shortage of coffee? That two percent of farmers that I just mentioned in this country right now are in areas hit by drought. Most of the crops produced by megafarms in this country are located in one central area; If they get hit by a disaster, your food source is gone, for that year and maybe out of business for good. Who grows the wheat for your bread? Who makes the flour? These are things folks need to care about and I hope you can see why.

Yes, July And August Usually Do Turn Up The Heat!

by Ruth Revecky

The Fourth of July begins the Celebration of Independence Day, Which began in the year 1776. At night, skies light up with colorful Displays of fireworks; daytime has Been filled with band music and flags Waving in children's tiny hands while Watching the parades pass by. Boys and girls, and parents, too, take To the swimming pools to get cool. After their swim, grills are fired up To cook juicy hot dogs and sizzling Hamburgers. After eating, everybody relaxes to Catch their second breath. At bedtime, everyone will sleep well After a day and night filled with so Much fun!

August is even hotter than July. The heat is sometimes so intense That birds seem to walk instead of fly! Flowers, shrubs, lawns and robins all Cry for rain, which never seems to arrive. Many families swarm to nearby parks To catch a cool breeze. Walking in the woods beneath the Leafy trees sometimes give some relief. Homeward bound will be quite a Treat—hopefully, the air conditioning Will be working! The family cat and dog stayed at home To enjoy their quiet surroundings as Well as the cooler temperatures. Even though July and August have Been stifling hot, the cooldown is Coming soon; yes, September and October are just around the corner as Well as the first day of school!

Joe The Coach: My View Of Sports

by Joseph L. Finding

Well, Lebron got his ring, and I hope it doesn't fit. You can't take it away from him, he is the best player of this year and deserves the MVP crown, but it may not fit his big head. As for the other two guys with him, I hope that they are satisfied now. I think Bosch is a stiff with a big mouth. I guess Lebron had another coach he could manipulate for his own good. I personally enjoyed watching the Cavs this year; they played hard, had fun, and played as a team, thanks to the coach. It will be an interesting draft- they still need a seven foot, wide body, with a shooter's touch, that eats rebounds!

Now as for the Indians, they frustrate me. They are a good defensive team, but as for any offense, they stink! Even Sizemore and Hafner I don't think will help. I was a catcher during all of my baseball life, even into "Class B" Cleveland baseball, and when I watch Santana back, wow, what poor fundamentals! I am sure that he is needed, but too many balls that should be blocked get through him. I don't know of a catcher other than him who tries to backhand a ball rather than to step out and block it. At the beginning of the season Acta played small ball and it worked; maybe

it will again. The strength of the team is supposed to be the bullpen- phew- I can smell it! We do have a couple of good ones, but the majority haven't done anything. I know people will make me bite the bullet for this comment, but here it comes; as coach, I would make them shave all that hair off of their faces and get a decent haircut.

As for the Browns, I hope declaring Weeden their starter is not a mistake. McCoy had to play under a constant rush, which made him hurry his throws, if they got off at all. He couldn't even counter, with a non-existent running game. I am surprised that they didn't pick up a good offensive left tackle during free agency. A Pro friend of mine told me that linemen never go high in the draft. That to me is a shame; he said that they save money that way, which I guess they would. The couple of backs and wide outs they did get will hopefully be able to catch the ball. I really hope that they don't sit McCoy, but rather peddle him where he will get playing time, and not just his bell rung!

Hey, please feel free to respond; I'd love to hear what you think. I'm in the phonebook (remember those) on Pinegrove Dr. in Parma, or email me at coachjoe61@cox.net.

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Political Perspective

We Need A Vacation!

by Lee Kamps

For most people, some of our fondest memories are vacation trips or holidays with family and friends when not at work.

Back in the summer of 1965, my family took off on a driving vacation to the Rocky Mountains from Cleveland. We drove all the way in a Chevy station wagon without air conditioning and only an AM radio that often couldn't pick up any stations. But for my family, it was the trip of a lifetime.

My father worked as a sales and

market analyst for a tool manufacturer and my mother was a registered nurse at a hospital. To make that trip, they took a month for vacation. I would like to ask how many people in middle management or how many hospital nurses could take a month's vacation with their family today and still have a job when they returned? How many companies would allow an employee to take even two weeks' vacation at a time?

According to Labor Department statistics, the average worker in Canada receives 26 vacation days a year. The aver-

age worker in the United Kingdom gets 28 days a year and the average Italian worker receives 42 vacation days a year. Yet the average worker in the United States receives only 13 days of vacation a year.

Another distressing statistic is that almost a third of American workers don't take any vacation days at all. Also, the average number of vacation days an American worker receives after one year on the job is only 8 days, and a typical American worker doesn't use 3 vacation days a year. The United States is rapidly becoming a nation of

stressed-out workaholics.

Despite the poor economy, as a nation the United States is working more hours per week than we did a generation ago. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 40 percent of Americans work more than 50 hours a week. That is higher than workers in Europe, China or even Japan. The average American now works just over 44 hours a week, compared to about 40 hours a week in the 1970s.

We thought that new technology would free us from the workplace and give us more leisure time. Instead, we can't seem to get away from office emails, conference calls and "home-work." We take our laptops to the beach. We can't be without our smart phones, iPads and day planners. The typical American office worker now takes at least an hour's worth of work home with them every day.

Many companies are spending large sums of money on employee assistance programs for employees with problems related to stress. Also, many companies are reporting increased usage of prescription drugs. Most of that prescription use is for anti-depressant drugs. Many of those companies demand long work weeks from their employees and usually have skimpy vacation policies. It seems that this culture is all too prevalent in the workplace today.

Would it make more sense to give the employees more vacation time each year, allowing employees to get away from work? Is this workaholic culture also spawning a new breed of drug addict that is dependent on anti-depressants to be productive? It is no coincidence that the price of this trend is that the United States is the leading consumer of anti-depressant drugs in the world.

It is long past the time for companies to provide more vacation time for their employees; and those employees should use all their allotted vacation time. We should demand that our employers grant us the necessary time off to recharge! If four weeks' vacation is good enough for Canada and the United Kingdom, shouldn't it be good enough for the United States?

After all, no one ever said on their deathbed that they wished that they would have spent more time at work.

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

Political parties and races are quickly beginning to dominate the landscape in Ohio. Every day we are bombarded with ads from candidates on all sides of the political spectrum. Most of us are already sick of the spectacle but unfortunately we still have several months to endure.

So how are we supposed to sort through all the noise and make informed decisions? One way that helps is to know where you fall on the political spectrum and then support those candidates that best reflect your values, regardless of party.

There are five major groupings of political thought in the United States. None of these groupings can truly be defined by a specific party. Just as there

are liberal Republicans, there are conservative Democrats. Centrists, statist and libertarians are scattered throughout both major parties and all of these groupings are widely represented by other parties and independent voters.

The groupings are described below:

LIBERAL

Liberals usually embrace freedom of choice in personal matters, but tend to support significant government control of the economy. They generally support a government-funded "safety net" to help the disadvantaged, and advocate strict regulation of business. Liberals tend to favor environmental regulations, defend civil liberties and free expression, support government

action to promote equality, and tolerate diverse lifestyles.

LIBERTARIAN

Libertarians support maximum liberty in both personal and economic matters. they advocate a much smaller government: one that is limited to protecting individuals from coercion and violence. Libertarians tend to embrace individual responsibility, oppose government bureaucracy and taxes, promote private charity, tolerate diverse lifestyles and defend civil liberties.

CENTRIST

Centrists prefer a "middle ground" regarding government control of the economy and personal behavior. Depending on the issue, they sometimes favor government intervention and sometimes support individual freedom of choice. Centrists pride themselves on keeping an open mind, tend to oppose "political extremes", and emphasize what they describe as "practical" solutions to problems.

CONSERVATIVE

Conservatives tend to favor economic freedom, but frequently support laws to restrict personal behavior that violates "traditional values". They oppose excessive government control of business, while endorsing government action to defend morality and the traditional family structure. Conservatives usually support a strong military, oppose bureaucracy and high taxes, favor a free market economy and endorse strong law enforcement.

STATIST

Statists want government to have a great deal of power over the economy and individual behavior. They frequently doubt whether economic liberty and individual freedom are practical options in today's world. Statists tend to distrust the free market, support high taxes and centralized planning of the economy, oppose diverse lifestyles, and question the importance of civil liberties.

Do you wonder where you fall in these groupings? Take the short quiz at the following website and find out. The results may just surprise you

www.theadvocates.org/quiz

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Parma Observer

Seven Months In Seven Hills: Trafis Talks

by Lucy McKernan

In a relatively short period of time, Seven Hills Council-at-Large Matt Trafis' winning demeanor, superb listening skills and professionalism have been put to the test -- and he's passing with flying colors. Assertive, unwilling to fall prey to petty politics and ever-ready to extend a warm welcome to anyone seeking his counsel, Trafis is one to watch.

His balanced approach to politics likely derives from his traditional yet innovative experiences and outlook. Growing up, Matt watched his father run the city; now, he's the youngest council member, and has some of the freshest ideas. Until such time as council's group-think mentality comes to an end, this writer wishes to shine some light on Mr. Trafis' thoughts and ideas...

Q: Councilman Trafis, what is the single most pressing issue you believe Seven Hills faces? How has your opinion changed since becoming councilman-at-large?

A: The most pressing issue facing Seven Hills in my opinion has not changed since I began as a new member of City Council last December. Without question, the City's finances are the most important issue. The past five or so years, Seven Hills faced record deficits due to new jobs being created along with other frivolous spending. The spending spree is over and our City is on a good track to correct the budget issues. Significantly more cost cutting measures are needed, but we have taken a step in the right direction.

Q: What one thing would you most like to see change in the City of Seven Hills? Likewise, what one thing would you never want to change?

A: The thing that I would most like to see change in Seven Hills is the lack of infrastructure repairs. I view local government rather simplistically. Residents want, and frankly deserve, certain basic services. They want their garbage picked up, the streets plowed in the winter, recreation opportunities, and their streets and sewers maintained to an acceptable level, etc. Due to the amount of money the City spent over the past five to six years, major street repair is simply not possible at this point in time. It will be another two or three years before we can even begin thinking about a road replacement program. This is both unfortunate and not acceptable. As far as what I would not want to see changed, is the quality of people that live in Seven Hills. Our City truly is a picturesque community made up of warm and generous people. Many of our residents are involved in community functions and organizations. Our residents are what make our community great.

Q: There have been some positive changes, including internal restructuring at our Seven Hills Recreation Center. In what direction do you see the Center going?

A: First, it is important to understand the history of the Recreation



Seven Hills Councilman-at-large
Matt Trafis

Center. The Rec Center is the greatest asset our City has. People from other cities are envious that we have this building and they want to join. Over 25 percent of our residents utilize the building and another two thousand plus non-residents also utilize it.

During the planning phases of the Rec Center, the City's Finance Director, City Council, the Administration, Bond Counsel and the Citizens Committee agreed that we could have a projected deficit annually of \$200,000 to \$250,000. Unfortunately, due to the facility not being run properly, the deficit reached \$457,356 in 2007; \$577,729 in 2008; \$422,863 in 2009; and \$388,551 in 2010. The research behind the projected deficit of \$200,000 to \$250,000 was presented to our residents, who overwhelmingly voted to build the Rec Center. 3,874 people voted in favor and 2,851 people voted against it. This was clearly a mandate.

City Council, with the recommendation from our Mayor, recently hired a recreation consultant who has a track record of making rec centers more efficient. Six of our Council members voted for it, and one against. Progress has been made and I am looking forward to a full report on the progress. As far as internal restructuring, the assistant director of the building was promoted to director after the former director was let go. Given the significant annual deficits, a change needed to be made and I am glad it was. I am hopeful that the personnel changes will prove fruitful.

Q: How do you feel about serving on council? More specifically, how do you feel treated by other council members, etc.?

A: Serving Seven Hills as a member of Council has been a great experience and an honor. My favorite part of the job is interacting with residents who contact me with questions or issues that need to be resolved. Although I may not always have the answer that a resident may want to hear, I try my best to find a solution for them and to be honest, truthful, and timely.

Everyone on Council has their own unique personality and with that comes seven different opinions. Serving on this Council certainly has not been a walk in the park. The most chal-

lenging aspect of the job is to present ideas to my colleagues without being yelled at, criticized, called names, or at times, sworn at. The pettiness and bickering is childish and has no place at City Hall.

Q: In what capacity/capacities do you see yourself serving Seven Hills down the line?

A: I truly enjoy serving as a Councilman-at-Large. I have grown up following and participating in Seven Hills my entire life and am learning even more as a Councilman. I will run for a second term next year. Down the road, who knows? I don't know what the future will bring. Maybe I will explore a different opportunity to serve our City. Right now, I am very happy and grateful to be doing what I am.

Q: What is the single biggest problem you have with the status quo on council? Where is an infusion of innovation most needed?

A: The status quo can be a dangerous thing, which was the reason for the financial crisis we face today. Different ideas and thought processes are good. Local governments need checks and balances between Council and the Administration. We need to do things differently from the past because as we all see now, it didn't work. Simply because a member of Council proposes an idea that someone does not like shouldn't create animosity and contention. It should be something to work off of to steer the City in the right direction. Seven Hills is missing that component right now. I certainly am not the status quo.

Q: Nationwide, it seems, party lines are becoming less relevant. Do you see this at the municipal level?

A: No. I am in the minority on this Council and often the lone ranger. It just so happens that all of my colleagues are of a different political party. I don't think this is a coincidence.

Q: How do you feel about Seven Hills' deer populations? Do you believe, as so many other commu-

nity leaders have claimed, that "we must join forces on a regional level," meaning, we must implement a lethal program?

A: There are many schools of thought on the deer population. Obviously, there seem to be a lot of deer in our area. I do not believe that implementing a lethal program would be the proper way to attempt to control the deer population, for a number of reasons. If a serious discussion came before Council on this matter, I would advocate for a humane method that is safe for our residents as well.

Q: Speaking of regional forces, what is your opinion regarding regionalism? Is there any discussion afoot regarding Seven Hills joining safety and other services with any other communities?

A: Sharing services with neighboring communities is a logical way for Seven Hills and others to save money on services. It is important for us to keep our own identity, but in certain instances collaboration with others is great. One item that has been briefly discussed is looking for a way to coordinate our human resources with another governmental organization. I hope that we have more serious talks on this and other ways to share resources in the near future.

Q: Do you have any final thoughts for our readers?

A: It is very important to me for government to be open, transparent and easy to access for our residents so they have an opportunity to know what is happening at City Hall. Since my first meeting as a Councilman, I have been recording every minute of every meeting. The audio of the Committee, Caucus, and Council meetings can be accessed on my website at www.trafis.com. If you are curious about what your elected officials are doing, please take a listen! Finally, and as always, if any resident has a question or issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 216-410-4062 or matt@trafis.com.

Rain Barrels

by Ray Rosenberger,

There might be a misunderstanding of what may or may not be done with water collected from asphalt shingled roofs. While the water may seem "clean" asphalt is processed from crude oil and there are chemicals in it that can be hazardous to your health if consumed. The granule surface can also collect dirt and other air pollutants as it runs off the roof.

Under the correct conditions, algae, mold, moss, and mildew can grow on the shingle surface (that is the streaking you see on some roofs). These fungi may be harmful to people and animals when introduced into a drinking water supply. Shingles may also contain copper oxide or other algae inhibitors that may harm aquatic life.

GAF-ELK, the largest roofing material manufacturer, has several Technical Points that deal with these issues; they are No. 125-11 Reclaimed Water From

An Asphalt Shingle Roof and No. 107-11 Corrosion Of Aluminum Gutters and Flashings Caused by Copper Granules Used In Algae Resistant Shingles.

125-11 details the reasons reclaimed water, such as that which might be collected should not be used, among other things, for watering of fruits and vegetables for human consumption. 107-11 explains a process whereby one solution caused another problem. Mainly the retardant to roof algae growth, copper granules can cause the corrosion of aluminum gutters. The chemicals in shingles, along with the byproduct of the corrosion process, could end up in a rain barrel presenting another risk.

The short-term impact of using asphalt water runoff may be measurable, as in the GAF-ELK documents, while the long-term affects can't possibly be known.

Parma Observer

Caregiver's Kitchen:

Advocating For Elderly Compassionate Care

by Patty Knox

Asking for Feedback: Advocating for Elderly Compassionate Care. Over the past year, particularly the last two months, I have spoken with a number of bereaved people whose family members died after being ignored and/or poorly treated by the staff and medical personnel of several different skilled nursing care facilities. Now, my question to you, dear reader, is this: Are you one of the many who have recently suffered a loved one, or perhaps even yourself, being ill-treated?

Before Dad died, I would have told you that the dark days of nightmarish nursing homes was over. But I have learned otherwise. Even an alleged "rehabilitation facility" for prescribed temporary therapy due to symptoms of weakness from a stroke or seizure may do more harm than good. If I knew then what I know now...

In all fairness, there are now places to which one may appeal. The Ohio Department of Health now has a Bureau of Long Term Care Quality located in Akron which responds to complaints against nursing homes in the Parma area. There is an Ombudsman in Columbus who gives information regarding how to report a physician who isn't taking proper care of his suffering patients.

But when a family is going through these types of situations, there is a sense of isolation, of "we are the only ones going through this." Stunned and shocked by seemingly incomprehensible treatment, one fears speaking out lest our loved one is further mistreated when we are unable to be around.

It seems that the more one tries to get the attention of someone in one of these institutions to help, the more sense home health care makes. One-on-one care, by family members who won't pretend not to hear, or rush by on their way to take care of someone else in a seemingly more urgent situation.

At the moment, I must apologize for sounding vague. I am attempting to encompass all the scenarios I have been told about, and also not point the finger at any one person. Rather than assign blame, I want to help those who entrusted their loved ones in good faith

to a licensed facility presumably in business to provide proper care. There are many fine local institutions that are doing a commendable job of caring for those elderly who can no longer live alone. But it is time to separate the wheat from the tares. And so I am asking for feedback.

Do you have a loved one who is receiving appallingly poor treatment in a skilled nursing facility? Do you feel like you have to show up daily, at unexpected times, to assure your loved one is being properly cared for, and are unable to care for personally at home? Do you feel powerless to change the cir-

cumstances, or to affect better care for your loved one who needs skilled nursing care in a facility, either long-term or short-term? Have you had a bad experience with a respite care facility?

If this column inspires a volume of feedback, I will schedule a local meeting to start a citizens' elder care advocacy group to address these injustices. There is safety in numbers. The state government offices assigned to such tasks can only handle such cases on an individual basis. This increases our sense of isolation. What we need is greater leverage on the local level, which can only be achieved by banding together.

There are some doctors and some institutions in the Parma area which don't deserve the patients entrusted to them. We've got to do something, or we will reap the consequences of allowing a dangerous climate to engulf the silently suffering seniors who we often mistakenly assume are being well cared-for.

Please respond by emailing me atalzheimerannie@yahoo.com or calling me at 419-709-1010. I don't want you and your family to go through what Dad and my family have gone through. Our loved ones deserve better.

Parma Hospital Partners With YMCA

continued from page 1

cise studio, a cycling room, a gym and an outdoor playground.

Parma Hospital's has a 7,500-square-foot therapy center with a separate entrance. In addition to a therapy gym and seven consultation and treatment rooms, the center features a therapy pool with an aquatic treadmill. By undergoing therapy in the warm water of this special pool, patients benefit from a quicker return to function, with increased ease of movement and decreased pressure on their joints.

The personalized outpatient physical therapy services features a certified aquatic fitness professional and treatment for orthopedic and total joint replacements, fibromyalgia, back and neck pain and industrial rehabilitation and work conditioning.

"Who wouldn't feel better just walking into this building?" said Parma Hospital President & CEO Terrence G. Deis, at the June 3 grand opening,



Cutting the ribbon at the new North Royalton Family YMCA were, from left: North Royalton Mayor Robert A. Stefanik; Parma Hospital Board members and North Royalton residents Thomas O'Donnell and David Nedrich (chairman); and Parma Hospital President & CEO Terrence G. Deis.

crediting the partnership formed with the YMCA and the city, which is one of Parma Hospital's founding communities. "Today we stand side by side in sharing an even stronger sense of community."

North Royalton Mayor Robert

A. Stefanik thanked his fellow partners for helping to make his dream for North Royalton come true. Glenn Haley, president and CEO of the Greater Cleveland YMCA, noted that the work of the YMCA transcends all boundaries.

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Parma Observer

Major Investment In Parma

conitnued from page 1

room complete with an ATM machine. There is also an outdoor pool, tennis courts, and an enclosed dog park. All of this gracious living is only minutes away from the shopping and dining locations of Parmatown, and only 2 blocks away from the RTA transportation depot.

One step into the lobby might jolt any newcomer that perhaps you're not in Kansas anymore, or Parma, or Parma Hts. for that matter. But a quick glance down at your Nikes will reassure you they are still attached, and this is a new concept somewhere between an independent living facility and an upscale, apartment complex one might more associate with a greater metropo-

lis such as NYC.

"Hummingbird Pointe has partnered with Infinity Home Health Services to offer our residents additional wellness programs and activities to enhance their living experience..." I read in the brochure handed me. Somehow, this new concept is designed to help best those in their quagmire years, "in navigating the unpredictable waters of healthcare through educational events, consulting, wellness and fitness services..." I read further. A comparison sheet in the brochure went on to illustrate what Hummingbird Pointe has over Independent Living and Standard Apartments. Med-passing/med monitoring, cleaning service, and weekly laundry service are all available at an additional cost



Indoor pool in east wing

as is a \$50 fee for the detached parking garage. Beyond that, the amenities offered with the new facility are built-in to the monthly apartment rental fee, very affordable, and beginning at \$658 per month for a 1 BR to \$798 - \$850 for a 2 BR unit.

Occupancy as of now is at a whopping 83%, so plan ahead if this sounds like something you'd be interested in. If you're driving by, stop in and ask for a tour. I'm sure you'll be as impressed as I was. To view the photo gallery with this article visit: www.parmaobserver.com.

Limelight On Lawn Art

by Kathryn Yates

Parma's legacy is still much rooted in its iconic attachments to bowling, polish food products, and its unabashed display of yard ornaments thanks to local celebrity hero "Ghoulardi" who ignited the imagery as often as he did fuses on model cars back in the late-night 60's show. From "Pinkie", the charming plastic flamingo widely adopted as Parma's unofficial mascot, to the ever popular chrome ball, Parma yards have never held back on its love of yard art. And why should we! It's part of our character, our patina, and well, frankly at this point even if we outlawed the display of them we'd never live down the memory of being Ernie Anderson's pet put-down.

We really don't want to! While white socks have been mainstreamed (in Parma Hts. they wore knee-highs) and kielbasa is sold at the local Save-A-Lot for a buck, Parma residents can rest assured that some things never change with Pinkie on their lawns preserving a bit of our history. While out farther, suburban landscapes yawn with barren

black mulch, many Parma yards scream heritage on front, side, and back and you may even catch Polka Dot Lady still bent over planting her seeds.

Throughout the summer, the Parma Observer will highlight the "Lawn Art Display of the Month", and encourage you, the reader, to send in a digital photo of your favorite display. This month's pick is a real life anchor set in a redwood mulch bed with a tribute to the vessel it sailed on. So send in those pics to www.parmaobserver.com. You must first sign in as a member – no biggie, and choose your username and password. Please omit the addresses before submitting.





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