

If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience. - Woodrow Wilson

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Parma Hts. CodeRED Test Call Completed

by Mike Byrne
Mayor of Parma Hts.

On Friday, August 24th at 11:00 a.m., the City of Parma Heights experienced its first test call to all numbers in the municipality's CodeRED Emergency Communications Network database. "If you did not receive the test call on August 24, you are not in the database. If you want to receive emergency messages and weather alerts, it is imperative that you go the website or call the Safety Department to register," emphasized Brent Collins, Director of Public Safety.

Residents who received

a test call and want to withdraw from the service need to download or pick-up and submit a "Do Not Call" form to the Safety Department.

CodeRED is a high-speed notification system that provides city officials the ability to quickly deliver messages by phone to the entire city, or to specifically targeted areas, at the speed of up to 1,000 calls per minute.

The city is also offering the CodeRED Weather Warning Alert System that allows residents to be contacted directly by the National Weather Service when a severe weather alert is issued

for the city. Both CodeRED and the CodeRED Weather Warning Alert System are services purchased by the City of Parma Heights and provided free of charge to residents and businesses.

"The CodeRED and CodeRED Weather Warning Alert System can only be effective if people are registered," cautioned Collins, "so our next priority is to encourage residents and business owners who did not get the test call to go to the city website www.parmaheightsoh.gov, click on the CodeRED icon and input their information." Those without Internet access may call the city's Safety Department at 440.884.9600 x37, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. to supply their information. Required information includes first and last name, street address (physical address, no P.O. boxes), city, state, zip code, and primary phone number. Additional phone numbers can be entered as well.

"All businesses should register, as well as all individuals who have unlisted phone numbers, who have changed their phone number or address within the past year, or those who use a cellular phone as their primary number. Street addresses are required to ensure emergency notification calls are received by the proper individuals in a given situation. The system works

for cell phones, but we need to have an associated street address to provide a relevant message," explained Collins. The data collected will only be used for emergency notification purposes.

More information on both the CodeRED and CodeRED Weather Warning Alert System are available on the city website or through the Safety Department.

Five New Officers Sworn Into Parma Police Dept.



Five new police officers took their oaths to help keep Parma safe at a swearing-in ceremony last month at City Hall. The new officers are (l-r): Eric Dougan, Nathan Camarda, Peter Shepetiak, Scott Cathcart and Evan Mackensen.

City Of Parma Provides Update On Fire Safety House Program

by Jeanie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter announced the city is making progress on a plan to save the Fire Safety House and the adjacent Burn Room - a development that reiterates the administration's commitment to fire safety education for area school children. After months of reviewing potential locations in the city, DeGeeter said the goal is to relocate the small bungalow to the campus of the Health Education Center, a Parma Community General Hospital property on State Road.

However, before that prospective move takes place, the Fire Safety House (FSH) and Burn Room will be moved temporarily to a

parking lot close to Medical Arts Center 4 near the main hospital campus - a move that is necessary so that the current location of the house on Powers Blvd. can be purposed for part of a multi-million project for a new Cuyahoga County Public Library.

The move is expected to take place this month to the temporary site until November at the latest, when the house will be relocated to its permanent location. "We're committed to saving the fire safety program," DeGeeter said. "Everybody knows how important this program is and will continue to be. We also truly appreciate the hos-

Groundbreaking For New County Library In Parma



Far left, Cuyahoga County Public Library Director Sari Feldman and sixth from the left, Mayor Tim DeGeeter join with the CCPL ground breaking, tossing shovel full of dirt.

Parma Business

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Recently, I received a call from a single mother who wanted to know of any energy assistance programs to help her make ends meet. Like my own mother when I was growing up, she is raising two children and works a tough, low-paying job that makes it hard to keep up with rising costs. Her call and the cold weather that is right around the corner are the inspirations for this month's column. I am hoping that the information below will assist at least one of our readers or that you will share the information with someone you might know who could benefit from the programs outlined. Please note that the information contained below can be found at the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer's website at

<http://fiscalo fficer.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/energy-assistance-program.aspx>

The Ohio Department of Development's Office of Community Service offers the following programs to assist low-income eligible homeowners and renters with their utility bills and improve the energy efficiency of their



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

homes:

1.) Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - is a federally funded program designed to help meet the high cost of home heating. Open enrollment for HEAP started on August 1 and runs through May 31.

2.) Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) - is a federally funded, low income residential energy efficiency program. This program can save energy, cut your gas and electric bills, and make your home more

comfortable. If you qualify for this program, you could receive the following services at no cost: furnace checks, cleaning and tune-up, minor repair of windows and doors and weather-strip-ping, attic and sidewall insulation, and hot water tank insulation.

3.) Winter Crisis Program (WCP) - is a special component of the heap emergency home energy assistance program (E-Heap). This program provides assistance once per heating season to eligible households.

4.) Summer Crisis Program (SCP) - is the low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP). The program is designed to help qualified households pay for summer cooling.

5.) Percentage of Income Payment Plans (PIPP) - is an extended payment arrangement that requires regulated gas and electric companies to accept payments based on a percentage of the household income. You must re-certify yearly for this program.

To find out more about eligibility requirements and to receive an application for the programs above, please call the State HEAP office toll free at 1-800-282-0880 or the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer's office at 1-216-443-7050. Applications may also be obtained at the Cuyahoga County

Fiscal Officer's office located at 1219 Ontario Street, Room 110-A in Cleveland or at any branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

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 councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Have a Happy Labor Day weekend!



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Cuyahoga Land Bank Launches The Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program

by Katherine Bulava

The Cuyahoga Land Bank has recently launched an Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program designed to make it easier for individuals and families interested in getting a great deal on a property to own and live in. The new initiative is geared specifically toward prospective owner-occupiers - people that want to rehabilitate a property in order to make it their home. While anyone can put in a bid on a property in the Cuyahoga Land Bank's inventory that the Land Bank has determined can be rehabilitated, many properties need extensive work that require the purchaser to have either the expertise

to take that work on or the ability to pay contractors to do so. The properties that the Cuyahoga Land Bank places into the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage program, on the other hand, are selected because they require only a moderate investment and much of the work needed can be undertaken by someone who is handy. As these properties are in better condition than others in the Land Bank inventory, a buyer may obtain more equity from the onset.

"Renovating one of our properties can be a wonderful opportunity to get a great home for a great price," said Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos. "But it can also be daunting to someone that is

not a professional rehabber. We've designed this program to make it easier for the average person to be able to make rehabbing an old property the path to their dream home."

The Land Bank places properties in the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program up for bid for a period of 30 days, during which interested, qualified buyers can place bids. In order to be considered a qualified buyer, the bidder must:

- intend to live in the property as their primary residence for at least 3 years;
- agree, at minimum, to renovate the property according to the specifications
- provided by the Cuyahoga Land Bank;
- provide satisfactory documentation to the Land Bank that shows they have the ability to finance, at minimum the cost of acquiring and renovating the property;
- agree to follow all the rules as promulgated by the Land Bank;
- be in agreement with the Land Bank's Property Transfer Policy; and
- sign a Cuyahoga Land Bank purchase/renovation contract and all addenda within 3 days of the winning bid being accepted.

To view properties currently in the Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program and start the process of placing a bid, interested buyers should visit www.cuyahogalandbank.org and click on Owner Occupant Buyer Advantage Program.

City Of Parma Provides Update On Fire Safety House Program

continued from page 1

pital's willingness to partner on this important endeavor."

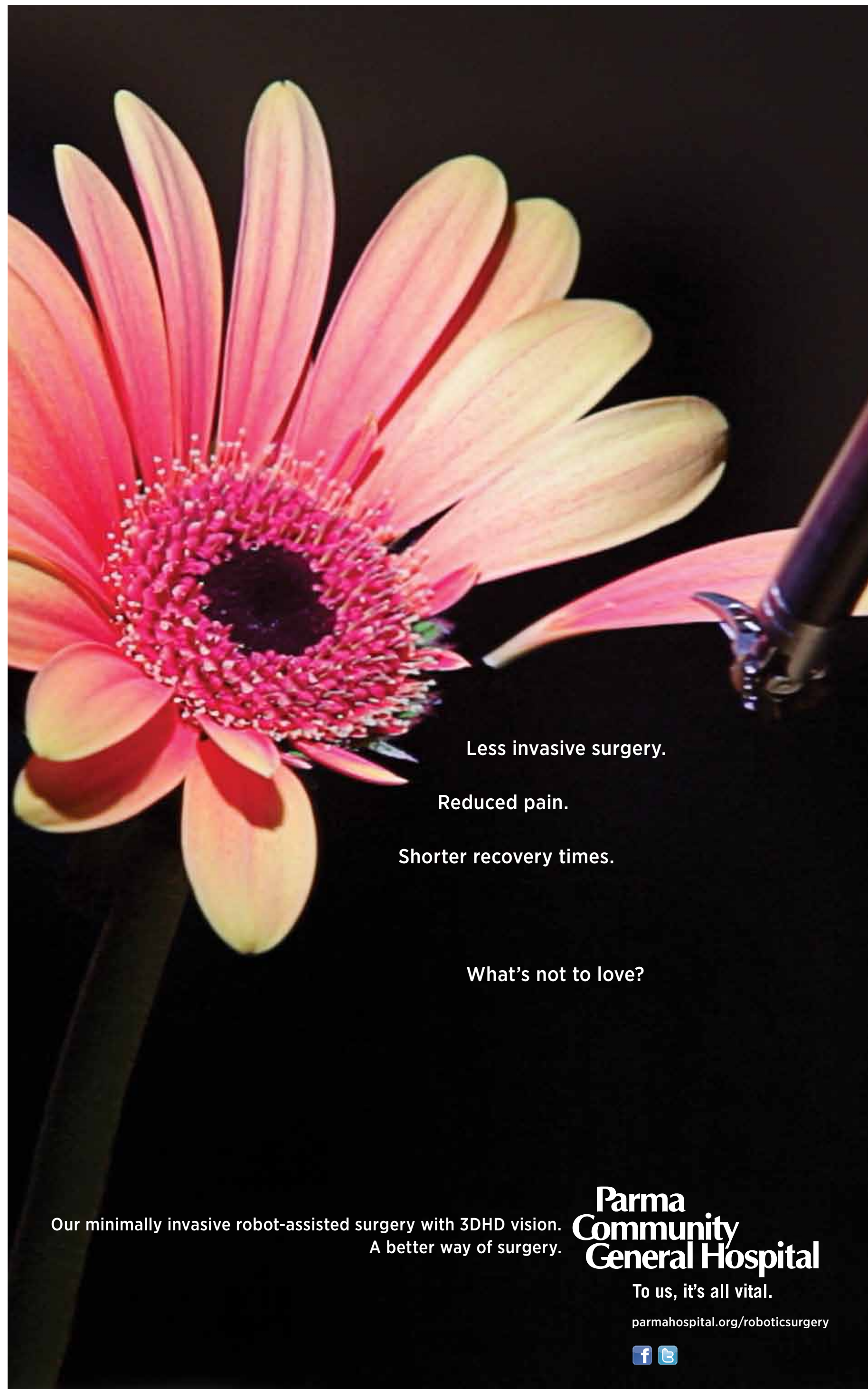
The city also is putting together an informal group - coordinated by Parma Fire Chief John French and made up of individuals from the surrounding communities that are part of the FSH program - to help spearhead the effort to establish the FSH to its permanent site. In order to secure the necessary funding for the project, the group will reach out to community leaders and to officials and fire departments in those communities.

No final cost has been estimated,

although the relocation of the FSH to the center could cost more than \$100,000 to, among other things, build a foundation for the house and attach utilities to the structure, the administration indicated.

While the FSH is being relocated and restored to functionality, French is working on several options to educate Parma's school children about fire safety, including visits by firefighters to local schools.

"We are committed to educating Parma's school children about fire safety," DeGeeter said. "One day, these important lessons could save a life."



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Parma Observer

Prostate, Bladder Health Covered In September Talks

by CJ Sheppard

Two September health talks will cover urgent matters of urology for both men and women.

On Tuesday, September 11, nationally renowned urologist Carson Wong, MD, will speak on importance of prostate cancer screening and advancements in treatment at a free talk at 6:30 p.m. in Parma Hospital's Auditorium. The medical director of the Center for Minimally Invasive and Robot-Assisted Surgery at Parma Hospital, Dr. Wong is a nationally recognized expert in endourologic, minimally invasive and robotic surgery for the treatment of urologic cancers, stone disease, upper

urinary tract reconstruction and laser surgery for benign prostate enlargement. All men who attend are eligible for a free PSA blood test, and Dr. Wong allows ample opportunity to ask questions. Call 440-743-4900 to register.

On Monday, September 24, at 2 p.m., Holly Wyneski, MD will discuss "Opening the Floodgates" in a talk about bladder problems and optimal bladder health. Her talk will be held in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Stroke & Arthritis Support Group, which meets at Parma Hospital's Health Education Center, 7300 State Road, Parma. Call 440-743-4041 to register for this free session.

Get On Your Marks For Parma Hospital's 5K On Sept. 22

by CJ Sheppard

Lace up your running shoes for Parma Hospital's Second Annual 5K Run & 1-Mile Walk for Wellness on Saturday, September 22. The race, benefiting Parma Hospital's Cancer Center, features a unique course that includes part of Parma's Ridgewood Municipal Golf Course, plus prizes by age division, refreshments and fun!

The race, which begins at Parma Hospital's MAC 4 Center, 6115 Pow-

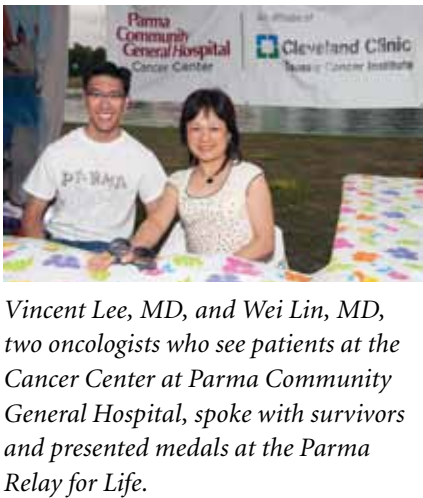
ers Blvd., also is a stop on the Lake Erie Monsters' Splash Tour, complete with free face painting, hair spray painting, tattoos and Monsters' Plinko with fun prizes for kids. Monsters' mascot Scully and Monsters' hockey players also will be on hand to greet the runners.

Registration is \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the race. Early registrants will receive a tech style t-shirt. To register online, go to hermes.cleveland.com by Friday, September 21 at 9 a.m.

Parma Hospital And The Relay For Life

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital's team raised \$6,600 toward the Parma Relay for Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society that celebrates survivors of cancers and remembers loved ones lost. Radiation oncologist Vincent Lee, MD, and medical oncologist Wei Lin, MD were on hand to take questions and present medals to their patients, who were treated at the Cancer Center at Parma Hospital. The July 27 event was held at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus.



Vincent Lee, MD, and Wei Lin, MD, two oncologists who see patients at the Cancer Center at Parma Community General Hospital, spoke with survivors and presented medals at the Parma Relay for Life.

Racing To Records Despite Diabetes, Cyclist To Speak On Sept. 13

by CJ Sheppard

Team Type 1-Sanofi raced to national prominence in 2005 in a transcontinental cycling race. Now this cycling phenomenon, consisting entirely of Type 1 diabetics, holds the world record for the fastest time in the 3,020-mile Race Across America. On Thursday, September 13, a member of Team Type 1-Sanofi will share its inspirational message at a special meeting of Parma Hospital's Diabetes Support Group.

"We want people to know that having diabetes doesn't prevent you from reaching any goal you set in mind," says Karen Krauth, the diabetes educator who has coordinated the support group for the past 17 years. "Optimal control makes it that much easier to accomplish anything."

The Diabetes Support Group meets the second Thursday of every month, September through May, from

7-9 p.m. in Parma Hospital's Auditorium. Meetings cover tools for healthy living and new topics are presented each month. This support group is just one aspect of the quality education program for which the American Diabetes Association has recognized Parma Hospital.

Like the Diabetes Support Group, the athletes of Team Type 1-Sanofi demonstrate to those with diabetes what is possible with proper diet, exercise, insulin/blood glucose management and a positive outlook. Members of Team Type 1-Sanofi speak at community diabetes events worldwide.

The September 13 event will be preceded by a healthy, light supper, for which a goodwill donation may be made to the American Diabetes Association. RSVP by September 7 to 440-743-2348. The free presentation and support group meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Fall Classes Prepare Kids For School, Shape Up Seniors And More!

by CJ Sheppard

Prepare your child for the demanding requirements of Kindergarten with youth classes at Parma Hospital's Health Education Center.

The new fall schedule of classes is out, and some preschool classes and pre-K classes like Preschool Mania or Kindergarten Readiness still have open spots. These classes will run from September through May and will ensure that your child is ready for school. Preschool classes start at age 3 and finish when the child goes to Kindergarten.

The center also offers a wide range of exercise classes that include Senior Shape Up, Circuit Workout, ZUMBA and a few new classes like Tabata with Abs, and Yogalates. Not sure if you're going to like a class? Ask about the "Try a Class Pass" to sample one for free. Take a look at Personal Wellness classes, such as Guided Imagery for Self Care, Breaking the Food Seduc-

tion, Food For Life – Cooking Series, Joy of Gluten-Free Cooking and much more.

View and register for fall classes at www.parmahospital.org/classes or by calling 440-743-4900.

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Parma Schools

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What All Kids Need to Succeed 40 Developmental Assets



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Asset Corner #33

by Gene Lovasy

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

Commitment To Learning Assets Include:

- #21 **Achievement Motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school. (65%*)
- #22 **School Engagement** – Young person is actively engaged in learning. (55*)
- #23 **Homework** – Young person reports doing at least 1 hour of homework every school day. (47%*)
- #24 **Bonding To School** – Young person cares about his or her school. (52%*)
- #25 **Reading For Pleasure** – Young person reads for pleasure 3 or more hours per week. (22%*)

(* The percent of youth who experience or have this asset in their lives. Data based on an aggregate Search Institute sample of 148,189 students surveyed in 2003. The sample included students in 202 cities in 27 states.)

This column's focus will be on..... Asset 24 Bonding To School

Finding a connection with school

Why do some kids drop out of school and others stay in and even excel? Experts say kids who don't like school and choose not to attend are disinterested, bored, and feel unconnected. On the other hand, those who stay in school and do well have the opposite experience. They like it there. They have people who enjoy seeing them every day and who miss them when they're absent. They also have friends and family who are proud of what they do at school. These young people are stimulated and challenged, have fun, and enjoy learning at school.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who care about their school are less likely to be involved in violence or the use of alcohol and other drugs. They also are

more likely to become good leaders, value diversity, and succeed in school. About 52 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they care about their schools, according to Search Institute surveys.

Tips for building this asset

Parents and others in the community can make a big difference in improving schools and making them caring places for young people. If you know a young person who doesn't like school, ask her or him why. Remember that for students, part of bonding to school involves knowing someone in their school cares about them. Share your experiences from when you were in school—such as finding an adult or a peer who cared about you—with the young people you know who are struggling to fit in.

Also try this

In your home and family: Tell your child about one adult and one peer who cared about you when you were in school. Help your child identify which adults and friends at school he or she likes best and why.

In your neighborhood and community: Be an involved partner with the school. Volunteer to tutor in an after-school program or as an athletic coach. Use these opportunities to bond with students, helping them in turn to bond to school.

In your school or youth program: Identify young people who do not have an involved adult in their lives and find ways to help them connect to a caring, available adult.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

- If you haven't already heard, this year's Backpacks For Kids initiative was a resounding success. A big thank you to KIKS Office, the Community/Business/Schools Partnership, the Parma Area Family Collaborative, students of the Parma H.S. DECA program, Community Ambassadors, at least seven area churches and a number of community volunteers all helped provide nearly 600 students with backpacks all filled with, at least, basic supplies. Plans are already underway to provide even more kids w/ backpacks & the supplies they'll need for the 2013-14 school year. Stay tuned.
- Community Ambassadors (CA) & Parma Hts. Baptist Church are collaborating to provide free homework help for kids in grades 1 – 5. Assistance is being provided every Wednesday evening, from 7:15 to 8:15 pm starting September 5 through December 19, 2012, at the CA location in Parmatown Mall next to Payless Shoes. For additional information contact, Jeff Van Putten at 440.886.6100 or jeff@phbaptist.org.
- The Parma City Schools Education Foundation has put together a

"Taste of the Town" event for Wednesday, September 26th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Carrie Cerino's Ristorante in North Royalton. Your \$25 donation will help support the technological needs of our students. Call any of the following for tickets/information:

Padua Franciscan High School Gears Up For Fall

by Kimberly Merryman Sherer, MBA,

Padua Franciscan High School has many events planned for fall that will allow families an opportunity to learn more about the school and all we have to offer. Please join us! We'll get you there.

High School Information Night

Meet Padua administrators, coaches and staff. Pick one of three nights: September 19, October 24 or December 10. The session will be at 7 p.m. in the Padua library. For 7th and 8th grade students.

Open House

Enjoy a tour of the building, and talk to our teachers, coaches and current students. For students of all ages,

Nancy Fedak 440.655.8224, Barb Filipow 440.487.2863 or E.J. Mahoney 216.401.6589.

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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.

especially grades 5-8. October 14 from Noon-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m.

Placement Tests

These tests are for 8th graders only. Students must register in advance for Padua's placement test by completing the online registration form. There is a \$20 non-refundable fee. You can find the form at www.paduafranciscan.com/admissions. The test dates are November 3, 17 or December 1 from 9 a.m. - Noon.

For more information on these events or other activities planned for fall, please visit www.paduafranciscan.com or contact the school at 440-845-2444 x 112.



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Inspiration

Plastics: Friend And Foe

by Michelle E. Rice

Plastic, a petroleum derivative, is a part of everyday life. Too much plastic is used merely for disposable products of convenience, ending up as litter or in landfills. Americans alone bought 29 billion plastic water bottles in 2007. This used 714 million gallons of oil, enough to fuel 100,000 cars, which produced 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide in the manufacturing; and that was only water bottles. Plastic bag usage is 1 million a minute;

500 billion a year. The results of prolific use of plastic are having devastating effects on the health and survival of our planet, wildlife and us.

The recycling number code on most plastic bottles is the number one. This type of plastic is known as PET or PETE, meaning: made of Polyethylene Terephthalate. Not only is plastic toxic to produce and recycle, the chemicals it is composed of are too, and release from the item. In 2009 the FDA banned

6 phthalates. In 2012 the FDA banned BPA (bisphenol A) from baby bottles and sippy cups after the National Institute of Health declared them unsafe upon reviewing 700 peer-reviewed scientific articles. Currently, 38 internationally recognized scientists are extremely concerned about the impacts of plastic on human health.

There is virtually no major human health trend over the past 30 years that is not related to exposure to BPA. It is linked to obesity, diseases of reproductive organs, hypospadias, autism, type 2 diabetes, breast and prostate cancer, ADHD, brain disorders, liver disease, disruption of endocrine system, and early puberty. Phthalates are found in PVC and children's toys. They are linked to thyroid dysfunction, eczema, asthma, allergies, genital abnormalities, rhinitis, obesity, insulin resistance, premature birth and premature breast development. Even paper coffee cups and canned foods are lined with plastic. It is estimated that 1 out of 3 people will develop diabetes. Currently 1 out of 150 children have autism. These were rare disorders before the 1970's. The good news is that you can have a Body Burden test done which identifies and quantifies dozens of chemicals in your body and the levels are reversible.

Plastic bags are being banned or phased out all over the globe, because there is an easy alternative: Bring your own re-usable, biodegradable bags to the store, refuse plastic bags! Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of the U.N. Environment Programme stated, "Single use plastic bags which choke marine life, should be banned or phased out rapidly everywhere. There is simply zero justification for manufacturing them anymore, anywhere."

Plastic especially affects marine life through ingestion and entanglement, leading to death; 80% of land waste ends up in the ocean. It is threatening the entire

marine food web. Algalite Marine Research screens the ocean. In 1999 they found 6 times more plastic than plankton, in 2008, 46x's more plastic than plankton, a tiny, essential dietary component to marine life. Plastic breaks into fragments and confused as food. Many marine animals are consuming plastic. Plastic is known to kill 100,000 marine animals a year. The population of every large marine animal is down 90%. Whales, dolphins, seals, and sea turtles are just some that become entangled or eat various forms of plastic, usually to their death. At the Albatross Midway Atoll Wildlife Refuge, every dead albatross is found with plastic in their stomach. Many baby chicks die of starvation being consistently fed plastic. These birds also die due to plastics impacting their intestines. The island has 5 tons of plastic, all brought in by the birds.

Only 50% of American communities have curbside pick-up for recyclable products. Still, 1/3 is not consumed at home. Worldwide the recycling rate is 50% with the U.S. recycling only 20% of beverage bottles. There are currently 11 states with "Bottle Bills," Container Deposit Systems. It is a private industry and doesn't require tax money for funding. It comes from the return of the bottle. Of those with a 5 cent return, 70% are recycled. Michigan has a 10 cent return and thus, 90% are recycled.

Plastic is the most pervasive form of litter. What can be done? More important than recycling is reducing how much plastic you buy or accept; reuse the plastic you have. Take bags to the store and containers to restaurants for take home. Avoid single serving items. Refill water bottles at home, saving money too. Be a conscientious consumer. Write to your representatives in Congress to adopt a bottle bill that includes water bottles. While we need alternatives in product and packaging design, we too can help in the consumption of plastic. As we eliminate unnecessary use of plastic, are healthier and so is the rest of the planet.

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

Culture Change Culture consists of certain characteristics that an individual or a group of people have in common. This then evolves into a way of life that becomes known as society or civilization. There is much concern today by many people of just how far our society has drifted from the principles that founded and guided our nation for 234 years. Over a period of time a culture might remain the same, improve or decline. Some of those changes could impact our society in a negative way; they include personal appearance, behavior, family, non-parental influence, school and sexuality.

Personal Appearance: conformity, earring placement, indiscreet dress, makeup, dyed hair, tattoos.

Behavior: drug and alcohol abuse, immediate gratification, situational ethics, susceptibility to fads, vandalism, vulgar talk.

Family: less church attendance, disobedience, divorce, fatherlessness/single motherhood, lack of manners, obesity.

Non-parental Influence: Internet, peer pressure, sexting, smart phones, television, video games.

School: absentees, dropouts, lack of after-school supervision, low test scores, no moral instruction, school violence.

Sexuality: homosexuality, pornography, promiscuous sex, same sex marriage, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy.

Each category above could generate a discussion in itself. Family, for example, is the very foundation upon which society rests. It is the first and often the only place where children are nurtured, loved and accepted for what they are, in an environment where they can learn principles and values that will help equip them for adulthood. Children can sense when family comes first and this realization will bring out the best in them. They thrive when parents exercise strong leadership; this tells

them they are loved and thereby more receptive to instruction and guidance. Children especially should be taught to think twice before following the crowd. A passage from the Book of Matthew, 7:13-14, says, "Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

In our culture, we often discover too late that what we thought was right turns out to be wrong and what we thought was wrong turns out to be right. The test for a right decision is: Did it adhere to biblical truth? Though a particular choice may seem right at the time, if biblical standards are ignored, eventually the foolishness of that choice will become evident with negative consequences sure to follow.

It also should be noted that history is filled with great civilizations that have come and gone, all experiencing moral decay from within. Historian Edward Gibbon (1737-94) listed five major causes for the decline and fall of the Roman Empire:

1. The rapid increase of divorce: the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.
2. Increasingly higher taxes and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.
3. The mad craze for pleasure: sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.
4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within, the decadence of the people.
5. The decay of religion: faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life and becoming less important to guide the people.

History does not document one civilization that survived without a dominating number of morally strong families. How would you rate the moral state of America today? Has our culture changed for the better-or the worse?

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Pets Observed

The Dog Days Upon Us

by Kathryn Yates

How often have you heard someone say, “She’s my baby!” when introduced to the four-legged “family member” forcing you to choke back the logical reply, “You gave birth to a dog?” Yet today, more households have dogs as family members (43 million) than they do children (38 million). Our culture may be evolving in a direction that will make different demands on our society than our predecessor’s and will make different concessions relinquishing to this altered family state. Dogs, in general, are pack animals and “when a dog is adopted into a human family, he regards the human family as its pack, also adopting the dominance/submission structure with the hierarchy of Alpha, Beta and Omega, whereby the human owner is supposed to be the Alpha leader.” *From the site:www.3draf.com/dog-social-behavior-p5.html. The fact that the author has inserted “supposed to be” might be cause for concern here, but only an exceptional dog that brings home the bacon and Snausages with the fame of Lassie or Eddie might reign as head of the household, though the IRS will prevent him from claiming himself come April 15th.

Yet, periodically, we do hear of canine lavishing by their owners that venture into the vulgar zone. Who can forget the 12 million Leona Helmsley bequeathed to her lapdog, Trouble? Trouble lived a happy life thereafter, despite two dozen death and kidnapping threats and died after 12 Gregorian calendar years at the dog-age of 64. Being self-styled royalty, “The Queen of Mean” subject may have gotten the idea from Countess Karlotta Lebenstein of Germany



Big dogs benefit from Parma Animal Shelter swim day social.

who left her German Shepherd, Gunther III \$106 M in 1992, which was invested to make his offspring, Gunther IV, the richest dog alive when he was born worth \$372 M. If you’re thinking rightfully, that there “should be a law”, be consoled that such inheritances are contestable in court, and Trouble’s fortune was later barked down to a mere \$2 million.

As dog is elevated in family status, it stands to reason that dog owners would want the best for their beloved pet – the best environment with roaming privileges and the opportunity to meet fellow beasts of same species outside of the home. Where best for man’s best friend than at a dog park, or an indoor dog care facility? Because my small dog has not yet realized she is only a dog and not a dog-eating Ork whose eternal mission is to guard the treasure within the gates of our backyard, myself and my pet remain somewhat curious, but

neutral on the matter of Dog Park vs. No Park. While it appears well and good in concept, we cannot actually benefit. I’m sure many dog-less households are in similar positions, as are most cat owners, and ferret masters, to name only a few. People without pets, in general, would find little interest in the activity of dogs corralled together with their owners, save maybe a passing thought that there is no longer an excuse for violating the leash laws.

Still, personally, I admit to a degree of envy when I would see dogs integrating playfully together at the old park on Snow near West 54th. If only my companion were...umm... more normal. The dog park has definite benefits for dogs and owners as the Association for Pet Dog Trainers attests www.adpt.com/petowners/park/pros_cons.aspx, however there are cons as well that include liabilities for aggressive behaviors, noise, issues of sanitation, and the natural displacement of small dogs. The site suggests that the latter group could have a separate area, fenced for dogs under 20 lbs., say. Also, nominal fees for users of the park could be charged to cover maintenance issues and supervision of grounds during operating hours. A third party business establishment could sponsor the park, charge fees, and acquire the liability and maintenance aspects as opposed to tax payer support – no doubt with naming rights (Progressive Dog Park?). Lots of possibilities exist to ensure the best public socializing environment for your dog compatible with the community that would go beyond the “unofficial” dog park shut down on Snow Rd. last June.

Interestingly, some home owners insurance policies will cover your dogs’ bad behavior, even if your dog bites someone miles from your home. Not always a good thing, according to one Internet source. “A dog bite victim cannot make a liability claim against a policy that insures him.” *From the site: www.dogbitelaw.com/insurance-for-dog-owner/who-is-covered-under-insurance-policy.

[html](#). Check your policy, though difficult to decipher without an attorney the site warns.

A recent visit to a Doggie Day Care facility proved somewhat disappointing as dog desire to socialize in that indoor environment seemed to take second, or even third fiddle, to “getting outside the gate”. The freedom to roam, inherent in all creatures, took precedence. This may have more to do with length of time spent together as the industry is designed to “house” the animal with safety first in mind. Dogs are given individual sleeping quarters to guarantee food rights and time-off due to fatigue and may be there all day, several days a week, while master is away at work. This may be why most of the dogs witnessed seemed to prefer the attention of people in attendance rather than their own kind, and no dogs banded together to play even one hand of poker. Conversely, dog toys were not permitted to reduce the risk of fighting. Better than staying home alone, some might argue,



Small dog shows off swimwear

but the price tag was steep - \$15 to \$20 per day and \$32 for an overnight visit.

Sponsoring social events for dogs might be an alternative or an addition to dog parks to fulfill the demand for dog socialization. Parma Animal Shelter has been hosting its annual Dog Swim Day at Walter’s Grove swimming pool on Milford off State Rd. for six years and this year the event was on Sunday, August 19th. It is free for dogs and owners, though donations are heartily accepted. This event was especially beneficial for large dogs that like water and many chased tennis balls thrown into the pool to retrieve. Doggie horseplay was not discouraged as long as no snarling and snapping ensued and running on deck despite puddles is an activity dogs, and not children, can get away with. Still, some dogs preferred lounging in the sun near their owners, not sure how to engage, or not wanting to. Why not try indoor laser beam chasing for small dogs in the winter?

There’s another possibility for Parmatown Mall - right along with Community Cat Jungle.



Petitioners for an "official" dog park collected more signatures at the event.

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Political Perspective

Medicare In The 2012 Campaign

by Lee Kamps

No doubt you have already seen one of the many television commercials during this election campaign on how the other side wants to “gut Medicare” and how their side is trying to preserve the health insurance program for seniors. Apart from all the political rhetoric, just exactly where is the truth?

First, examine the claim by the Romney camp and the Republican candidates charging that the ACA has cut Medicare by more than 700 billion dollars to pay for “Obamacare”. Depending on the context of the specific commercial or claim, Politifact has either rated this claim as “mostly false”, “false” or “pants on fire”. So what is the fact about this?

The facts are that there are provisions in the Affordable Care Act that call for reductions in the GROWTH IN FUTURE SPENDING of Medicare of as much as 700 billion dollars OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS. That averages out to be 70 billion dollars a year which in terms of the total cost of the program is a drop in the bucket.

Those costs are to come from how physicians and medical providers are paid as well as a crack down on Medicare fraud, waste and abuse among medical providers. Eliminating fraud, waste and abuse could account for almost all of that 700 billion in cuts. In no place is there any proposed cuts to any Medicare beneficiaries. I classify those commercials mentioning the “700 billion in Medicare cuts to pay for Obamacare” as nothing but “Mediscare” designed to scare seniors who have very little understanding about Medicare funding.

Then there are the commercials from the Obama camp and the Democratic candidates assailing the budget proposed by Rep Paul Ryan who is now Mitt Romney’s vice presidential nominee. That budget, dubbed the “Ryan budget” was

passed by the Republican led house of representatives twice. But each time, the resolution died in the senate.

What the Ryan budget proposes to do is allow future Medicare beneficiaries, beginning in 2022 a choice between original Medicare and a voucher that allows them to purchase a private health insurance plan on the open market. For those new to Medicare in 2022 and beyond, that voucher is mandatory. This would mainly affect those who were born after 1956 who would be receiving a voucher, but those who are already on Medicare would have a choice of whether to keep the original Medicare or accept the voucher.

According to the proposal, the Medicare voucher would be for a fixed amount of money and that the indi-

vidual can go on the open market and choose a health insurance plan of their liking. The problem with this is that in many instances, the voucher may not cover all the cost of that health insurance or would keep up annually with the increase in premiums. In fact according to the non partisan Congressional Budget Office, this voucher system would eventually result in Medicare beneficiaries paying an average of more than \$6600 per year in health care costs.

In looking at both Medicare proposals, the one from the Obama campaign is the most accurate. The 700 billion dollars in Medicare cuts do not affect any benefits for Medicare beneficiaries. Yet the proposal for Medicare in the Republican Ryan budget is a dangerous idea that may leave seniors responsible for more of their health care costs than they can afford.


My experience in the health insurance field had shown me that such a voucher system would be chaotic at best and draconian at worst as many people shop for the cheapest coverage (which often has serious gaps and holes) or wind up paying out of pocket much more than the voucher for the coverage they need. People seldom make rational decisions regarding health care.

The Ryan plan for Medicare is a radical change for Medicare and one that may not be best for seniors.



Mayor’s In, Mayor’s Out

Mayor Tim DeGeeter will host another Mayor’s In night on Sept. 10 in his office at City Hall. From 5-7 p.m., Parma residents can come and speak to the Mayor one-on-one about any subject for five minutes. Residents can begin signing in at 4 p.m. in the lobby of City Hall at 6611 Ridge Road.



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The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse [gifts] from the public treasury.” Alexander Tytler. When you ask most Americans what type of government we have, the usual answer will be a democracy. But guess what, that is not true. The system of government we have is a representative form of government known as a Republic. So what’s the difference and why is it important?

Picture yourself in the Old West and living in a Democracy when you are accused of shooting the local Sheriff. Thirty riders form a posse to chase you down. They catch you. The riders vote 29 to 1 to hang you immediately even though you proclaim your innocence. Democracy has triumphed and there is one less “killer” to contend with. Now consider the same scenario in a Republic. The 30 riders catch you and vote 29 to 1 to hang you. But a Marshall arrives on the scene and says “You can’t kill him ... he’s got his right to a fair trial.” So, they take you back to town and a jury of your peers hears the evidence and defense and decides your fate. Does the jury even decide by majority rule? No, it has to be unanimous or you

continued on page 11

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Parma Observer

Our Right Of Conscience

by David Dieball

When you hear people talk about human rights, or civil rights, they often are dealing with several overlapping and interrelated rights at the same time. The basic rights we call freedom of speech and freedom of the press are actually the same thing, usually referred to as freedom of expression. This freedom of expression is the logical and natural extension of freedom of thought and of belief. Another right that follows from these is what we call the right of conscience, which is the freedom to follow our conscience. One's conscience, naturally, is guided by one's thoughts and beliefs.

–The Founding Fathers who wrote our Constitution and ratified the bill of rights understood that these rights, as well as others not discussed here, do not exist because any law or constitution says so, but rather because they are inherent in being human. These rights were put there by our Glorious Creator when He designed us, and the most basic purpose and duty of legitimate government is to protect, defend, and uphold these rights. You don't have to take my word for it. Read the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution for yourself. Then, if you look for quotes from the Founding Fathers, you will see that they stated these truths on other occasions also. The Ohio constitution states, in Article one, paragraph 7, "...nor shall any interference with the

rights of conscience be permitted."

Our right of conscience is something we could easily take for granted. If you are someone who believes it is wrong to eat pork, the government does not try to force you to do so. If you believe it is wrong to execute criminals, the government does not tell you that you must take your turn as executioner. For those who say it is wrong to reduce the urban deer population by shooting them, the government does not issue you a gun and require you to kill three deer in the next month or go to jail. A problem does exist, however.

You have probably heard by now that our President has stated that health care institutions and health insurers must provide coverage for contraception, regardless of the beliefs of the organization. You should be aware that in some religious groups, contraception is not an issue, while in others, it is understood as against God's will, or in other words, morally wrong. For the government to require all employers to provide contraception coverage is like requiring everyone to eat pork, or shoot urban deer.

In the state legislature of Ohio, there is a "right of conscience" resolution which has passed the house and is, at the time of this writing, in senate committee. Sadly, some of the representatives in the Ohio house voted against our right of conscience, in direct opposition to the constitutions of both Ohio

and the USA. Here is how to find out who they are: go to the website of our state legislature at www.legislature.state.oh.us. You will see boxes in which you can indicate "house," and "resolution," and 35, the number of the resolution. When the text of the resolution comes up on the screen, look in the left-hand margin. Click on "votes,"

and when the vote count appears on screen, click on "details." This will enable you to see who voted to protect your rights and who voted against them. Now you know who needs to be voted out of office.

David Dieball
Citizen of Parma, Ohio

Stralka Speaks At Obama HQ In Parma



Rudy Stralka, Treasurer of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party speaks before supporters at Obama/Biden headquarters in Parma

by Amanda Cummings

The Treasurer of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, Rudy Stralka, spoke at the Obama/Biden headquarters at 5734 Ridge Rd. in Parma on August 24th before a largely senior citizen group addressing the future of Medicare and Social Security. In his brief delivery, Mr. Stralka called attention to Republican plans of "privatizing" Social Security and pointed out that "1.9 million Ohio seniors depend on our Medicare program." He called Ryan's plan "radical", saying it would "end Medicare as we know it", and would turn it into a voucher system

that "would increase costs for seniors by \$6,350.00 a year."

Mr. Stralka said that Social Security was at risk as well. "Ryan's plan would have allowed people under 55 to divert about half of their Social Security payroll taxes away from the traditional programs and into private accounts." Ryan's plan was argued by at least one Bush top aide, saying it would "borrow trillions" to cover the transition costs", and was subsequently toned down.

After the speech, seniors and supporters in attendance prepared to man phone banks to push for Obama/Biden favor.

Worldstock's World

by Wayne Mesker

Hello Readers !

This is Wayne "Woody" Mesker of Worldstock Entertainment & the purpose of this column is to share stories with you from & about some of my "Interesting" & "Unique" friends .

Over the next couple of months , you will be reading about the very personal experiences that some of them had on the fateful day of Sept. 11, 2001 !

Next month for example , you will be reading about the 9/11 Experience of Carmella Inchierchiera , a songwriter friend from Florida that lived in New York City at that time & about the



Carmella Inchierchiera

inspiration behind her beautiful tribute Fallen Heroes (9-11)

Nominated for (Song of the Year) by the Independent Country Music Association..April, 2012. Available on iTunes. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/fallen-heroes-9-11-feat.-nelson/id463378449> 50% of the Net Proceeds from this song will be donated to 9-11 Health Now , an organization co-founded by another friend , Claire Calladine . You will also be reading her personal story about the foundation of this dedicated organization . <http://www.911healthnow.org/911healthnow/Mission.html>

Stay tuned in ! Until next month !



Claire Calladine

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Parma Observer

The Quarries Of West Creek

by Irene Toth

West Creek has also been called Quarry Creek, because of the large number of quarries in its vicinity. But the quarries also gave names to many streets in the area. Rockside Road was named for the stone shelf of sandstone and bluestone that stretched from Broadview Road to the Cuyahoga River. Stone Road and Rockhaven indicate a quarry had been nearby. Darrow and Kuenzer bear the names of quarry owners.

st major industries in the area. In the sixty years of its importance, it was a major factor in the growth of this area. The stone from these quarries was in great demand because of its high qual-

ity. It was used in the construction of homes and buildings. Every home built before 1910 used stone for its foundation. In Cleveland, the Weddell House, the highest-rated hotel of its time, was constructed using stone from the local quarries. The original Brooklyn Brighton Bridge built in 1887, used stones for the abutments from the local quarries.

The stones to build the Ohio Canal came from the local quarries. A short rail line using horses to supply the power was used to transport the heavy stones to the canal site. The Canal became an asset to the quarry owners making the transportation of the heavy stone much easier.

The Stones for the Cleveland harbor break wall came from local quarries. When it was built in 1875, at least 150 men worked to complete it. Each block of stone was hand-cut and fitted into place. In 1973, when the winds of Hurricane Agnes damaged the break wall, it was impossible to duplicate the original work of art those 150 men had produced.

Grindstones were especially valuable because of the high quality the local quarries produced. The were shipped to ports in and around the Great Lakes.. Flagstones were in great demand for use as sidewalks. The Cogswell's quarry on Bean Road, currently Ridgewood Drive, supplied this stone. The Uhinck family had a farm and quarry at the corner of Ridge and Ridgewood. This quarry is now Ridgewood Lake.

But Parma's most notable quarry is the Henninger Quarry. When the log cabin Philip Henninger had built for his family at the corner of Rockside and Broadview became too small for his growing family, he used the stone from the quarry on his land to build a larger home. Though a tinsmith by trade, he learned the value of the rich source of high quality stone beneath his land. The house was built in 1849 and stands today as the oldest house in Parma. West Creek Preservation Committee spearheaded the effort to save the Henninger House and is working to restore it.

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

Koinonia, Cleveland And Cuyahoga Land Bank Create Urban Farm

by Kathrine Bulava
Koinonia Homes, Inc., the Cuyahoga Land Bank, Cleveland City Council and the City of Cleveland celebrated breaking ground for a new urban agriculture farm at W. 41st and Memphis Avenue in Cleveland's Old Brooklyn neighborhood on August 22, 2012 at 10:00 am. Koinonia – the largest private provider of services for people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in Cuyahoga County – started with a vision. The organization wanted to expand a small farm they had on one of their properties and use it as a multi-faceted resource based on the creation of a work program where they could teach individuals about farming; provide meaningful work opportunities; produce food for their residential services and provide a community garden.

Koinonia approached the Cuyahoga Land Bank with this vision and the quest for the appropriate parcel of vacant land for this urban farm began. After exploring multiple options, the Cuyahoga Land Bank determined

that the best possible property on which to situate the farm was not in their inventory, but rather in the City of Cleveland Land Bank. As such, the Cuyahoga Land Bank guided Koinonia through the process of approaching the City to make this vision a reality.

"When I learned about Koinonia's vision, I was determined to help this social service agency find a way to make it happen," said Cuyahoga Land Bank President Gus Frangos.

In May 2012, Cleveland City Council passed legislation leasing a 2.3 acre parcel of land that formally housed Memphis School until it was demolished in 2008. The property is being leased to Koinonia for 25 years, with four options to renew for additional five year periods.

"This project is a win-win for everyone," said Cleveland Councilman Kevin Kelley, in whose ward the farm will be situated. "Koinonia will have the ability to provide its clients with



job skills training; the City of Cleveland sees this land going back into productive use and Old Brooklyn residents have the opportunity to experience community gardening as well."

The farm will include two greenhouses that will be used year-round, a poultry building for fresh eggs, a rainwater retention pool, a mechanical/utility building, eight crop fields and a community garden, with 24 plots for public use. The Cuyahoga Land Bank will continue to provide technical assistance to the project and is contributing \$14,000 for the irrigation of the site.

"We are elated to have partners that have made it possible for us to fulfill this vision," said Diane Beaström, President and CEO of Koinonia. "This project allows us to both provide some of our clients with a meaningful work experience and supply our day programs and residences with nutritional produce."

The first crop yield is expected during next year's growing season.

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Caregiver's Kitchen

Home Care Is The Best Care

by Patty Knox

Many of you have asked me to tell the rest of Dad's story. It is time. Tests were inconclusive. Dad had experienced a possible stroke which weakened his ability to walk. He had always loved to get around independently, "under his own steam," and was thoroughly annoyed that he now needed someone on both sides of him to help him walk. My brother and his girlfriend spent many hours over the time he was in the hospital holding him upright and walking him up and down the hall, but Dad needed more specialized help.

The doctor therefore recommended ten days of physical therapy to help Dad strengthen his muscles, improve his motor abilities, and safely recover. A rehabilitative facility was the most logical place, with nurses, nurse aides, and a staff doctor overseeing Dad's care. After considering a dozen different facilities, we chose one near home, so that we could visit him every day. They boasted a qualified physical therapy department and an Alzheimer's wing. The selling point was their mobile X-ray unit. No need to travel to the emergency room. This gave us a feeling of security, so

we admitted him for the ten days of therapy, knowing that if Dad were to fall, and there were any question of his condition, they could X-ray him right there.

Only ten days of therapy. We assured Dad he would be right back home where he wanted to be after the ten therapy sessions, once he got strong enough to walk under his own power again. Dad wasn't totally pleased. He knew it was a nursing home, a place our parents had made us promise never to put them in; they had needed to do so for our

great-uncle in the 1960s, when



conditions were primitive, because his medical condition was such that he needed skilled nursing care 24/7. But things had improved a lot since then, right? Still, Dad knew that most of the people there were long-term residents. He also knew it would be logistically harder to try to rehabilitate at home, and only ten days, so he agreed.

A series of events followed that are almost too bizarre to believe, yet they truly happened and are well-documented. Ten days became ten weeks. One unexpected thing after another happened. Time was eaten away by each new problem. Space does not permit all the details. But the irony of the most serious occurrence was not lost on us. On a Friday afternoon at about 4 p.m., Dad fell onto a hard floor in a facility where he was admitted with full knowledge that he was a fall risk.

The Director of Nursing told us she arrived when summoned by a nurse aide and helped Dad into a wheelchair. The staff doctor, who happened to be in the facility doing his rounds, was called to examine Dad. The doctor told me later, over the phone, "There was no need to X-ray him." This, despite his being 84 years old and falling. Was it such a bother to take an X-ray, just to be sure nothing was broken?

Over the course of the next five days, Dad would be subjected to the unimaginable. One of my sisters visited him on Sunday afternoon. She observed that he was visibly in pain when his adult disposable undergarment was being changed by nurse aides. She went to the nurse's station to ask the nurse for aspirin. The nurse told her that they could not administer any painkiller, even aspirin, without a doctor's order. During the two hours she was there, the doctor did not call back, and Dad received no pain medication.

Monday was his first day of physical therapy. I visited him Monday night after work, and he was asleep. Dad looked exhausted. I didn't have the heart to wake him. Tuesday, the therapist team gave him more physical therapy, still not realizing they were making him walk on a broken hip. According to the records, whenever he complained of pain, the therapists stopped therapy and wheeled him back to his room, leaving the source of the pain unaddressed. Knowing that he would only have to endure physical therapy for ten days, Dad soldiered on, strong-willed, determined. By Wednesday, what would have been the third day of therapy, he had walked farther than the length of a football field on his

Patriot Corner

continued from page 8

go free. Your rights aren't subject to majority rule but to the law. This is the essence of a Republic.

So which system would you rather live under? A Democracy that is ruled by majority or a Republic that is ruled by law?

Democracy is not a stable form of government. Rather, it is a transitional phase of government that eventually leads to an Oligarchy. Whether that Oligarchy is based on Socialism, Communism or Fascism the end result is a big government, top down oppressive system.

“Many Americans would be surprised to learn that the word Democracy does not appear in the Declaration of Independence or the U. S. Constitution. Nor does it appear in any of the Constitutions of the fifty states. The founders did everything they could to keep us from having a Democracy. James Madison wrote in essay number ten of the Federalist papers, “Democracies have

broken hip. He couldn't get out of his wheelchair. The therapists reported it. An X-ray was ordered.

Around 11 p.m. that night my other sister, who lived closest to the facility, was called and told, "We are taking your father to the emergency room. He has an acute fracture and a 100.9 degree fever." An internal infection from the unattended broken hip had spiked the fever. She got there not long after the ambulance, and Dad was visibly in intense pain. This from a brave World War II combat veteran who almost never complained of pain.

The hospital X-ray revealed that the ball of the hip had separated from the femur. The surgeon told us that the hip had completely sheared away from the torso. The determination was that Dad needed a hip replacement. The alternative was to place him in hospice, and he would only live a matter of months in his condition. We couldn't give up on Dad and let him die. He had been strong and in relatively good health for his age before being admitted for ten days

of physical therapy. He was a survivor, and he didn't want to die. We scheduled the surgery.

Dad went into surgery in good spirits. He was put on a ventilator due to complications following surgery. Things took an encouraging turn when he was taken off the ven-

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ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.” Alexander Hamilton agreed and he stated, “We are a Republican Government. Real liberty is never found in despotism or in the extremes of Democracy.” Samuel Adams stated, “Democracies never last long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself.” The founders had good reason to look upon Democracy with contempt because they knew that the Democracies in the early Greek city states produced some of the wildest excesses of government imaginable. In every case, they ended up with mob rule, then anarchy, and finally tyranny.” Paul Colts

Consider the state of politics in the United States and draw your own conclusions about what should be the direction of our country. Many of our leaders already have

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Parma Observer

Parma Offers Online Registration For Recreation Programs

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma residents can now register for Recreation Department programs online as well as in person. The online registration began late in August with Volleyball programs.

The convenience of online registration is something that Mayor Tim DeGeeter has eyed since taking over in January. With small children of his own, he was impressed that he could register for Seven Hills programs online, something Parma had not yet offered. Since he has been in office, Parma has expanded its recreational offerings to include tot tee-ball and tot tennis programs and now includes the online registration option.

"We're happy to offer this as another convenience to the many participants in our Recreation programs," DeGeeter said. "The programs are very popular, and this allows people to sign

up from the comforts of their own home if they choose."

Of course, for those who prefer to do it in person, that option will still be available as well, at the offices of the Parks & Recreation Department in Parmatown Mall.

From the Recreation Department page of the City of Parma web site (www.CityofParma-oh.gov), residents can click on the "online registration" button to be taken to the Parma site at Activenet.com. From there, residents can create an account and sign up for Parks & Recreation programs without having to do so in person.

Said Parks and Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi: "We are always trying to improve the recreation experience for our residents. This is just another way that we hope to make our programs more accessible and convenient."

City Of Parma Scholarship Fund Dinner

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Fund invite anyone interested to their seventh annual fundraising dinner. The Scholarship Fund was created in 2006 in memory of Andrew Boyko – a Parma resident whose accomplishments stand testament to the importance of education in one's life. Mr. Boyko served the Parma community for over thirty years as a municipal judge, law director and assistant prosecutor. The Scholarship Fund was established in an effort to assist high school seniors who are residents of the City of Parma planning to further their education. The scholarship is awarded to students based upon financial need, as well as personal accomplishments.

Earlier this year the Foundation Board of Trustees, which includes Attorney Timothy Boyko, Dr. Jeffrey Boyko, former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, Parma Law Director Timothy Dobeck and Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, awarded three scholarships totaling \$7,500.

The fundraising dinner will be held at Carrie Cerino's, 8922 Ridge Road, North Royalton, on Thursday, September 27, beginning at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$60 per person or \$100 per couple. Other

The Cuyahoga County Board Of Elections Launches Hiring Effort

by Mike West

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections is seeking reliable and civic-minded people to serve as poll workers during the November 6th General Presidential Election.

Poll workers earn \$172.10 for their service, which includes; successfully completing a poll worker training class, attending a meeting the night before the election, and working Election Day from 5:30 a.m. until about 8:00 p.m.

Applicants may apply on-line at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us or call the Board of Elections Poll Worker Department at 216-443-3277.

Home Care Is The Best Care

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tilator and moved from intensive care to the stepdown unit. Dad appeared to be peacefully sleeping. However, he drifted into unconsciousness and never regained consciousness. Days went by. We hoped, we prayed. Dad was no longer responsive. Our family doctor came to see Dad for the last time and said, "There is nothing more that we can do."

The feeding tube was removed and he was transported to Holy Family Hospice. He lived for more than a week, finally pain-free, until 3:50 a.m. Feb. 18, 2011 before leaving this world.

What we were told would be only ten days of rehabilitative physical therapy turned into almost five months of

misery for Dad. True suffering.

All I know, in trying to make sense of all this, is that Dad lived a healthy, happy life at home for over three years after Mom passed away, being taken care of by his loving family. All I can do now is caution other families about the drawbacks of giving their loved ones over to institutionalized care. I encourage caregivers at home to persevere. and I want you to know how valuable you are. Home care is the best care.

Thank you for reading and caring for your elderly loved ones. Your comments are always welcome. Write to me at alzheimerrannie@yahoo.com or at Patty Noonan Knox, 6501 Wilber Ave., Parma OH 44129. Thank you for reading the Parma Observer.

Yard Art Pick Of The Month

by Marianne Karras

While driving west down Snow Rd. one day, somewhere between State Rd. and West 54th St., I saw this very unusual yard art display. There is a cut-out "Shadow of a Man" leaning against it that was popular some years ago about the time "Polka Dot Garden Woman" came out. I'm not sure if this was intended as a yard ornament, or if it was erected to caution those about to enter the garage it's in front of.



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