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# PARMA Observer

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## Obama Campaign Stops In Parma

by Kathryn Yates

The Obama campaign organized a rally on July 5th, 2012 at James Day Park (aka Nike Site) on Pleasant Valley Rd. in Parma. Over a thousand supporters, media, and general public braved the heat to get a chance to hear the President speak in person. Other dignitaries in attendance included Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter (with his 4-yr. old son Jack), U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and his wife, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, Connie Schulz, U.S. Representative Betty Sutton, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, and former Governor Ted Strickland.

Mayor DeGeeter opened the event by calling attention to our city. “Tonight, Parma,



President Obama- happy to be in Parma.

Ohio is the center of the political universe in America”, he said. DeGeeter went on to thank Obama for taking the steps that led to the rebound of the auto industry, especially GM, and reminded the crowd that

the plant on Chevrolet Blvd. employs over 1,500 workers and brings in 27.3 million dollars in payroll taxes annually into the city treasury.

Betty Sutton followed the Mayor and was enthusiastically

applauded when she said “True, people don’t want government on their backs, but people do want a government on their side, and that’s what we’re going to make sure they get.”

Senator Brown spoke after Sutton and chastised the opposition saying “They want anything goes approach to Wall Street, regardless of what it costs Main St., or Parma, or Westlake.”

Obama was introduced by Wendy Pitts, an employee at the Parma GM plant for more than 13 years. Pitts reminded the crowd that the sense of fear at the GM plant was running high four years ago when the auto industry faced collapse. She said “President Obama stepped in and stood up for us.” “He took our fear and restored our faith in the greatness and toughness of the American worker.”

President Obama bounded from the presidential bus dressed in a blue collar shirt and light khaki slacks and took

the podium to shouts of “Four more years” from supporters in the crowd. He appeared healthy and relaxed despite the heat, said he was feeling good having had a beer in Amherst, and kidded the Senator to take



Wendy Pitts, an employee of General Motors in Parma for 13 years, introduces President Obama to the crowd.

his tie off. “It’s 8 o’clock...we’re in the park...it’s hot”. His opening comments centered around the BBQ on the White House lawn the day before celebrating his daughter Malia’s

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## Former Parma Police Chief To Lead Levy Renewal Effort

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma is considered one of the safest cities of its size in the nation – that’s a huge accomplishment and one that hasn’t come easy. It is a testament to the Parma Police Department and to Parma’s citizens for renewed faith in the department after passing a police levy in 2007. Now the challenge is to stay there. Passage of a renewal of the 2-mill levy is necessary to approach full staffing levels, acquire new equipment, take advantage of up-to-date training, and con-

tinue support for programs such as the annual Safety Fair, Honor Guard, Citizens Police Academy and the K-9 unit.

Former Parma Police Chief Dan Hoffman will head the campaign to pass the renewal levy in November. Hoffman was on the Parma Police force for 32 years and was Chief of Police for seven years, until he retired in 2011. “I am very proud to be part of this effort,” Hoffman said. “I can recall the hardship on the city when we did not have a police levy to assist in keeping adequate staff-

ing of personnel, maintenance and replacement of equipment, and training of our personnel. This translated to the fact that we could not provide the best service possible to our community or maintain the quality of life that our citizens expected.”

Mayor Tim DeGeeter is squarely behind the renewal effort because he knows what it takes to run a department the size of Parma’s. “Keeping a safe community is priority one, and our officers put

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## Towpath Ground Breaking



Monday, July 30, the broke ground on the official start of the Erie Canal Towpath. This trail will allow runners, hikers and bikers to cruise between Wendy Park, and both the West Creek Parkway, and Brecksville Reservation, making it one of the longest bike trails in Ohio. Second from the right is Parma’s own Chuck Germana who has been part of the project for years.



A nice crowd showed up to see the President.

## A Little Bob Feller

by Myrtis Litman

Pictured here is five-year-old Alex Smith of Parma. He plays first base for the Ridgewood Y Carnidnals, a team made up of five and six year olds. At a recent Saturday afternoon game, Alex got a hit on the first throw every time he was at bat. His pitches have been clocked at 49 mph. Neighbors call Alex a little Bob Feller because of his ability and style. hey would like to see him throw out the first pitch at an Indians game.



Alex Smith



# 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 residents about the issues affecting our community. For the next several months, I am going to cover issues that for some reason have gotten little media play, but are very important for residents to understand. In fact, after reading, I hope that you will consider voicing your opinion regarding these issues to your elected officials at the higher levels of government (county, state and federal).

The issues I am going to address involve the funding challenges that the state and federal governments have created for our local governments, especially our cities and public schools. In particular, I will focus on cuts in funding to local governments and partially funded mandates required of our local governments.

Last month I co-hosted a meeting with White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew, along with Mayor Mike Summers of Lakewood, Mayor Georgine Welo from South Euclid, Eastlake Mayor Ted Andrzejewski, Warrensville Heights Mayor Brad Sellers and others. We repre-



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

sent what I have come to call the mature suburbs. Along with about 50 of our colleagues from northeast Ohio, we met with Mr. Agnew to begin a concerted effort to advocate at the county, state and federal levels for our local governments. Our hope is that our group will grow to include hundreds of stakeholders, including elected officials, religious leaders, union officials, members of the business community, etc. Below is the text of the speech I gave at the event:

“Although I serve as the elected President of City Council for Ohio’s 7th largest city, Parma, I have also served

as a public schoolteacher for 18 years. Washington, we have a problem. You have exacerbated a crisis for which our state government bears responsibility, as well. You have pitted our residents against our public schools and municipalities - and our public schools and municipal governments against one another. Take for instance, simply two partially funded programs the federal government has required our local schools to implement: the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly known as No Child Left Behind. Both of these very expensive mandates are greatly under-funded by Washington, leaving our local districts to make up the difference. For instance, the Parma City School District spends close to \$27 million a year to implement federally mandated IDEA by providing educational opportunities to students with disabilities. However, the federal government only provides about \$3 million of the funding. Folks, that’s \$24 million dollars the schools have to ask the voters for in levies. These levies place the schools in competition for tax dollars with cities. This does not sound like the kind of environment that fosters Further, this scenario gives the public the false impression that our schools lack fiscal restraint and run inefficiently, when in fact the proverbial man behind the curtain is the one largely responsible for proliferating costs, not wasteful spending.

So, we need Washington to simply fulfill its obligation by fully funding its mandates on our schools and to cease passing unfunded or partially funded mandates. In short, leave no federal funds behind! Imagine the pressure this would take off of the schools, the local voters and, therefore, our cities. Imagine a day when local voters no longer view our local schools as the enemy, constantly after their tax dollars. Imagine a day when cities and schools no longer have to compete at the ballot box. Fulfilling your obliga-

tion would provide a multitude of relief at the local level.”  
My space is limited, therefore, I must end this month’s column here. I hope that you find the information provided enlightening and that you will take time to let your federal officials know how you feel. We must demand that they fix these problems and, if they do not, we must support candidates who pledge to do so! If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net.



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## Spiritual Care Aides Needed At Hospital

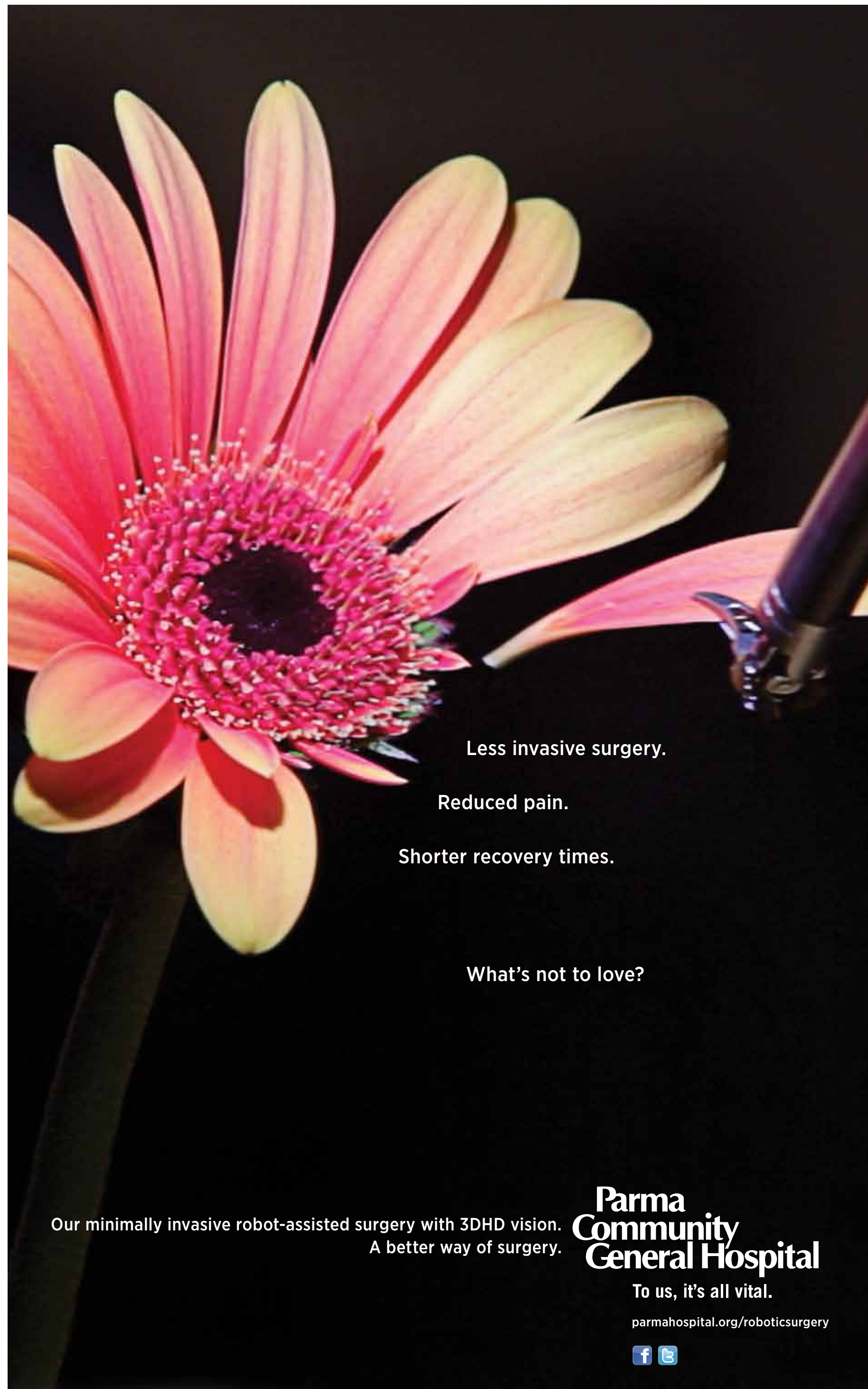
by CJ Sheppard

Recruiting is underway for volunteers to address the spiritual needs of Parma Hospital patients and families. Now in their 18th year at Parma Hospital, spiritual care aides work in the Emergency Department and the Surgery Waiting Room, providing comfort to patients and their families. They also visit patients in their rooms, provide directions and information to visitors and stand in for clergy when the family’s priest or minister is unavailable.

Volunteers generally work two four-hour shifts per month, including time for a meal provided by the hospital. A special 12-week training begins in September for those accepted to the program. Please contact Jim Mayer at (440) 845-1856 to register.

Join the Discussion at: [www.parmaobserver.com](http://www.parmaobserver.com)





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# Parma Observer



Mary Jo Alverson, a certified nurse midwife, and Heather Owen RN assisted Lauren Napoli in the water birth of her daughter, Eva Ocean.

## Parma Hospital Delivers A New Option For Expectant Mothers

by CJ Sheppard

Lauren Napoli, an ovarian cancer survivor and aquatic therapist, envisioned a water birth for her miracle baby. Parma Hospital's Small Wonders Maternity Center delivered on all counts.

Just a year after concluding chemotherapy, Napoli wanted the most natural birth experience possible for the baby she never imagined she could have. No drugs, no needles, just soothing warm water to ease the contractions – a calm conclusion to a dramatic year.

"She was empowered to do this on her own without the need for medication," said Mary Jo Alverson, the certified nurse midwife who coached Napoli through labor. "She said as soon as she got in the tub, it was instant relief. She could move around in the tub. She was so free. It helped her labor go quicker, and she pushed like a champ and had that baby very quickly."

Parma Hospital is the first hospital in the southwestern suburbs of Cuyahoga County to offer water births.

"We're just so excited to be able

to offer this service," said Lori Felton, manager of Small Wonders. "It's something people are looking for and wanting, and it's a safe alternative. People who choose water births are not doing so on a whim; it's generally a well thought out decision for those desiring a more natural, holistic method with less technology. We give people the personalized care they're looking for with options to have the birth experience they desire."

**Hydrotherapy and water births can provide:**

- Greater mobility, comfort & energy
- Significant pain relief
- Improved relaxation
- Shortened labor
- Reduced need for drugs or interventions

"I wanted to have the baby at Parma Hospital, so this was perfect timing," said Napoli, who lived in San Diego near the water and named her daughter Eva Ocean. "We love the water. It's very calming."

## National Magazine Ranks Parma Hospital Among Nation's Top Community Hospitals

by CJ Sheppard

A national magazine has placed Parma Community General Hospital on its list of 100 Great Community Hospitals in the United States. Becker's Hospital Review, a magazine of news and best practices in the health care industry aimed at high-level hospital leaders, analyzed information and rankings from various industry sources, including HealthGrades and Thomson Reuters. In 2012, HealthGrades, an independent quality rankings firm, named Parma Hospital the best hospital in Ohio – and among the top 5 percent in the nation – for coronary interventional procedures. Parma Hospital also ranked among the top hospitals in the state for overall cardiac services.

"We are very proud of this national recognition," said Parma Hospital President & CEO Terrence G. Deis. "The support of our independent medical staff and the loyalty of

our employees and the community we serve makes it possible for us to provide the personalized, high-quality care for which we are known."

Becker's considered hospitals with fewer than 550 beds that have minimal teaching programs. Only two other community hospitals in Ohio made the list. This is the second time Parma Hospital has been ranked in the Top 100 by Becker's.

"Community hospitals are a critical component to the American healthcare continuum," the articles states. "These hospitals are often the anchors of health and employment within their communities, providing patients with top-quality care close to home. The following hospitals have demonstrated commitments to the health of their local population through clinical excellence, community involvement and various other efforts."

## Bicycle Safety Day August 11 At Tri-C West

by Jack Marshall

Would your child like to learn bicycle safety skills while having fun with friends and family? If the answer is yes, then head to the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) on Saturday, Aug. 11, for the College's annual Bicycle Safety Day. This year, the Tri-C Bicycle Safety Day, for children aged five through 13, will be at the Western Campus only. In future years, the event will rotate among the Metropolitan, Eastern and Western campuses.

"This is a great program that's open to the general public," said Lt. Al Moreland, West campus director of safety. "The kids have a blast while we help young residents learn how to stay safe while riding their bikes. These young people learn what their parents already know, that being a responsible rider is the biggest part about riding a bicycle."

The safety-oriented event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A free hot-dog lunch will be available and bicycle helmets will be offered at no cost while quantities last. Children can participate in an obstacle course and learn proper steering, braking and maneuverability skills. In addition, instructors will teach proper helmet fitting techniques. Participants will be entertained by magicians, face-painting, pony rides and airbrush tattoos.

"Bicycle safety rodeos like this go a long way to teach safety and save lives," said Lt. Moreland. "We want to do everything we can to prevent children in Greater Cleveland from being an injury statistic before they head back to school. Bicycling is meant to be safe and fun."

For more information, contact the Campus Police and Security Services department at 216-987-5326.

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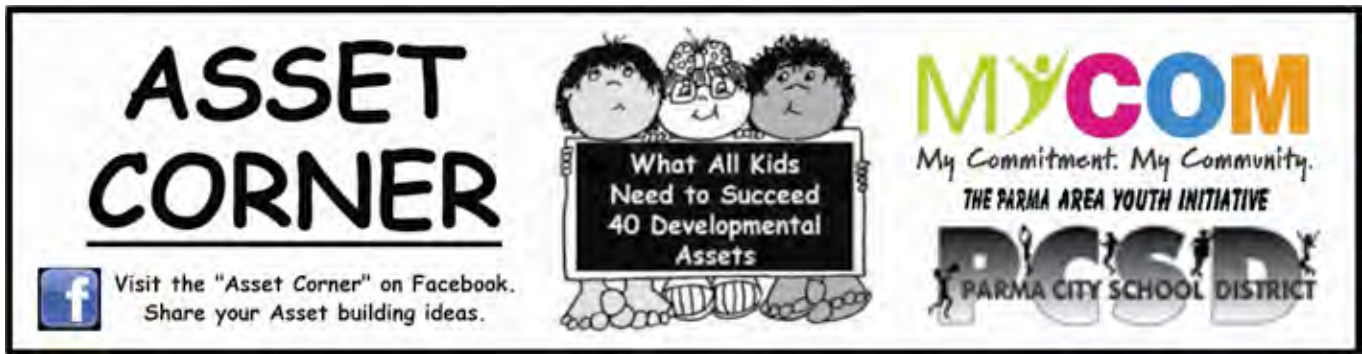
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# Parma Schools



## Asset Corner #32

by Gene Lovasy

AUGUST's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME (Con't from last month) Help them find activities that make CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF THEIR TIME.

All kids need access to quality programs and activities that enrich their lives, develop their talents and interests, and help them develop healthy relationships. These can include music, drama & other arts, sports and hobbies, and involvement in a church, synagogue, temple or other religious community

**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 17 Creative Activities**

**The arts for fun and learning**

Whether it's Mozart or the Rolling Stones, Picasso or graffiti, most people like some type of music or art. Being creative—singing, playing the piano, drawing, or acting—can be fun, and helps young people improve basic and advanced thinking skills. Performing and creating works of art helps young people develop cognition (intellectual comprehension), cultural understanding, communication, and creativity. Learning that's fun and worthwhile—what could be better?

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people who spend three hours or more a week in music, theater, or other arts are more likely to grow up healthy. Only 21 percent of young people, ages 11–18, do so, according to Search Institute surveys. It's important to help young people find creative outlets that are fun, teach them about themselves, and provide a way to relieve the stresses of everyday life.

**Tips for building this asset**

Everyone is an artist in some way. Think of how you may create a new way to surprise someone on her or his birthday, hum along to the radio, dance when you're in a good mood. These

small bursts of artistic expression are important ways people communicate individuality. By bringing more art and music into young people's lives, caring adults can help to develop another side of their personalities, talents, and skills.

**Also try this**

**In your home and family:** Play magnet art. Here's how: Visit an art museum as a family. Have each person walk toward the first painting that catches her or his eye (drawing you to it like a magnet). Let each family member explain what he or she likes about the painting he or she chose.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Encourage the creative energies of everyone in the community by supporting your local community theater.

**In your school or youth program:**

## What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The subject for consideration this month is: Winners and Losers. Who is a winner? Who is a loser? By definition, winners advance in life and movement is in a positive direction. They are viewed as conquerors, gainers and victorious. Losers regress in life and movement is in a negative direction. They are viewed as defeated, hopeless and overcome. What follows is my attempt to answer these questions.

Most people subscribe to one of two ways of living: God-centered, following spiritual and moral laws shielding us from much of life's needless suffering, which better allows us to live more meaningful lives (winners); world-centered, following cultural patterns and values, which have been popular in the past, many remaining so in the present, and new and different ones appearing in the future (losers). Godly principles remain the same; worldly standards tend to constantly change over the years. "The wisdom of the world is foolishness in God's sight." 1 Corinthians 3:19

Character traits distinguish one person from another. People with good character traits are accountable, caring, fair, honest, kind, loving, sincere, trustworthy and more-winners. If practicing these principles produces positive results, then the consequences of doing the opposite most assuredly

Integrate music into your regular curriculum or program. Start the day with a bit of classical music, followed at lunch by rock and roll or jazz, and end the day with opera. Discuss everyone's preferences and invite students and participants to help select songs for the next day.

### ASSET RELATED NEWS

Are your kids participating in the Parma Area Family Collab/MyCom Summer Daze program at Walters Grove and at James Day parks? How's about the summer reading program at your local library or activities sponsored by your local Recreation Dept? Take advantage of what's left of the summer break & have a great time with your kids.

**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](http://www.parmacityschools.org/assets) or [www.search-institute.org/assets](http://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.

will be negative-losers.

Two examples of character traits that support these positions are humility and vanity. Humility is God-centered. "It's not all about me." The humble person acknowledges his or her own weaknesses and faults and then seeks wise counsel to correct them. The humble person is calm, giving, modest, obedient and more-a winner. Vanity is self-centered. "It's all about me." The vain person focuses on "getting," and tends to be arrogant, conceited, egotistical, smug and more- a loser. "Good people do the good things that are in them. But evil people do the evil things things that are in them." Matthew 12:35

Our attitude dictates our behavior. No matter what the facts or circumstances, we have the power to choose how we view them, negatively or positively. Our attitude is the only thing over which we have any control. To assign blame only prevents us from dealing with any given situation. The winner says, "It may be difficult, but it's possible"; the loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult." Our actions determine the consequences.

So what are YOU? What would you like to be? Life is all about choices. Remember that God is love and we are all equally loved. Live your life loving and "lifting" others and you will lift yourself-a guaranteed winner!

## Lawn Art

by Myrtis Litman

This lawn art was created by chainsaw carver Bud Emerson of Wellington, Ohio. When three spruce trees that once served as live Christmas trees in the living room became too tall and unsightly for the front yard, it was necessary to have them cut down. The

resident asked Emerson to carve sunflowers and animals out of them. Free handedly, and using about 30 different size blades, he completed the job. With regular varnishing they are expected to last 25 years or more, thus preserving precious family memories.



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Inspiration

# Rip Van Winkle Of Cycling

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Most people are familiar with the story of Rip Van Winkle, the man who fell asleep for a nap and woke up 20 years later. Mine is a tale of someone who was an avid cyclist as a teenager, swore that he would "never drive a car", rode his bicycle to work at the ink factory on Hamilton Ave. in Downtown Cleveland every day, then gradually tapered off, "falling asleep", for more like 30 years.

Only this year, during the incredibly warm winter, in the month of March, did I renew my forgotten love affair with bicycles, which used to consume most of my waking hours. Someone had given me a vintage 1971 Schwinn Collegiate 5-speed, complete with an original Schwinn generator light (that still works!). I rode the bike a few times in the ten years since I acquired it, but this year I took it out and did some serious riding, which for me was from my house to Parmatown, about 3 miles. Even though in the past I took part in rides that were more than 110 miles in one stretch, that 6 mile ride seemed like a cross-country journey.

Just as in Washington Irving's story of Rip Van Winkle, upon returning to active cycling, I have encountered a few "rude awakenings" when it comes to cycling on our roadways in 2012, and one is that many motorists are seemingly unaware of the fact that the laws in Ohio clearly allow for the sharing of the road between motorized vehicles and bicycles. Just in case anyone is wondering what the law says specifically:

## Shouting Out To All Local Metal Artists

by Bryan N. Griffin Jr,

I am looking to do some album reviews of heavy metal and hard rock artists from here in the Parma, Parma Heights, and the Seven Hills area. I have been trying for quite a while to get back into the music scene. Because of my ongoing health problems, it has been difficult for me to get around in the places in the area where most of the bands perform. Since I have been feeling a little bit better and taking it one day at a time, I can try to get back on the saddle again.

These are things that I am looking for. I need some kind of a press package; it must list all of the band members, anything about the band's history, and any previous articles from the past that I can use as a reference. Previous reviews are also helpful in the package. It gives me a rough idea of your music, plus I love to prove other critics wrong from time to time.

As far as the music goes, I can go electronic, even though I prefer a disc. This preference has a good reason. It shows me how far you are willing to go to get your band some media attention. It also demonstrates to me your band's work ethic. I understand that this is the 21st century, and this is the digital age, but doing things the old fashioned way shows me your pas-



The Parma Observer Cycle in service at the Parma July 4th. parade.

ORC 4511.55 (A) Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable obeying all traffic rules applicable to vehicles and exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.

(C) This section does not require a person operating a bicycle to ride at the edge of the roadway when it is unreasonable or unsafe to do so. Conditions that may require riding away from the edge of the roadway include when necessary to avoid fixed or moving objects, parked or moving vehicles, surface hazards, or if it is unsafe or impracticable to do so, including if the lane is too narrow for the bicycle and an overtaking vehicle to travel safely side by side

within the lane.

So there you have it. When someone believes that cyclists have no legal right to be on the roadway they should keep in mind this section of the law which makes it crystal clear that they in fact do enjoy this right. Yelling out "get on the sidewalk!" is not only a rude and unsafe thing to do, it is also a display of your ignorance of the law. Is your desire to get to where you are going in your car so important that you can't hesitate for a brief second to safely pass someone riding their bicycle in the

- street?
- Here's some advice for cyclists:**
1. Ride with the direction of traffic only- it's not just the law, but it's been statistically proven to be safer.
  2. The law requires a headlight on the front (white light only) and a red reflector or red light on the rear.
  3. If you choose to not wear a helmet, you are literally gambling with your life. Seriously consider gloves and knee pads too.
  4. Be patient with motorists who object to sharing the road, for they know not what they do.
  5. Grown men- get off of the sidewalk, please! Little kids ride their bikes on the sidewalk- join us on the street where you belong. The last thing that anyone needs is to be clipped from behind by a 180 pound man travelling 25 mile per hour riding his bicycle on the sidewalk. On a traffic observation study being conducted in Parma, one of the observers was struck and injured by a cyclist riding on the sidewalk.
- You may see me riding the Parma Observer Cycle around town. I have decided that whenever I can, instead of using my car, I take care of business on my bicycle. It's good for your health, saves the planet a little bit, and makes you appreciate your car even more. My only regret is that I waited so long to get back on my bike. Wake up all of you Rip Van Winkles out there!



sion for the music you play.

So, here is how you contact me. If you insist on digital, I can be reached by email at griffinator01@att.net for future reference. If you have hard copies of your music and press kits, please send them to Bryan N Griffin Jr, 10200 West Ridgewood Drive, #603, Parma Heights, Ohio 44130-4093 USA.

I hope to hear from my fellow metalheads. Keep putting up those Ronnie James Dio fingers to the sky. Let that hair out of that net or ponytail and set it free, so it can fly. Love & Many Blessings 2 Everybody.

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## Political Perspectives

# Parma Native Leads B-W “Farmer Jackets” To Grow Local, Organic Food

by Katie Heffner

On a rainy spring Saturday, 25 members of the Baldwin Wallace University community gathered in a small corner of north campus off 5th Street. With 600 cinderblocks and 32 yards of worm dirt in tow, the group started to build BW's own campus garden, a project that began with big ideas and even bigger spirits raring to make a difference.

Parma native Rebecca Newbould, a rising senior at BW, began discussing the idea in the faculty Sustainability Committee at the end of the 2011 spring term. Rebecca, who describes herself as always needing “to be on go mode,” wanted to teach not only the BW community, but also the surrounding area of Berea, the importance of “composting, sustainable initiatives, and local food” through a healthy local community garden.

What began as an idea grew quickly as Rebecca strived to create an organization that would achieve the goals of the garden. With 44 students and faculty members on board, Farmer Jackets—named for BW's Yellow Jacket mascot—was born.

The new organization began to think of ways in which to utilize outside resources. They began to meet with various people and companies, including BW faculty, alumni and local farmers who agreed to help oversee the garden. Experts advised them how they to maintain the garden without the harmful effects of pesticides and fertilizers, or if necessary, use organic fertilizers.

After deciding what to grow--tomatoes, veggies, strawberries, edible flowers and herbs-- early planting began in the campus greenhouse. At the same time, the Student Government agreed to charter Farmer Jackets, but it was up to the Rebecca and crew to find sponsors and donors who would support the cause. The needs included equipment, a composter for Lang Hall, and rain barrels.

An initial donation of discretionary funds from the student body President and VP allowed for the Farmer Jackets to cover the cost of seeds, some equipment, and materials. However, with 10-15 rain barrels ranging from \$1,000-\$1,500, they needed to find higher-level sources of funding. The Oatey Company's donated Mystic Rain Diverters, while Rebecca



Parma native Rebecca Newbould, a senior at Baldwin Wallace University, is seeing her dream of an organic campus garden come to life this summer, after many months of work.

succeeded in winning a grant from the Burning River Foundation to complete the rainwater system.

Rebecca said, “We estimated that we received \$8-10,000 worth of donations in seed, worm dirt, concrete blocks, irrigation equipment and more. I'm so grateful to the individuals and companies that stepped up to support us.”

To cover additional costs, including the steep price tag for a dining hall composter, Rebecca devised a Funding Strategy Plan, which included donations, grants, and profits from produce sales.

“The head of food service at B-W enthusiastically agreed to purchase food from Farmer Jackets and integrate it into campus dining options,” Rebecca said.

The funding plan also allowed for the establishment of Farmer Jackets positions tied to independent studies, internships, and service learning. Internships would allow for the garden to be cared for during the summer, and establish it as a site to conduct research on sustainable agricultural techniques. Academic credit would also be given to anyone in an executive position.

In April, following 8 hours of labor provided by B-W's Buildings and Grounds workers, a small corner on the north side of campus was prepped and the Farmer Jackets got their start, spending that cold Saturday outdoors working hard to create their garden.

What Rebecca hopes more than anything to accomplish is to increase “awareness and educational opportunities for the campus and community

on the importance of local food and storm water management, “as well as encourage students to start more projects at Baldwin Wallace. She also hopes to bridge the gap between the campus community and the community of Berea, encouraging anyone who wants to get involved.

What's next for the Farmer Jackets community garden? Rebecca hopes that they once they begin to harvest, they will be able to open a low cost farmer's market. “The community

connection is an important piece of the project,” she said. “We want to provide good, affordable, and organic food to our neighbors, and, at the same time, share what we've learned about the type of plants that grow best and our closed loop rainwater system. It's another way BW can bridge the disconnect that too often exists between the campus and the surrounding town.”

For Rebecca and the Farmer Jackets, this community garden is about more than just a place for students to plant vegetables. It's a learning experience. It's teaching tool for the entire community to understand the importance of sustainability and rainwater. Beyond that, it is bringing together many different people for a common goal: keeping a local garden alive and thriving.

Baldwin Wallace University, founded in 1845, was one of the first institutions to admit students without regard to race or gender. An independent, coeducational university of 4,500 students, BW offers coursework in the liberal arts tradition in more than 50 academic areas. Located in Berea, 12 miles from downtown Cleveland, BW provides students the cultural, educational and business advantages of a major metropolitan area.

## Oasis Found In Ward 1

by John Allender

Every neighborhood has a nice, friendly place where you can go to after work or when you need to relax and unwind. In Ward 1 we're lucky to have Hader's Bar & Grille at 5775 Chevrolet Blvd. in the Snowville Shopping Plaza. Gus Hader opened for business here in 1993, and since then, although many things have changed in the world, and certainly in this area, Hader's has remained what it has always been since the first time that I came here- a great neighborhood bar with excellent food served in a friendly, safe atmosphere.

Actually, Gus Hader began this location inside the Snowville Shopping Plaza as The Spot Deli, featuring a full array of foods that one expects in a quality deli, especially the “mile high” corned beef sandwiches which they are known for. He spent many years learning his craft at another famous location, Danny's Deli, on St. Clair Ave. in Downtown Cleveland. The great thing about Hader's Bar & Grille is that all of this fabulous food is still available, only since then the place has been transformed into a vibrant, exciting sports bar, with a family oriented, super friendly atmosphere. Gus Hader and Katie Schaecher operate this location in a way that keeps loyal customers coming back for more of the same, and constantly brings in new customers who are in search of a fun, inviting establishment like this one, and hear about it from their friends and family.



Left to right, Katie Schaecher, Gus Hader, and Stacey.

You will enjoy the full service bar, and when it comes time to order food, the selection is quite impressive. Starters include everything from fresh cut fries, thick cut battered onion rings, breaded shrimp, to jalapeno poppers and succulent buffalo wings. Besides their fantastic “mile high” corned beef sandwiches, there's fresh sliced gyro, Philly steak sandwiches, chicken, club, and the ever popular BLT. Burgers? You bet! Try the Spot Burger, or the Patty Melt Burger, the 'Shroom Burger, or something called the Katel Burger, which is topped with warmed salami, swiss, and mayo; they're all good! There are several salads and side dishes to go along with your meal, and don't forget to ask about other selections that you may not notice on the menu.

I'm lucky enough to live very close to Hader's, but believe me, it's worth the trip to experience a place such as this.

continued on page 11

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Political Perspective

# Now Let's Make It Work

by Lee Kamps

Now that the supreme court has declared that the Affordable Care Act is constitutional, let us come together and make this act work. We need to come together and realize that this is now the law of the land. The ACA is not something that was written by the hand of God in stone and presented to President Obama on the top of some mountain. It is an act of congress that was passed by a majority vote and signed into law by the president according to the constitution. Like any laws written by congress, it can and will be changed over time.

The ACA is far from perfect and while I have always been a strong supporter of the act, I still harbor many doubts as to whether it will work and there are some parts of the act that I feel are seriously flawed. However this act is a good start as far as covering this nation's uninsured and reining in the rate of increase of health care costs. The United States cannot afford to have 45 to 50 million of its citizens uninsured and lacking access to basic medical care. Nor can the country afford to continue to see health care costs increase at a rate three times faster than incomes. Something had to be done and this is what we have for now.

As sure as it will snow next January in Cleveland, there are some parts of the ACA that will work fine and others that will not work at all. But unless this act is given a chance to become effective and go to work, we would never determine which parts of it will work and which parts need to be adjusted.

One thing is certain is there can be no turning back to the health care system that existed before the act's signing. Many consumer protections and popular provisions have already gone into effect. Those are; allowing

young adults to remain on their parent's health insurance until age 26, provisions for preventative care being available at no cost to the patient, a 50% discount on name brand drugs for Medicare beneficiaries who fall into the "donut hole", elimination of lifetime maximum limits on what anyone's health insurance can cover, requiring health insurance companies to spend 80% of their premiums on actually paying claims (and offering rebates to consumers) and many more benefits.

There are other provisions in the act that provide incentives for more effective means of treating patients and to determine whether or not a particu-

lar course of treatment would benefit the patient. There are provisions in the act to address the shortage of primary care physicians and grants to colleges and universities to train new health care personnel needed to meet the demand for health care as a result of this act.

The exchanges are scheduled to become effective on January 1 2014 which would make health insurance available to more Americans than ever. On that date, health insurance companies would no longer be allowed to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions and must cover all pre-existing conditions. In addition people whose incomes are below 400% of the

federal poverty level would be eligible for a premium subsidy, making health insurance more affordable to them.

For a guide, look at a similar plan instituted in Massachusetts in 2006. Since that plan has been instituted, the number of uninsured in Massachusetts has dropped to among the lowest in the country with fewer than 5% of the population uninsured six years later. A vast majority of Massachusetts voters are very satisfied with their plan.

I believe that five to six years after the exchanges are in effect and the ACA has had a chance to work, a similar percentage of people in the United States will express satisfaction with the ACA.

## The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

As anyone who watches television, listens to the radio, reads a newspaper or goes online is painfully aware, election season is upon us. We are already being inundated with commercials both for and against candidates for many different positions and it will only become more prevalent until November. Yet somehow, in all the noise, many good candidates for office are being ignored by the media, and as a result many voters, because they don't happen to belong to one of the major parties. Non Republican or

Democrat candidates struggle to get name recognition and have their voices heard. Yet if we are to ever break away from our current 2 party system and go back to having true citizen legislators, we need to be able to learn about all our alternatives not just those chosen by the parties. Fortunately, in today's environment we have tools such as the internet and email that can help us learn about other candidates but it requires that we as citizens be engaged in our government and demand more choices than the parties offer us.


While certainly not the only exam-

ple, the US Senate race in Ohio clearly illustrates my point. Currently, that Senate seat is held by Sherrod Brown (D) and he is running for re-election. His Republican opponent in the race is Josh Mandel. The advertising (mostly negative and contradictory) from both sides in this battle reaches new highs (or lows) almost daily and the media and parties would have us believe these are the only candidates. Don't you wish you had another choice? Did you know there is actually a 3rd candidate in this race? Don't feel bad, most people don't.

Scott Rupert is the independent (small i) candidate in the Senate race. As his literature states, he is "A common man stepping forward to make a difference, returning constitutional government to the people". Scott is not a lawyer or a politician. He is a truck driver who has made the decision to run for the Senate. As is typical of most races involving either 3rd party or non affiliated candidates, He will be excluded from any debates unless we as voters demand his inclusion. Wvwn though he is being ignored by the media and the other candidates, he is on the ballot and deserves the opportunity to present his case and earn your vote. I would highly encourage you to visit ScottRupert.com to learn more about Scott and his positions.

"In truth, I'm not running against the other candidates, I'm running for Ohio, and for the restoration of constitutional government. We're all aware how out of control and dysfunctional federal government has become. Dysfunctional government is responsible for our floundering economy, and it's brought disunity to the people.

Our elected officials divide "we the people" into manageable groups and pit us against one another: men vs. women; black vs. white; rich vs. poor; and ultimately, democrat vs. republican. If we don't wake up soon, we'll have lost all individual liberty. And liberty is the most important thing for prosperity. But our dysfunctional government is just a symptom of the real problem. We have a distorted electoral process that is influence, on both sides, by big money and mudslinging. Rupert for Senate exists to fix that."



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Parma Observer

# Marriage Unredefined

by Brigitte Gerard

Different cultures and societies have defined marriage in different ways. Marriage, which existed long before our government, was between a man and a woman, and it worked. It was taken seriously as a personal, social and religious commitment.

I'm alarmed at what the federal government may do to the traditional, historical institution of marriage. The government may move to redefine it, now that the president has publicly expressed support for same-sex marriage. What a bad idea. What's worse is that anyone who speaks out against a redefinition of marriage is characterized as evil.

In the Ohio Revised Code, marriage is defined as being between one man and one woman, and the other qualifications for eligibility for marriage are listed there. Ohio does not recognize same-sex marriage. Redefining marriage means repealing the Defense of Marriage Act, which would make Ohio change its laws, laws approved by the people of Ohio.

The real problem is that our culture has lost its respect for and responsibility in marriage. Marriage has become disposable. It isn't seen as a lifelong commitment today, and is entered into very lightly, even capriciously. Marriage has almost become like buying a household appliance: it doesn't work the way I thought it would, so I'm taking it back. I'll get a better model, I'll get a different color. I'll get something that makes me happier.

People have forgotten that when they get married, they create a new family for themselves, a new social unit in society, and that they're contracting with society to keep it together. That's why couples must get a license to marry. Sure, some marriages are train wrecks. They're hard to look at. Some marriages are heaven on earth. They are a marvel and a joy. Most marriages are somewhere in between, and some go back and forth on a continuum between the two extremes. In order for marriage to work, spouses have to take their commitment to each other seriously. The problem is, not enough do today.

Why? Because many people today are still in some phase of adolescence and haven't moved on to adulthood, emotionally, psychologically, financially and materially. If people make bad choices, they want a way out, instead of facing and dealing with the consequences as adults.

Redefining marriage is unnecessary. Private domestic relationships are free to enter into private agreements, which are recognized as valid, according to the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 3101. If you want someone to have access to your medical records, you sign a release. If you want to share your home and wealth, just draw up the documents. If you want insurance, the Supreme Court decision may have just solved that problem for you. If you want life insurance to go to someone,

just put the name you want on the beneficiary line.

Political activists want to change the definition of marriage, because they want to give private domestic relationships the same legal and social status and recognition as traditional marriage. These private domestic relationships have existed for a long time, as they do today, and have not been threatened by traditional marriage. But traditional marriage is a contract with society. By redefining marriage to include these relationships, society would render the special importance of marriage obsolete.

When political activists don't get their way through legislation, they use litigation to impose their demands on society and make it bend to their will.

## The WEST Of West Creek

by Irene Toth

Although West Creek Preservation committee is now carrying out open-space and habitat conservation throughout Greater Cleveland, it began with the goal of saving a natural area that straddled its namesake creek. The creek gave the organization its name, but what gave the creek its name? As a WCPC board member and using experience I gained as a teacher of English and History, I investigated how the name of West Creek came to be.

When they are challenged, they want to isolate and persecute their opponents. This is the Billy Mumy model of social engagement. Billy Mumy was featured as a malevolent brat on The Twilight Zone. He terrorized the adults in his world if they didn't give him what he wanted fast enough. He'd point at the ones who made him angry, threaten them and then do something so unspeakable that the other adults would beg him to send what was left over to the cornfield.

People who speak out against redefining marriage are demonized as homophobic, bigoted and angry. While some are, the overwhelming majority are not. Popular votes all around the country have gone against redefining marriage. In California, the people

have voted against it twice. Are all these voters just hordes of mean and nasty haters? No.

But opponents of redefining marriage are subject to civil suits on the grounds of discrimination, which really means they'd be losing the right to express their objection. Isn't that a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution? A couple of bed and breakfast owners in Illinois (2011) and a wedding photographer in New Mexico (2006) found that out the hard way.

Marriage doesn't need to be redefined. It needs to be restored to its place in our culture as a social, legal and traditional institution with a unique status as a relationship and obligation between a man, a woman and society.

cial name.

The West Family acquired land along West Creek as a result of an act of Congress enacted on August 10, 1790. This act gave lands to soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War, as a consideration for their military service. Thomas West was a captain in the Revolutionary War, and Charles West was a major.

Thomas West was given 180 acres in the area where I-480 and I-77 connect. The graves of Thomas West, who died May 7, 1860, and his wife, Susan Barwell West, who died January 23, 1872 can be seen in a clump of trees where the two highways intersect. The road along the restaurants and the Holiday Inn gives access to the gravesite.

The first governor of Virginia was Thomas West, also a British Baron, Lord De La Warr. When he arrived in Jamestown, he found the settlers in such dire need that they were ready to return to England. He encouraged them to remain, sent for supplies, and had forts built. Lord De La Warr returned to England to plead for the colonies. He died on the return of his second voyage in the bay near the state named for him, Delaware.

Thomas West was a descendant of Lord De La Warr. He lived in Virginia, where there are records of West Family members among the earliest colonial settlers. His wife, Susan Barwell, was from York County, Pennsylvania. They were married in Virginia about 1820.

The street off Rockside along the Cleveland Clinic is West Creek Drive. This was a road that led to the homestead of James West on Schaaf Road. There is a town in Virginia called West Point. This was the home of John West, the younger brother of the Royal Governor Thomas West. John West was Governor of Virginia from 1635 to 1637.

For more information about West Creek Preservation Committee, its conservation activities, and how you can help, visit [www.westcreek.org](http://www.westcreek.org) or call 216-749-3720.

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Parma Observer

Weekend In The Commons Block Party

by Mike Byrn

Good food, good music and good friends are a surefire recipe for summer fun and that's just the package the City of Parma Heights is offering during its Weekend in the Commons, Saturday and Sunday, August 4th and 5th. Parma Heights is, and has always been, a city with a small-town atmosphere, and we wanted this year's celebration to feel like a block party with neighbors and friends getting to sit back, relax, and enjoy each other's company.

Yorktown Catering and Paisano's Pizza will be on hand offering refreshments. The Greenbrier Art League, Parma Community General Hospital and WKHR with popular air personality Eddie will each be manning booths. The Parma Heights Historical Society will be on hand at the Toll Booth to answer questions both days between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Parma Heights Garden Club will be auctioning off "Florals for Parma Heights", a quilt valued at between \$400 and \$500, pieced and donated to the club by Karen Spirakos of Seven Hills. N.E.O. Soccer will host an open house with inflatables on Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and again on Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Fire Department will be offering blood pressure checks, apparatus tours, and balloons and coloring books for kids. The Police Department will have motorcycle units, a cruiser, a

S.W.A.T. tactical unit display and an educational 9-1-1 simulator.

Entertainment kicks off bright and early on Saturday with a car show presented by Mike "Cadillac Mike" Azzarello and the Cadillac Sound Machine in front of Yorktown Lanes. Classic cars, trucks and motorcycles will be on display until 3:00 in the afternoon while Azzarello spins oldies tunes from the '40s to the '80's. The steel drum sounds of Island Jeff bring a bit of the Caribbean to the Commons pool on both Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. "He was so popular last year, that this year we decided to book him for both days," explained Recreation Director Tom Moran. Island Jeff also has a variety of family-oriented activities planned. The pool will be open from noon to 8:00 p.m. for open swim with a \$1 donation requested with proceeds going to the Police & Firefighters 9/11 Memorial fund.

There is something for everyone musically at the Gazebo throughout the weekend. Saturday's entertainment starts off with the lively sounds of Tom Mroczka and The Music Box band playing polka music and a variety of non-polka tunes. Soul'd OUT, one of the Top 4 Bands in Cleveland from The Fox 8 Cleveland Hot List, takes the stage Saturday evening between 6:00p.m. and 8:00p.m. with their Motown sound. Ted Rizer brings the musical entertainment to a rockin' close with his Triple Tribute performance

to the Allman Brothers Band, the Marshall Tucker Band and Neil Young. Saturday night's Movie-In-The-Commons to be held at the N.E.O. Soccer facility, will be the full-length Academy Award-winning animated feature Rango starring Johnny Depp in the tale of a chameleon who becomes a hero.

Sunday's activities get started early with the second annual Parma Heights 5k Run & Walk , and Kids Dash. Pre-registration is available online at [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com) through August 3. Presented in cooperation with Dick's and Parma Community General Hospital, the event begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Gazebo. Just perfect for a hot summer afternoon, music at the Gazebo begins with the mellow stylings of acoustic solo guitarist Victor Samalot who will be featured from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Singer Ronnie Fiorentino, in a return engagement from last



year's celebration, will serenade audiences in the style of Sinatra, Dino and Sammy with his set featuring timeless classics from the golden era of vocalists. Fiorentino will perform between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. "A splendid time is guaranteed for all" as The Liverpool Lads, Northeast Ohio's favorite Beatles Tribute Band, performs the music of the Fab 4 from 6:00p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wrapping up the Weekend events, will be the high-energy, high-octane, The Soul Men Blues Brothers Tribute Band who are sure to get everyone singing and dancing with tunes like "Gimmie Some Lovin'", "Mustang Sally" and "Soul Man".

Parma-South To Hold Vacation Bible School

by Mary Beth Breckenridge

Kids will encounter God's teaching in "Sonrise National Park" during vacation Bible school at Parma-South Presbyterian Church, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Aug. 6-10. Each evening starts with a meal, and then the outdoor theme will be carried out through stories, crafts, games, music and mascots. A corn roast will end the week. There is no fee for participating, but a freewill offering will be collected for the meals.

Participants can register online at [www.parma-south.org](http://www.parma-south.org). Look for a link to the registration form in a marquee that scrolls across the home page. For more information, call the Rev. Carol Duffy at 440-885-2652. Parma-South Presbyterian Church is at 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights.

An Insect That Prays

by Ruth Revecky

Have you learned about the praying mantis? Probably not. So let's read about an insect that appears to be praying. It is found mostly in tropical climates; however, mantises also live in the United States, Europe, and Asia. A mantis can be either green, just like a leaf or a flower stem; gray, like bark on a tree; or even orchid, like the flower that protects it from its enemies. A praying mantis helps farmers by eating insects that destroy their crops. Interestingly, it will not eat an ant!

A mantis can grow to four inches in length. This creature, like other insects, has three parts: a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. It has three pairs of legs, all of which grow from its abdomen. Its two front legs are used for catching and holding prey but are usually folded as though it were saying its prayers. The mantis has two antennae (or feelers), two large compound eyes, and a mouth, all of which are located on its triangular-shaped head. It has four wings, which take months to develop; but even with wings, the mantis prefers to walk rather than to fly! When frightened, it will spread its wings in an effort to scare its enemies. The mantis has one ear, which is



located underneath its abdomen. Scientists believe the mantis is the only insect with just one ear. If you happen to walk by a mantis, it will turn its head over its shoulder to watch you pass by. This is the only insect that can do this. After eating, a mantis will groom itself just like a cat.

The mother mantis lays her eggs in the fall; the babies, or nymphs, are born in the spring and are the size of a mosquito. Baby mantises molt their skin nine times, growing larger with each molt.

Look for a praying mantis in your front yard or backyard. If you find one, look to see if it's praying! A praying mantis is just another example of one of God's wonderful creations.

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Parma Observer

One For The History Books As Crile Hospital Nurse Visits Tri-C West

by Jack Marshall

It was a scene right out of the history books. The Crile Archives and Center for Military History Education on the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) in Parma recently hosted a reunion for a special visitor who worked on the campus grounds long before it became known as Tri-C. Ninety-five year-old Mary Ruth Jackson of Parma Heights, a nurse at the old Crile Hospital, brought members of her family to the Archives Center July 18 to meet with its Director, Dr. James Banks. Jackson also brought with her pictures and memorabilia she collected during her two-year stint treating wounded World War II U.S. soldiers and German prisoners of war at Crile Hospital. It opened in 1943 as a temporary Army hospital and was taken over by the Veterans Administration in June of 1946. The sprawling medical buildings were eventually converted into a general and medical surgical hospital to serve all veterans.

“I came here because my brother was the head of admissions and my two sisters were nurses here,” said Jackson. “I still have vivid memories of two patients who came here and stayed for a long, long time. Others healed and eventually went home, but these men couldn’t move and were bedridden. We helped them as best we could. Whenever we pass by the college, I always say, ‘I remember those days when I was a nurse back there,’” said Jackson.”

One of the patients treated by Jackson recuperated and went home to start a new life. He returned to the hospital a year later to reconnect with Mary Ruth. Not long after, she and



Presentation of items donated to the Crile Archives and Center for Military History Education. Mary Ruth Jackson explains the meaning of the material as her son Bob stands by her side.

that patient, Robert Jackson, were married at the hospital by the chaplain, Dr. Albert Talbot, a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines. The 70 mile march of more than 70,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war was forced by Japanese military forces. Nearly 20,000 POW’s died during the week-long journey through dense, tropical jungles.

Jackson said her visit to Tri-C was a way of giving back to her community. She brought pictures of her wedding day, articles featuring Dr. Talbot, shots of the hospital’s interior and Veteran’s Magazine showing Jackson on the cover. “This is a gold mine linking the past to the present,” said Dr. James Banks. “And look at this VA Nursing Magazine! Mary Ruth is on the cover! All this makes history come alive – you can see it, touch it, feel it and relive it. Mrs. Jackson is the linkage between wars of the past and the wars our young soldiers are fighting today.”

Dr. Banks says the visit by Mary Ruth Jackson embodies the motto of the Crile Archives and Center for Military History Education – to be the premier center for learning about healing during and after war. He said Jackson represents the healing ground that the Crile Archives has become. “We can teach how people started their lives over again after being crushed by war,” said Dr. Banks. “It touches on the process of nursing, surgery, rehabilitation, convalescence, love, marriage and new beginnings.”

Crile Hospital was dedicated in

April, 1944, named for renowned Cleveland surgeon, Dr. George W. Crile. Dr. Crile went on to become founder of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Crile Hospital covered more than 150 acres on what is now the Tri-C Western Campus. In all, there were 87 hospital buildings with nearly 2,000 beds. The staff provided care for some 15,000 wounded U.S. soldiers. In 1966, the Crile barracks became

the Western Campus of Cuyahoga Community College. The Crile buildings were used by the college until the current campus was built in 1975.

“It was a good time in my life, and I really enjoyed nursing,” said Jackson. “It was my service to the military. I just didn’t want to join the Army or the Navy, so this was the best way to help for me to help our country.”

“I think this is terrific because it’s going to live on,” said Jackson’s son, Bob Jackson, now a resident of Naples, Florida. “My mother and I talked a lot about what to do with what she had, and giving this to the school seemed like the best idea. You don’t want to see these pictures and memorabilia stuffed away in a garage and have someone wondering what it all means, asking why it’s significant. Now all of this has a home.”

“The history may be long ago, but the memories make it seem like only yesterday,” said Mary Ruth Jackson. “It’s good being back. It was good being here to help our soldiers heal.”

I need to acknowledge Adam Luhta, a student intern who was present at this event, and who has contributed greatly to writing this story about this most historic occasion; thank you ever so much Adam.

Oasis Found In Ward 1

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It's a perfect spot to come and watch a Browns game, cheer for the Buckeyes, or root for the Cavs and the Tribe. There is catering available, and you can book the spacious back room for any occasion, like birthday parties, political events, or any kind of celebration really. There is a Happy Hour from 1-7 p.m.

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Front of the house at Hader's Bar & Grille in the Snowville Shopping Plaza in Parma's Ward 1.

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# Parma Observer

## Former Parma Police Chief To Lead Levy Renewal Effort

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themselves out there every day and night to make that happen,” he said. “Some of what the levy pays for is direct safety enhancement and technological advancements to help the crime-fighting effort. We want to keep Parma safe, and we need the levy to do it.”

Parma City Council voted 8-0 to place the 2-mill renewal on the ballot; the renewal would continue to pay for much-needed equipment and to help keep Parma at safe staffing levels. The department expects to be at 102 officers soon; the goal of the department is 110 officers. Even at 110, Parma would still be one of the lowest-staffed police departments per capita in Cuyahoga County with 1.34 officers per 1,000 residents. The current levy costs the owner of a \$100,000 house about \$70 a year, which translates to about 19 cents per day. Because this is a

renewal of that levy, the amount paid by each property owner would not change. The levy has provided \$3.5 million for the police department in 2011, \$3.2 million in 2010 and \$3.8 million in 2009; the department’s total operating budget is \$9.2 million.

City Safety Director Greg Baeppler said the city has made very effective use of the funds the levy has provided in the past few years. “The results are clear,” he said. “The K-9 unit has been restored, some equipment has been enhanced and while the staffing levels are still not where we’d like them to be, it is a credit to the department and the citizens that Parma is a safe place to live.” Parma Police received just over 37,000 calls for service in 2011 and in that year, criminal and traffic enforcement reached an all-time high. “What’s important here is the safety and welfare of the citizens of Parma,” Hoffman

said. “The funds realized with the continuation of this levy would allow the police department to continue pursuing the vision of having an adequately staffed department that is supported with proper equipment, education and training – it takes all those things to provide the best quality of life for the citizens of Parma.”

Police Chief Robert Miller echoed that sentiment. “The police levy provides crucial funding for personnel, which permits the police department to maintain the level of safety and security that our citizens expect and deserve,” he said. “The levy funding also pays for much of the equipment that police officers need to accomplish this goal.” Miller also pointed out necessary equipment that needs updating, such as mobile computers for police vehicles, computer replacement for the police department and

jail and safety equipment for officers, such as soft body armor. Additionally, approximately 10 police vehicles out of the 30-car patrol fleet are replaced each year, and the department maintains a state-of-the-art records management and dispatch system.

Before the original levy was passed in 2007, the situation was dire, Hoffman said. Manpower had shrunk to dangerously low levels; vehicles were consistently breaking down and were being taken out of service. Training of personnel was at an all-time low. “We provided the best service that we could under the circumstances but we could not provide the type of service to our citizens that they deserved,” Hoffman said. “The passing of the levy in 2007 was a vote of confidence from our citizens and was instrumental in moving the police department forward to its present state of professionalism. By working together and supporting this renewal levy, we can continue to support our police department and the goal of maintaining a safe and secure city for all of us.”

## Obama Campaign Stops In Parma

continued from page 1

14th birthday, as well as our nation’s independence. “She used to be young enough I could convince her that all these fireworks were for her birthday”, he said jovially.

The President spoke for thirty-five minutes emphasizing middle class struggles and the “...two fundamentally different visions of how we move forward.” He pointed out the progress that has been made in the past three and a half years (“...without a lot of help from the other side”) that included the end of the war in Iraq and the killing of Osama Bin Laden. Obama said that the trickle down approach proposed by Romney is “something we tried for about ten years before I was elected, and it didn’t work.” Obama said that these policies culminated in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. “I don’t think that we grow the economy from the top down. I think we grow the economy from the middle class out. I think we grow the economy by making sure everybody has a fair shot, and everybody is doing their fair share, and everybody is playing by the same set of rules”, he said.

Obama addressed his vision of moving forward by betting on the American worker, building up manufacturing, especially advanced-battery manufacturing, and investing in clean energy by making sure solar panels and wind turbines will be made in America. “Those are smart investments– that’s how we move forward”, he said. He went on to describe his vision of making sure “...American young people are the best educated in the world”, by hiring more math and science teachers, training and paying them better, and giving two million more people a chance to go to community college to train for current jobs. He asked the

wealthy to “pay a little more attention”, then called for an end to tax breaks for companies shipping jobs overseas and giving it to companies investing here in America. He went on to clarify his health care plan and what it meant to American citizens, highlighting the elimination of pre-existing condition

clauses and lifetime limits.

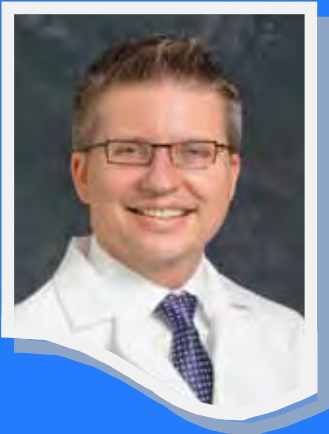
Obama concluded by saying he plans to get rid of government programs that don’t work, stressed that a government can’t solve every problem and that our culture can’t nurture selfishness, but rather needs to work together to build up America.

“So there are two fundamentally different visions about how we move the country forward”, Obama reiterated. “And the great thing about our democracy is... you get to be the tie-breaker.”

“It’s up to you!”



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