

“There is no odor so bad as that which rises from goodness tainted”- Henry David Thoreau

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Vote YES On Issue 78

by Daniel Hoffman

Keep Parma Safe is the message that I am saying to the residents of our fair city. Hi, I'm Daniel Hoffman, Chairman of the Parma police renewal levy. I volunteered for this position as I retired as Chief of the Parma police department in 2011 and I am very aware of how important this renewal levy is to providing a great quality of service to everyone within our community. I can recall when the levy failed in 2003 and 2004 which resulted in sworn police officer staffing falling from 104 police officers to 87 officers in 2006 and 2007. The lack of funds curtailed our hiring personnel, replacement/purchasing of equipment and officer training;

all of which contributed to the decline in the level of service that we could provide for everyone within our community.

I can also state that a great lesson was learned and that the command staff and officers of the Parma police department worked hard and were diligent in their efforts to provide the best level of service that they could for our citizens. In 2007 the Parma police levy was passed and the funds received used to hire additional officers which are currently up to 101 officers. New state of the art equipment was purchased and training programs implemented to ensure that the best possible service is provided to our community. The leadership, the department's



vision and direction have never been better. Service has been excellent.

On November 6, 2012 issue #78, the Parma police renewal levy, will be on the ballot. This is a renewal levy and will not cost you any more money for the levy than what you are currently paying. The

cost comes down to 17 cents a day on a home valued at \$100,000.00.

The passing of this levy is essential in allowing the police department to reach their staffing goals, obtain up to date equipment and to train their personnel effectively. A passing of issue #78 would

allow the Mayor, Safety Director and the Chief of Police to reach their goals of keeping a safe community which in turn provides a good quality of life for everyone.

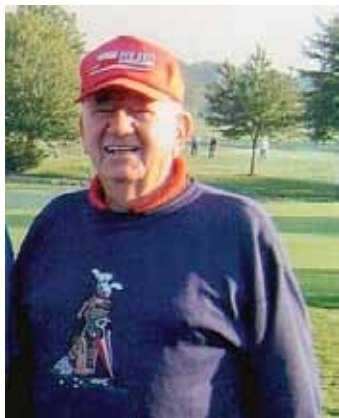
Keeping Parma Safe is a priority. Please vote YES for issue #78 on November 6, 2012

Parma Observer Is Three Years Old

by Daniel P. McCarthy,

When we introduced the Parma Observer in October of 2009, residents in the Greater Parma Community were not

Parma Man Aces Golf Hole



Long time Parma resident Casey Czepczynski.

by Brian ODonnell

Congratulations are in order for Parma resident Casey Czepczynski. Mr. "Chips" scored a hole in one on the third hole at The Hickory Nut Golf Course in Columbia Station last month. After a nice looking tee shot on the 145 yard par 3 hole, Mr. Chips could not locate his ball. His friend asked him if "he had the guts to look in the hole."

Mr. Czepczynski, who has lived in Parma over 45 years, will be celebrating his 85th birthday on October 30th. So congratulations and happy birthday Mr. Chips!

all too familiar with the concept of volunteer citizen journalism that we were offering; in fact, many people openly wondered if a project like that could succeed here, including, I'll admit, myself. The goal was to use the printed newspaper and the 24/7 website in a way that we hoped would help to increase civic involvement in the cities of Parma, Parma Hts., and Seven Hills, a community that we often refer to as the "Tri-City Area". For me personally, this goal has been realized, as throughout this three year period since the Parma Observer was founded, I have met so many new people from our community, and have learned even more about the city that I have spent all of my 51 years in; I confess, at one time I was so naive as to think that I knew all there was to know about this area. I can't speak for everyone else, but seeing the many individuals who have become involved with the Parma Observer, have expressed themselves by writing, have supported the paper with their much appreciated advertising dollars, and the countless readers who have so often called me to comment on what they have read, I feel the evidence is clear that after three years, more and

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Town Meeting Held To Save the Parma Theater

by Kathryn Yates

An impressive number of concerned residents packed The Little Polish Diner Banquet Hall on Thursday, Sept. 20, to discuss the recent closing of the Parma Theater located near the intersection of Snow and Ridge Roads. Ward 2 Councilwoman, Debbie Lime led the discussion and called for a volunteer committee to form "Friends of the Parma Theater." Ideas were put forth by attendees – some with backgrounds in film producing – that focused on keeping the theater open but under a new concept. The successful redevelopment of the Gordon Square Theater district and the renovation of the Capitol Theater were discussed as comparison models.

The Capitol Theater had been closed for twenty-five years and was reopened Oct. 1, 2009 after an overhaul funded by the Detroit Shoreway Association. It is now managed by Cleveland Cinemas, who own nine theaters that premiere Hollywood, Independent, Foreign, and Specialty films,



including the Southside Works theater in Pittsburgh, Pa. The first of its kind in our area, the Cedar-Lee, still operates successfully today as an alternative theater under Cleveland Cinema management. Many of the theaters offer beer and wine sales and foods not normally found at typical concessions stands.

"There's so much you can do with this building," Debbie Lime reiterated. "We

could teach kids how to make movies: we could have Doris Day marathons." The Councilwoman has had over a hundred emails from those concerned about the fate of the Parma Theater. "There's others behind you that want to do the same thing," she said, reassuring the crowd.

"I made three movies in this area," said Rich Lasky.

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Parma Business

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

In 2003, I was concerned about the direction of our city. Like many, my biggest concerns related to the actions of some in the Parma Police Department. In fact, amid these troubles, I decided to run for Parma City Council, hoping to do whatever I could to help turn our city, in general, and our police department, in particular, around.

It is hard to believe that nearly nine years have passed since I was first elected to council. I am proud to say that in those years our city leadership team has, in fact, turned our city around. Further, in light of the economic downturn, we have weathered the economic storm well compared to many other cities in northeast Ohio and throughout



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

the nation. I would argue that our ability to experience success during these tumultuous times was not only due to

high-quality leadership, but also community support.

In 2007, you, the residents, supported a 5-year, 2-mill renewable new money police levy to bolster our police safety forces. In that time our police department has continued down a positive path to becoming one of the preeminent departments in northeast Ohio. In fact, personally I sleep well at night knowing that my family is being well protected by our fine officers.

On November 6, your ballot will be filled with a number of candidates and issues. As a high school government teacher, I discuss the concept known as "voter fatigue" with my students. This phenomenon occurs when voters vote only the high profile races, such as President of the United States and U.S. Senate, but skip many of the races and issues that appear "down the ballot." I want to urge you to vote your entire bal-

lot this fall and to vote "YES" on "ISSUE 78," the 2-mill Parma Police Department renewal levy. If passed this vital levy is NOT A TAX INCREASE.

I hope that you find my column helpful and informative. If you would like more information about Issue 78, you would like to register to vote (deadline is October 9) or are in need of an early voting application, please feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Have a wonderful fall season!

Volunteers Spruce Up Parma's Henninger House

by Irene Toth

There was so much activity around Parma's historic Henninger House on Friday, September 14, that traffic on busy Broadview Road slowed to a crawl to check out all the bustle.

Nearly 30 volunteers from GrafTech International's Parma headquarters led by the staff and volunteers of West Creek Conservancy (formerly West Creek Preservation Committee) took on the task of making a barrel of improvements to the 1849 sandstone house and grounds. The Henninger homestead is slated to become a trail-head and visitor center along the proposed West Creek Greenway, a trail network connecting West Creek Reservation in Parma to the Towpath Trail



Group photo of volunteers

along the Ohio & Erie Canal. That Friday's event was the largest facelift to the grounds since the site and structures were saved from the wrecking

ball in 2003.

Flowers and new landscaping around the house and barn were planted. Flowers and shrubs were donated by Petitti Garden Centers, Davis Tree Farm, Royal Victorian Gardens, Quality Plants, and Yardmaster. Demolition of both porches on the house was completed and reconstruction was begun. A new split rail fence was installed. New compost bins were installed. Much of the brush around the homestead was cleared out. A new flagpole was installed.

The rain that arrived after lunch cut short some of the activity, and there are projects to complete, including rebuilding the porches, positioning large sandstone blocks around the flower beds and the flagpole, installing the Ohio historic marker, and completing about 2000 feet of woodland trail north of Old Rockside Road. A drill that can penetrate the thick sandstone beneath the Henninger grounds will be needed to install the pole for the historic marker.

This was a project that GrafTech made its own, not only by sending their employees as volunteers, but by arranging for lunch (AVI Food Systems donated box lunches for all participants), having t-shirts printed, and making a generous donation to West Creek Conservancy.

Anyone interested in helping at Henninger Homestead or making a donation for the Henninger restoration effort can contact West Creek Conservancy at 216-749-3720.

Thanks For Enjoying Summer Band Concerts

To all the residents of Parma, Parma Hts. and surrounding communities who enjoyed our summer band concert series: Please allow us to express our thanks to all whose hard work made the 2012 Summer Band

Concert series such a success and also to all who attended and enjoyed them. For the first time this year, Parma and Parma Heights joined together to share facilities and expenses of the concerts, and what a successful season it was. Not only residents of our cities but those

of surrounding communities came to hear a variety of music at 10 concerts - five in Parma at Anthony Zielinski Park and five at Greenbrier Commons in Parma Heights. A hearty thank you to Cox Communications for financial support, to Recreation Directors Mickey Vittardi of Parma and Thomas Moran of Parma Heights, and to everyone who came out for any part of the series. We are proud that the summer band concerts showed what can happen when we all work together in the spirit of collaboration and partnership.

Promotion For Nathan Shusky



Congratulations to Nathan Shusky, who was promoted to the position of Fire Inspector for the City of Parma. Nathan was sworn in to his new position recently by Mayor DeGeeter in a ceremony in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Tim DeGeeter,
Mayor of Parma
Mike Byrne,
Mayor of Parma Heights



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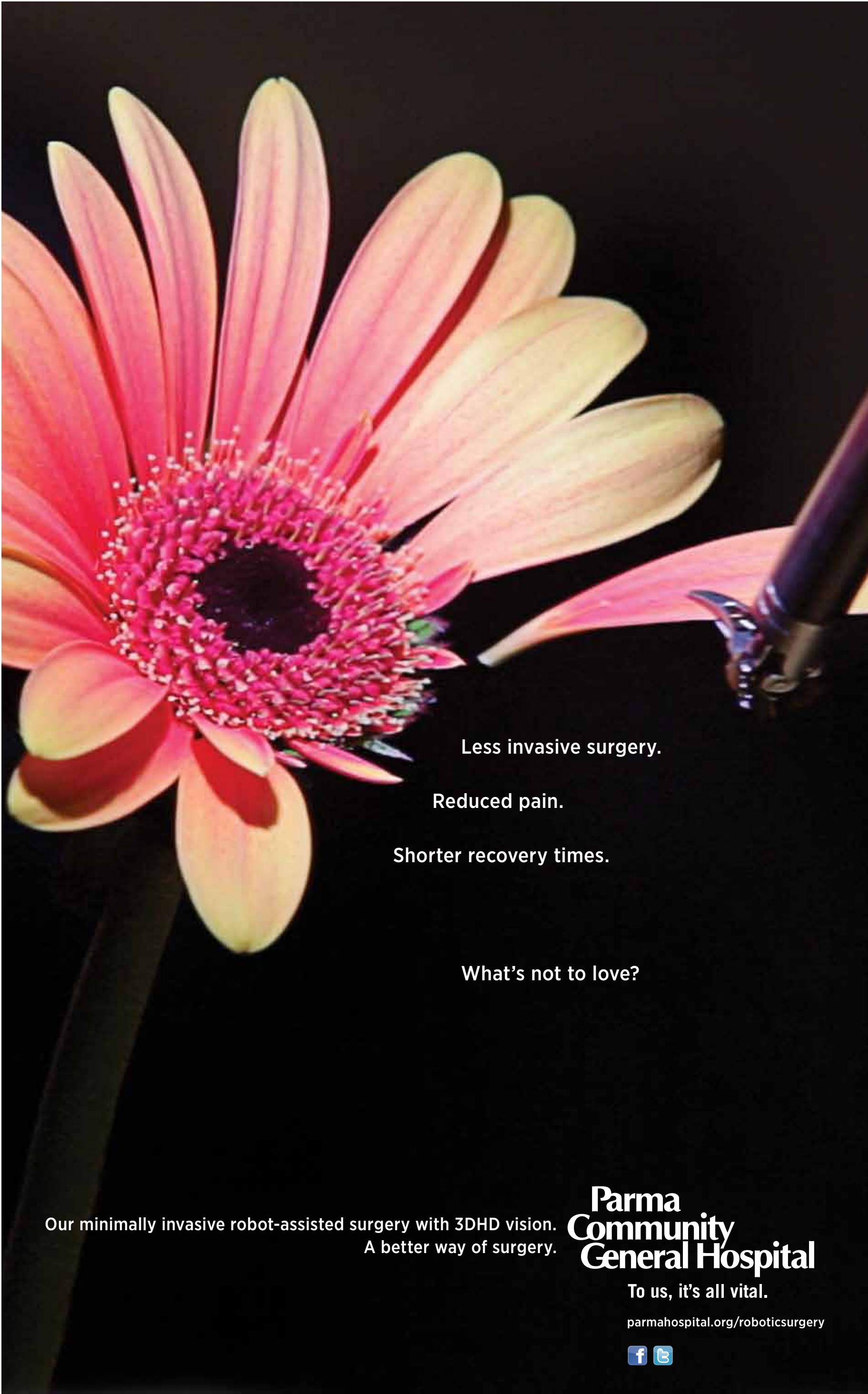
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Parma Observer



Parma Hospital President & CEO Terrence G. Deis, Foundation Chairman Gene Lovasy and Foundation Executive Director Marcia Ferguson with leaders of Legacy Health Services.

Hospital Foundation Celebrates 25 Years With Record Fundraiser

by CJ Sheppard

A record crowd of 500 supporters gathered at Embassy Suites in Independence to celebrate the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation’s 25th anniversary of health care philanthropy, raising more than \$200,000 to further its mission of supporting Parma Hospital’s technologically advanced, community-focused range of care.

Donor generosity resulted in over \$200,000 being raised to support Parma Hospital’ services, including hospice and ElderCenter adult day care. The generous array of donors were led by:

Title Sponsor – Pleasant Lake Villa, A Legacy Health Services Facility;

Presenting Sponsors – Donna M. and Alex I. Koler, and the Parma Hospital Medical Staff;

Platinum Sponsors – Forest City and the Parma Hospital Auxiliary.

Following a warm welcome from Parma Hospital’s President and CEO Terrence G. Deis, the master of ceremonies, author and Parma native Chuck Spinner, set the tone for the evening by recalling his own positive experiences as a cardiac patient at Parma Hospital. His testimonial was followed by a touching video presentation of the care Angelo and Mary Jo Pimpas’s family received when Angelo’s late mother, Polly, was a participant at Parma Hos-



Brian Wagner, pictured here with his wife Lisa, led the record night of fundraising by making a \$5,000 donation and pledging an additional \$20,000 . pital’s ElderCenter.

Finally, Parma native Brian Wagner – whose father was one of the first recipients of Parma Hospital’s hospice care decades ago – helped set a new fund raising record by challenging the crowd with his own \$25,000 gift to hospice. “I know that I feel better than anyone about the results,” Wagner said, after his challenge was met with an overwhelming response from other donors. The fact that Wagner’s mother, Rosemary, and several friends and relatives were part of this experience was the most deeply meaningful part of the evening for him.

Foundation Executive Director Marcia Ferguson summed up the energetic evening. “The Foundation is profoundly grateful to all of the evening’s supporters,” Ferguson said. “They should feel deeply rewarded knowing that their generosity will help so many families.”

Take a Journey To Happiness At Oct. 18 Prayer Breakfast

by CJ Sheppard

The U.S. Constitution only guarantees your right to pursue happiness, not to actually capture it. Still, many of us spend time and energy chasing goals and believing that happiness is just over the next hill. But there’s always another hill.

Executive Happiness Coach Jim Smith will inspire the audience at Parma Community General Hospital’s 23rd Annual Community Prayer Breakfast on Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 7 a.m. at St. Michael’s Woodside in Broadview Heights. Enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast before Smith’s talk, “The Journey to Happiness: Lessons at the Speed of Life.”

Smith was 38 years old before he realized that he alone was responsible for his happiness – and that it was not about “stuff” or future goals, but about how he chose to show up in his life now, in this moment. He began to study happiness and learned how to nurture his emotional “muscles” so he could spend more time in positive rather than negative spaces. So the next time life tried to smack him down, Smith was ready.

The author of Happiness at the Speed of Life: 13 Powerful Strategies for Finding Happiness at Home and On the Job will share the inspiring story of how he has rebounded from terrible times in his life. Following a 20-year career in business, Smith turned in his keys and now works at building more positive workplace cultures, one conversation at a time.

From his home in Cleveland, Smith has coached leaders from 25 countries on five continents to achieve greater happiness and balance. He serves as a Mentor Coach for Newfield Network, one of the top-tier coaching schools in the industry, and he is a founder and past president for the Cleveland Coach Federation. He also teaches in the HR MBA program at Baldwin Wallace University.

Smith will teach some of his most powerful practices to help nurture



Jim Smith, Executive Happiness Coach, will speak at Parma Hospital’s Community Prayer Breakfast.

more happiness and reduce suffering in our own lives. Join fellow community members for a Journey to Happiness.

Reserved seats are \$20 per person. To reserve a seat or a table of 10, call Rev. Jon Paulus, director of Spiritual Care, at 440-743-4295 or email Megan Reed at mreed@parmahospital.org. Checks can be made out to Parma Hospital Prayer Breakfast and mailed to Community Prayer Breakfast, 7007 Powers Blvd., Parma, Ohio 44129.

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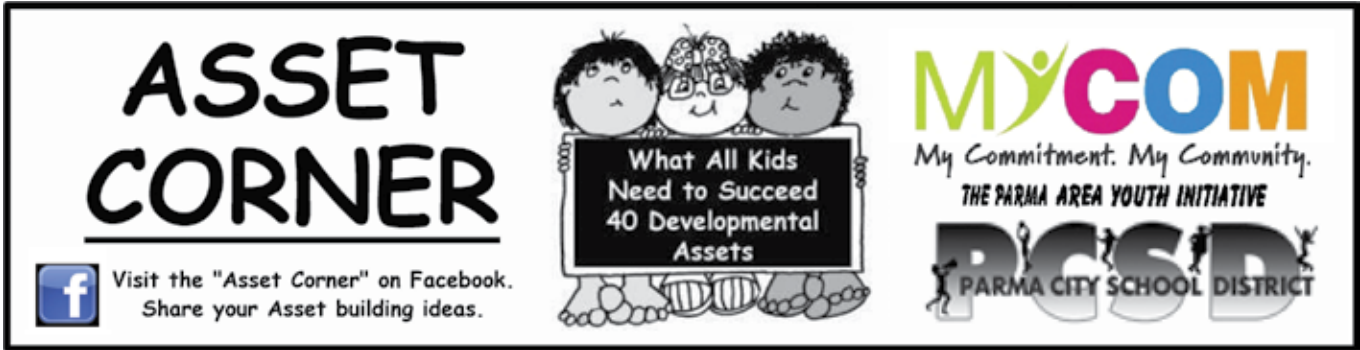
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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #34

by Gene Lovasy
October's Asset Category: SUPPORT. Supportive, healthy relationships make a big difference

Many studies over the years confirm that caring, supportive relationships with adults are critical for raising young people who are healthy and resilient. Support means freely giving young people love, affirmation, and acceptance; surrounding young people with caring families, guardians, friends, teachers, neighbors, and other adults; and helping young people know they belong, are not alone, and are both loved and lovable.

- Support Assets Include:**
- #1 Family Support** – Family life provides high level of love and support. (68%*)
 - #2 Positive Family Communication** – Young person and his/her parent(s) communicate. (28*)
 - #3 Other Adult Relationships** – Young person receives support from 3 or more nonparent adults. (43%*)
 - #4 Caring Neighborhood** – Young person experiences caring neighbors. (37%*)
 - #5 Caring School Climate** – School provides a caring, encouraging environment. (29%*)
 - #6 Parent Involvement in Schooling** – Parents are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school. (29%*)
- (* 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 1 Family Support

Love and support: The family foundation

You can show the children in your family that you love and support them in many ways. When you hug them or say, "I love you," the sentiment is obvious. Paying attention to them, listening to them, and taking an interest in what they're doing are less noticeable ways of giving support. After all, does your child feel supported when you come home from an exhausting day, and he or she wants to talk—but you want a break? The young people closest to you know your body language. They listen to what you say—and don't say. They notice when your words and actions don't match. Make it a point to be sure they hear your message of love and support loud and clear at all times.

Here are the facts
Research shows that young people are more likely to grow up healthy

when their families provide them with high levels of love and support. It's important for parents and guardians to create a home environment that fosters loving words and actions, consistency, and openness. About 68 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say their family life provides high levels of love and support, according to Search Institute surveys. Spending quality time together is the first—and most important—step toward establishing a great family support system.

- Tips for building this asset**
- Be consistent. Be loving. Develop openness so that the children in your family know that you're available and you'll love them—no matter what. If you're exhausted or angry, say so. Tell children what you're feeling so that your body language and words are consistent. Inconsistent messages are often misinterpreted by youth to mean that they have done something wrong.

- Also try this**
- In your home and family: Spend one hour a week alone with each of your children. Take a walk, listen to music, cook together, or just hang out.
 - In your neighborhood and community: Try to arrange a babysitting swap with a neighbor. It's important for parents and guardians to have time away from children, doing things they enjoy alone and with other adults. This will make family time that much sweeter.

In your school or youth program: Assign students and participants activities that encourage family sharing. For example, one Minnesota class studying a Native American tribe learned that tribal members passed down stories from one generation to the next. The teacher assigned students to ask their parents for family stories to share with the class.

- ASSET RELATED NEWS**
- CBS partners area gearing up for the new school year & looking forward to attending the first meeting scheduled for September 28th. I should have more to report about CBS activities next month.
 - Don't forget about Community Ambassadors (CA) & Parma Hts. Baptist Church 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.
 - Did you hear about the plans to move the Parma Area Family Collaborative from their current location

in Parmatown to Hanna Elementary? Associated with this move is the distinct possibility of repurposing Hanna into a Community Drop-in/Support Center. I'm sure there will be more about this in the coming months. Stay tuned.

• If you're looking for the Developmental Asset page on the District's redesigned web site, click on the

Community Invited To Walk A Dog To Raise Funds For Parks And Trails

by Dave Lincheck
Dogs, their owners, and friends are invited to West Creek's first Tails for Trails walk on Saturday, October 6 starting at 10:00 a.m.. This two mile walk is being held to raise funds to support West Creek Preservation Committee's work on creating local recreational trails, conserving natural areas, and creating natural parks. Everyone is welcome to participate with or without a canine. Sign in will start at 9:00 a.m. at the field behind Seven Hills Rec Center, 7777 Summitview Drive, Seven Hills. The walk will begin at 10:00 a.m. Following the walk, participants can enjoy

PARENTS tab then click on the DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS link in the pull-down menu. Also, please note that the URL, or address for the page, has changed slightly to www2.parmacityschools.org/assets.

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 www2.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.


refreshments, vendor tables, demonstrations by the Seven Hills K9 unit, contests and raffles.

Registration is \$10 per dog and humans are free. Walkers are encouraged but not required to obtain pledges and or sponsors. All donations will help West Creek's efforts to protect land and build trails in our community. Pre-registration is available online at <http://tailsfortrails.eventbrite.com>. Pledge forms and additional information is available at www.westcreek.org or by contacting Dawn at 216 749 3720 or dpetkov@westcreek.org.

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Inspiration

Parma Symphony Orchestra Concert 10/21/2012

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 at Valley Forge High School Auditorium, located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights.

Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will conduct the concert that will feature soloist Madeleine Kabat performing Cello Concerto #1 by Saint-Saens, Crown Imperial March by Walton, Highlights from Wicked, Night on Bald Mountain by Mussorg-

sky and Overture to Der Freischutz by Weber.

The orchestra, in its 45th season, consists of 70 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

General admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Family passes of \$20 are available for families of up to two adults and their children. All tickets are available at the door beginning at 2:30 p.m.



Madeleine Kabat performing at Kennedy Center

Tuesday Musical, Mid-Texas Symphony, Cleveland Cello Society, and Rice University competitions.

Ms. Kabat began cello lessons in Cleveland at age 11, and holds diplomas from the Cleveland Institute of Music, Rice University, the Juilliard School, and most recently Oberlin Conservatory, where she served as teaching assistant to Darrett Adkins.

This past summer, Madeleine appeared as a guest artist at the Bravo! Vail festival in Colorado, the International Chamber Music Festival in Lima, Peru, the International Beethoven Project in Chicago, and for a fourth season at Festival Mozaic in California. Ms. Kabat has also been traveling frequently to Medellin, Colombia (South America) as faculty artist of Festicamara, as well as to teach and perform in the area. She has given masterclasses at Festicamara as well as at the University of Wisconsin at Steven's Point and at La Jolla's SummerFest. Past festival appearances include Spoleto, La Jolla SummerFest, Kneisel Hall, Sarasota, Verbier, Round Top, Domaine Forget, and Zephyr (Italy). Madeleine appears frequently as a guest artist at La Sierra University in California, and has collaborated in chamber music performances with artists including Cho-Liang Lin, Jon Novacek, Atar Arad, Toby Appel, Orion Weiss, Scott Yoo, and the Jasper String Quartet.

An active orchestral musician, Ms. Kabat currently performs as substitute cellist for the Cleveland Orchestra and Milwaukee Symphony, and has also performed with the Houston Symphony and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. She made appearances as guest principal cellist this year with the Beethoven Festival Orchestra in Chicago and the Philharmonia Mexico in Mexico City, and holds positions in both the Canton Symphony and the Madison Symphony.

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

Denominations are religious groups that have much in common. They assemble for worship. They may refer to themselves as an assembly, congregation, or by a specified church name, such as those noted below, none of which appear in the Bible. The National Council of Church's report (based on a 2009 survey) on church membership lists the following organizations as the top ten biggest religious denominations in the USA:

1. The Catholic Church: 68.5 million
2. Southern Baptist Convention: 16.1 million
3. The United Methodist Church: 7.8 million
4. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: 6 million
5. The Church of God in Christ: 5.5 million
6. National Baptist Convention, USA: 5 million
7. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 4.5 million
8. National Baptist Convention of America: 3.5 million
9. Assemblies of God: 2.9 million
10. Presbyterian Church (USA): 2.7 million

The Cleveland phone book lists over 100 denominations and 200 independent churches. Today in America, seventy-five percent of adults identify themselves as Christian. In comparison, the next largest religions in America are Islam and Judaism. Combined, they represent only one to two percent of the USA population. However, there are more than 1,500 different Christian faith groups in America. (Which one is right?)

Christianity is ranked as the largest religion in the world today with approximately 2 billion adherents. Thirty-three percent of the world's population is considered to be Chris-

tian, and there are approximately 38,000 Christian denominations. This statistic takes into consideration cultural distinctions of denominations in different countries. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest Christian group today with more than a billion followers, constituting about half of the world's Christian population. (Reference: World Christian Encyclopedia)

Denominations differ on a variety of issues, including Biblical interpretation, customs and traditions; social issues of birth control, abortion and homosexuality; clergy; heaven, hell and purgatory; sacraments (baptism, communion, etc.); saints, sinners and salvation (faith alone or good works, spiritual second birth); tithing (gross, net); and when and how to worship.

In the last 2,000 years, America has gone from one Christian denomination (the Church of God, the only church name recorded in the Bible) to more than 1,500 different denominations and cults. Could the following be some negative consequences from this evolution: a decrease in church attendance (about one in three attend church services); over half of all marriages end in divorce; half of all babies are born out of wedlock; a weakening of the family; a decline in moral values? One could conclude that denominations with closer attention to Biblical principles would be a major step in the right direction.

No church is perfect, because all of its members (no matter the hierarchy) are imperfect due to man's sinful nature. All violate God's laws to one degree or another. It's time for members of all denominations to focus on what they have in common, rather than on their differences, and learn from one another. The closer an individual, group or church parallels the Bible, the better equipped they will be to distin-

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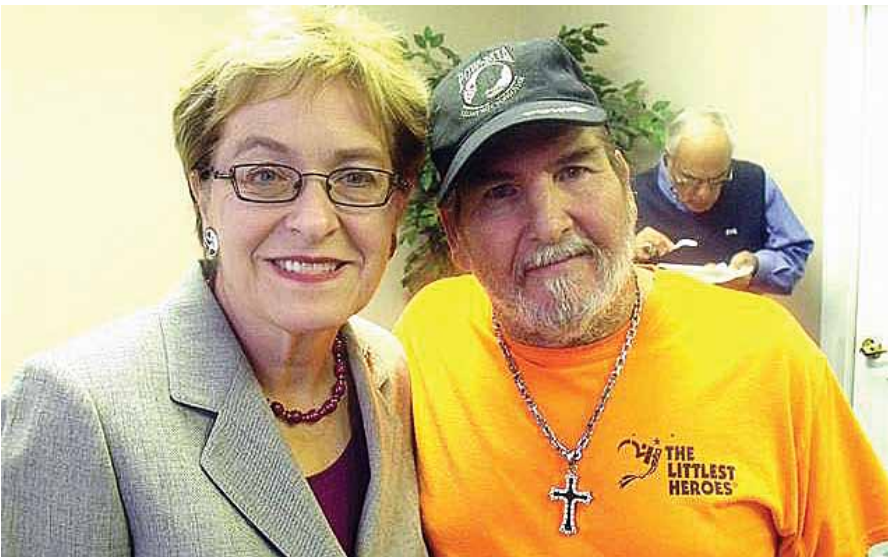
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Politics Observed



Marcy "Kaptures" Parma!

by Wayne Mesker

September 26 ,2012- I had the pleasure of being present for the Grand Opening of U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur's Parma Campaign Office, located at 5515 State Road.

Marcy & her campaign staff did a wonderful job preparing the event ! Teamsters officials, Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter , Ohio State Representative Nick Celebreeze & other politicians were there, along with many other local movers & shakers including Parma Observer's own publisher Dan McCarthy . Kielbasi & Kraut , Pierogis & Cabbage Rolls were generously provided by State Road Meats & Breads & Beyond Bakery provided tasty desserts.

The Polish Village Assn. & other local businesses sent flowers & well-wishes. Thanks to Marcy's aide Anahid Thompson for the gracious invitation & treatment !

Also a special thanks to campaign manager Steve Fought for his cooperation with the Observer .

Marcy received the wholehearted endorsement of the Teamsters Union & a commitment from them to assist in this campaign .

About Marcy

- Jobs
- As the Northern Ohio representative , Marcy has delivered \$ jobs & hope for her district .
- \$ 1.1 Billion in Federal funding to create & retain good paying Ohio jobs
- \$ 72 Million for a new Defense metals plant & another \$ 74 Million for "Energy" jobs .
- Veterans
- Helped pass largest increase in Veteran's Health Care
- Secured College tuition for vets.
- Fought for pay raises for our troops
- Wrote the law to build the WWII Memorial
- Saving benefits for wounded vets
- Personally , I'm impressed by her record & her commitment to her constituency & the future of Northern Ohio .
- As a Vietnam – Era veteran & former Teamster , I'm voting for Marcy Kaptur !
- We will hopefully have the chance to do a personal interview with Marcy in the near future , but time/deadline constraints mean it won't be in time for this issue !
- We encourage everyone to exercise their rights & VOTE .

Befriending The Opposite Sex – My Point Of View

by Bryan N Griffin Jr,

I don't really do this often, but there is something I really need to rant about. I am very upset about how male-female relationships have evolved through the years. I was brought up by my parents to believe that men and women are capable of having a platonic relationship without it ever ending up in the bedroom. Unfortunately, in this day and age, this theory and practice is slowly and painfully disappearing, and this gets up my crawl the most.

The younger generation has a different attitude, and I witness it all of the time. I will hang out in places, like coffeehouses and restaurants. I watch people and listen in on conversations as a way of studying human nature. The younger adults believe in this horrible stereotype that male-female relationships are always in the romantic sense. Friendships are exclusive only within the same gender.

I am going to try my very best not to be offensive, but I strongly believe in just spitting it out. There are some women who believe that if a man wants to be friends with a woman, that guy prefers to bed with other men. Those women will only be friends with that type of guy, for they feel that particular choice of lifestyle is no threat to their innocence. That stereotype enrages me to no end.

I was never taught that idea of friendship when I was growing up. I learned through my parents that you started out as friends with a woman. And, in time, if you felt that something more came out of that friendship, and

she felt the same way as well, you gave it a shot. It was a matter of trial and error a fifty-fifty shot. If it worked, you had a love connection. If it did not work, you always had that friendship to fall back on, and you remained very good friends.

There are benefits with being friends with the opposite sex. 1) You get a better understanding and respect for that gender, instead of objectifying them for their appearances. 2) You learn that it is no different than being friends with the same sex. 3) It might be more fun than always winding up doing the horizontal mambo. There is more to life than being horny 24/7. Men can actually take a woman to a baseball game and enjoy the action of catching a fly ball. In the same vain, a lady can take a guy to an art gallery, and he would be interested in works outside of a nude painting or sculpture, like Botticelli's Birth of Venus.

I have an expression that I always live by NO GUTS, NO GLORY! We need to destroy these stereotypes. They are unnecessary, unfair and cruel. Forgive me for regurgitating catch phrases, but they are true. Life really is short. Learn to use it wisely. True friendships have no boundaries. It does not see age, religion, ethnic backgrounds, or political philosophies. *We put those restrictions on ourselves, and we shouldn't. The same thing should go with gender as well. This is how we enjoy life to the fullest. These friendships are learning experiences, plain and simple.*

Senior Services Fair To Benefit Alzheimer's Association

by CJ Sheppard

Learn about a wealth of services and organizations catering to seniors at the Senior Resource Network Fair on Wednesday, October 17 at Parma Community General Hospital.

The Fair will bring together dozens of vendors who provide resources to seniors. Participating vendors' fees are going to support the Alzheimer's Association. Gift cards will be raffled off every hour during the event, which runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Hospital's John A. Nelson Auditorium. If you attend, simply visit each table and earn a free raffle ticket to win prizes!

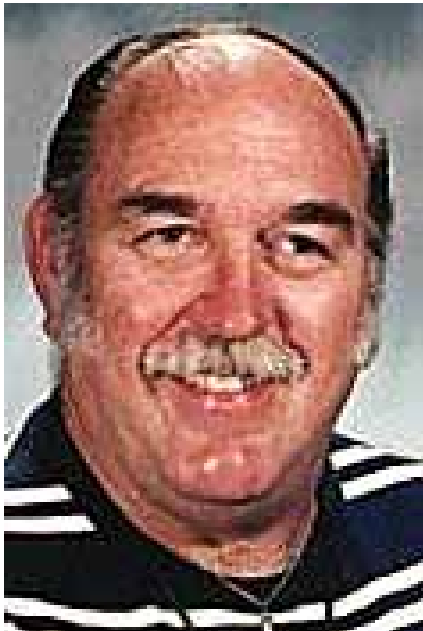
Parma Hospital began the Senior Resource Network in 2006 to give area organizations a forum for sharing resources to improve the health status and quality of life for area seniors. The more than 100 members include senior centers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, hospices, durable medical equipment providers, government agencies and more.

Membership in the Network is open to service providers, professionals and organizations who have a direct, positive impact on the lives of seniors and their families. Meetings are held monthly.

Farewell Coach Joe

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Joe Finding was a frequent writer for the Parma Observer, and many readers often expressed their fondness for his column, which was an honest, straightforward analysis of local and national sports, mixed with a generous amount of his own unique personal philosophy concerning life in general. Joe was the Councilman at one time in Ward 1 where I live, and he became involved with the Parma Observer from the very beginning. We were all very sad to learning of his passing during the month of September. I will forever miss Joe's unique insight as expressed in his regular column, as well as the highly interesting conversations that we had over the years. So many people shared the experience of Joe coaching them in athletic events over many, many decades. Parma has lost a truly worthwhile citizen with the passing of Joe Finding, but we are all the better as a community for having



Coach Joe Finding

had him here. At his funeral, held at St. Bridget's Church in Parma on September 20th, the Pastor said, "Joe had an awful lot to be proud of"- I couldn't agree more.

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Political Perspective

Welcome To Seven "Bills," A \$20 Million Dollar Business

by Lucy McKernan

Recently, the City of Seven Hills Community Newsletter cover featured an article by Mayor Della'Quilla, in which he stated, "Your city is, effectively, a \$20 million dollar business." He also wrote, "We eliminated a potential \$1.4 million 2012 deficit, preserved our bond rating...."

How city leaders did it: Essentially, the 2012 budget shortfall was averted by trampling 100 homeowners for sewer tax assessments related to the Phase I, EPA-mandated conversion. The same shortfall mentioned by Della'Quilla, \$1.4M, is very close to the amount Seven Hills is recouping via a very tricky capitalized interest on

municipal bonds for Phase I: \$1.6M. Thanks to the laughably ambiguous Ohio Revised Code and slick city operators, 100 of us are footing the \$1.6 million bill in interest over 20 years. Armed with the city's own list, I called most of the people from Phase I, and found them to be overwhelmingly older senior homeowners unlikely to catch such devious practices.

Figuring it out: A little digging yielded that most of the 100 Phase I homeowners could not afford to pay the lump sum three years ago; the narrow window began October 2008, the start of the worst economic downturn. The 20-year assessment forced "Beautiful Seven Hills" homeowners into insurmount-

able mortgage payments, compounding interest and escrow, and the inability to sell. What buyer would want a property with extortion attached to it?

"More porridge, please:" In the spring, I approached council to reconsider the assessment because our mortgage skyrocketed 45 percent overnight, while "JIP" Morgan Chase continues to charge escrow shortfalls with which we can't keep up. Basically, Seven Hills council was asked to forgive the debt. All present were made aware I had detected just how slyly the city put the screws to Phase I homeowners, specifically, to get the city budget on track.

Protect your assets: Council president Barth then invited me to come

back two weeks later for a "resolution." After I arrived at the caucus meeting where a uniformed police officer sat vigil, Barth invited at least four council members to shame, humiliate and blame me, with no chance to respond. Lecznar, perhaps the worst, belittled me for not spelling her first name with its unusual variation, while completely disregarding our home crisis. My suspicion was later confirmed: uniformed police officers are rarely, if ever, present at council or caucus meetings.

Corporate abuses: In the same city newsletter article mentioned above, Della'Quilla referred to himself as a "CEO" of Seven Hills. Too bad the too-little, too-late city employee cutbacks and other purse-string tightening he boasts have translated to head-spinning abuses by city employees towards a growing number of assertive, alert residents who are now asking, "Just what is going on here?"

For the birds: It's not out of the question that, because yours truly was granted a discounted rec center membership for medical reasons, fiscal liability came up on the city's radar. So when the perfect occasion presented itself - having the nerve in June to request help in a civil, peaceful manner from fire, rec center staff and police with baby birds stuck and dying inside the overhang to the rec center entrance - I was harassed, intimidated and then barred from the center.

Nepotism, essentially: When the councilwoman's husband/ fireman arrived at the rec center where the birds were stuck, he realized I was the same "Lucy" that his wife eviscerated at the caucus meeting (see "More porridge, please" above). He was shockingly hostile and inexplicably insisted - four times - that I said I would get up on the ladder to free the birds. Bewildered, it wasn't until the next day I realized his connection with the councilwoman.

Abusive, apathetic employees: While all this was happening, a rec center employee bad-mouthed me after I attempted to enlist the aid of another employee, all while capturing video of the birds. So the camera got turned on him, with, "If you speak to me that way again, I'll tell your supervisor." Fearing for his job, he called police who managed to show up in triplicate, despite the fact that one month earlier when someone illegally discharged firearms, my call to a rude dispatcher resulted in her refusal to send an officer.

Power and Control: Two days after a very angry rec center director called me to yell at and blame me for her employees' failures, I returned to exercise. Upon swiping my card, I was told "You have to leave the building, or I'll call the police."

Take your money to the competition: Banned indefinitely from the recreation center and subjected to a month of dodged phone connections by the director, I found a friendlier, cleaner gym with incomparably better

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

"In the US, voters cast ballots for individual candidates who are not bound to any party program except rhetorically, and not always then. Some Republicans are more liberal than some Democrats, some libertarians are more radical than some socialists, and many local candidates run without any party identification. No American citizen can vote intelligently without knowledge of the ideas, political background, and commitments of each individual candidate." Ben H. Bagdikian

On November 6th, Americans will go to the polls. Some will tell you this election is about Democrat vs Republican. Some will tell you it's about the "1%" vs the "99%". Others will tell you it's about almost any group vs another group. Why, some will even tell you it's only about the economy or whatever other issue is important to them. In their own myopic way, they're all right and they are also all wrong. In the end, this election can be boiled down into

one simple statement: This election is about the future.

"We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debt, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds...[we will] have no time to think, no means of calling our mis-managers to account but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers... And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for [another]... till the bulk of society is reduced to be mere automatons of misery... And the fore-horse of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression" Thomas Jefferson

Come election Day, each Ameri-

can must decide as an individual if they are going to leave a legacy for future generations of liberty and limited government intervention in our lives or if America will be transformed into a nation where government controls more and more of our lives. There are clearly defined choices in most of the races on the ballot this year. It is up to each of us to spend a little time and research these people before rewarding them with a vote. Our country and our children's future are far too important to do any less. Visit their websites, listen carefully to what they say, look at the individual's record and decide for yourself.

"People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who make themselves heard and who vote -- a very different thing." Walter H Judd

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continued on page 12

Parma Observer

Can't We All Just Coexist?

by *Brigitte Gerard*

I went to see President Obama's motorcade arrive for his Parma visit on July 5. It's a huge disruption of everyday life when the President comes to town, but also cool and exciting to say "I was there." I knew I'd stand out, wearing a royal blue tee shirt with a Romney bumper sticker stuck to the front of it. I walked north on Ann Arbor Road to Pleasant Valley Road to get a good look at things and to find my friend Jim. While Jim and I played Marco Polo on our cell phones, a young couple walked towards me. The woman put her leg out in front of me as she passed, making a playful show of trying to trip me.

I'd bet money she's a liberal. Obama promised to bring us hope and change, but in Parma, it's business as usual. Liberals pride themselves on their compassion for those who are struggling in life and marginalized by society, their acceptance of those who are different and their commitment to help create a

better society by helping those in need. In other words, liberals see themselves as part of some great bosom dripping with the milk of human kindness, but when someone who disagrees with them (read conservative) is around, that bosom dries right up, looking more like a sullen and unwanted wart.

I should be a liberal's poster child: biracial (like Obama!), single mom, working poor (my car and my kid are both 17 years old and hard to keep full) and multicultural. Despite these facts, I'm conservative: pro-life, pro-capitalism, college educated and evangelical. I'm more of a WASP than most real WASPs and 25% less qualified (thanks, Grandpa!). I'm a genuine minority, an all-purpose token, a diversity masterpiece. I should be welcomed and courted by every liberal in town, but we can't even share the sidewalk.

Why? Because liberals are open-minded, tolerant and friendly people until you disagree with them. If you

and I talk about political issues, I'll be straightforward and courteous, but also unapologetic. My opinions and attitudes are honest rather than predictable because they're based on my values, not my circumstances. Lots of people don't expect or want to hear what I have to say. I don't walk in lockstep with any political brand or crowd. I don't fit in. I stand out. (Would it help if I told people I voted for Obama before I voted against him? I only did that to stop Hillary from

taking Ohio. Now my conservative friends won't like me, either.)

Seriously, y'all, fake hostility is laughable but fake goodwill is deceitful and dangerous. You get lots of fake goodwill from liberals as long as you don't express a different opinion. When you do, they show you who they really are: People who praise diversity but think as a group and scorn individuality and originality. These are people who confuse uniformity with unity. When it comes to people like me, liberals are colder than a witch's bosom, or, in this particular instance, wart.

Parma Hts. Hosts Landlord/Tenant Fair Housing Seminar

by *Mike Byrne*

The City of Parma Heights and the Housing Research & Advocacy Center will present a Fair Housing and Landlord Tenant Law Seminar on Thursday, September 27, 2012, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at Parma Heights City Hall, 6281 Pearl Road.

Parma Heights has a long, proud history of supporting fair housing, and seminars such as this one help to ensure that will always be the case in our town.

Angela Shuckahosee, Executive Director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization will give a presentation on Landlord Tenant Law and Darlene English, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Housing Research and Advocacy Center, will lead a presentation on Fair Housing laws. A question and answer period will follow the two presentations. Funding for the seminar is provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The event is free but space is limited and registration is required by contacting The Housing Center at 216 361-9240 or by email to denglish@thehousingcenter.org. One Fair Housing CEU is available for licensed real estate agents. Light refreshments will be served.

The mission of Cleveland Tenants Organization is to preserve and expand the supply of safe, decent, fair, affordable and accessible rental housing in Greater Cleveland and the Housing & Advocacy Center is a non-profit fair housing agency located in the City of Cleveland that promotes fair hous-

ing and works to eliminate housing discrimination in Northeast Ohio by providing effective research, education, and advocacy.

PARMA HEIGHTS SUPPORTS FAIR HOUSING

The City of Parma Heights is a community historically open and accessible to any and all persons without exception or exclusion. Our first Fair Housing Resolution was adopted in 1968 and in 1996, the city adopted a Fair Housing Ordinance which strengthened the original resolution.

The Fair Housing Ordinance provides for Fair Housing throughout the city, assuring that all persons have full and equal opportunity to consider all available housing for themselves and their families within the city without being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, handicap, familial status, national origin or military status and to promote a stable racially integrated community.

The Fair Housing Ordinance also established a Fair Housing Review Board to mediate any complaints of discriminatory housing practices.

Any resident or prospective resident of Parma Heights who feels they are being discriminated against for any of the seven protected categories of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, handicap, familial status, national origin or military status or need further information, are asked to contact Community & Economic Development Director Joseph E. Sebes at 440 884-9600 x32.

Get Ready For The November 6, 2012 Presidential Election

by *Mike West*

Voters in all of Cuyahoga County's municipalities will cast ballots for President, U.S. Senate and Members of Congress, Ohio Senate and the Ohio House of Representatives, County Prosecutor and County Council members, judicial candidates, State Board of Education seats, the Brook Park Charter Review Commission, as well as local and state issues.

It is important for voters to be prepared to cast their ballots. The voter registration deadline is Oct. 9, 2012. Voters who have moved or changed their name since they last voted need to complete and return a new Voter

Registration Card. After a voter has registered, they will receive a postcard that lists their ward, precinct, and voting location.

To avoid lines on Election Day and to allow extra time to study the ballot, all registered voters may Vote by Mail. Vote by Mail ballot applications are available at the Board of Elections website: www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us, by calling the Board of Elections at 216-443-3298, and at all public libraries.

Voters who are interested in serving as poll workers may call 216-443-3277 or apply online at www.boe.cuyahogacounty.us.



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Parma Observer

T'is The Season- For Political Events



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur cuts the ribbon to signify the opening of her campaign office in Parma on September 25th. Standing with her is Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and several members of the Teamsters Union.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, and State Representative Nick Celebreeze were on hand to help Marcy Kaptur launch her campaign office on State Rd. in Parma on September 25th.



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan enjoys a conversation with a Parma resident during his 10th. Annual Chili Cook-Off held at Red Circle Lanes in Parma on September 23rd.

City of Parma Treasurer Tom Mastroianni greets supporters at his fund-raising event held at Antonio's Restaurant on September 26th.



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Yard Art *by John Allender*



This yard art will literally make you stop in your tracks!



Now there's some patriotic yard art!

Halloween-Themed Open House Offered

by Tricia Kuivinen

Maggie's Place will offer a Halloween-themed Open House to the community on Saturday, October 27 from 6:30-9 PM at their (Parma) Zechariah House location. The Open House will feature a potluck supper, house tours, candy treats, pumpkin painting and weather permitting, an outdoor bonfire. Families with children are welcome to attend. A main dish will be provided; guests are asked to bring side dishes, non-alcoholic beverages or desserts to share.

Maggie's Place provides safe housing, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, employment preparation and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted, and may stay up to 18 months.

Each mother in residence at Maggie's Place has the opportunity to complete life skills sessions such as budgeting, parenting, job searching and personal growth and discovery. Mothers can also increase their educational level while living at The



Zechariah House, by completing their GED, job training or attending classes, positioning them for better job opportunities. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 10% and the child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place is playing an important role in preparing new parents for their responsibilities.

To attend the Halloween-themed Open House, contact Maggie's Place at 440.886.2620 or email: cleveland@maggiesplace.org. The Open House is free and open to the public; for the safety of our residents, exact address will be provided upon reservation. For additional information on Maggie's Place, please visit www.maggiesplace.org or Like us on Facebook.

What's Right? What's Wrong?

continued from page 6

guish right from wrong. Mark Twain, who didn't consider himself religious, said, "Some people claim they are troubled by parts of the Bible which they cannot understand. What troubles me is that part of the Bible which I understand only too well."

Jesus summarized the total Bible

message very simply: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39.

Let's try to keep it simple and find common ground.

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Caregiver's Kitchen

Color Your World

by Patty Knox

This is the most beautiful season of the year in Northeastern Ohio with the rich autumn colors infusing the landscape. Before the long Cleveland winter ahead, take the opportunity to coax your cared-for into a car ride to enjoy the change of colors in the trees and the cool weather. It's been such a beastly hot summer. These crisp, nippy days are a relief. Promise your loved one a cup of cocoa or hot apple cider if he or she gets too chilly, but give him or her a change of scenery!

The chance to get out and have a reprieve from the everyday sameness of being a shut-in isn't just for the elderly or the physically challenged. It is for the caregiver as well. Especially on a sunny day, the change of seasons can lift our mood just by its newness. The four walls get pretty boring. A drive through our own Emerald Necklace, the Metroparks, over 100 miles of paved parkway, is infused with orange, red, yellow, rust brown and many

shades of green this time of year. What's more, plenty is happening at Stearns Homestead. Run out to get some harvest vegetables at the Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, before it closes for the season. They're open noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through mid-October, with special winter holiday events. The Fall Festival is Oct. 13 and 14 from noon to 4 p.m. Enjoy the two buildings of interesting antiques and the abundance of farm animals. Bring the children along to experience the petting zoo. Have fun shopping in their gift shop. But keep Parma's last working farm alive by visiting and enjoying its rustic charm. You don't need to travel to a faraway Amish village to get a taste of the simple life.

If your loved one won't get out of the car, go to Sonic and experience an old-fashioned drive-in restaurant. Your cared-for will be tickled to watch the roller skating carhops weave in and out between cars while serving food. It brought back many memories for Dad, and always got him talking about favorite memories in his life.

As an elderly person grows more frail, often a sandwich is too hard to hold together for arthritic or shaky hands, yet your loved one wants to be able to feed himself or herself. An effortless solution is to make sandwiches out of soft flour tortillas, called wraps. That way, virtually anything can be eaten more easily. Just think of it as you would bread or toast. Grated cheese melted and folded one-third of the way up to keep the bottom covered, then wrapped around in a circle, like a burrito, makes an easy substitute for a grilled cheese, and cooks in 15 seconds in the microwave with no mess to clean up. Add a smear of a couple tablespoons of spaghetti sauce on the tortilla before sprinkling a couple handfuls of grated mozzarella, and you have

a mess-free pizza wrap. For a ham and cheese, or pepperoni or salami, melted cheese makes a great bonding agent with the tortilla. Try different cheeses. Tomato and cheese call out to each other and marry well. If your loved one likes green pimento-stuffed olives, chop up a handful of them into small dice and mix with a nice chunk of cream cheese, about a third of a cup, and a pinch of garlic powder or garlic salt. Spread on the soft flour tortilla and fold like a burrito. It's a great cold sandwich. Mom's favorite, sliced tomato and mayo, is easy, quick, and delicious.

For fall flavors, some sausage or kielbasa grilled or pan-fried with some sliced squash or zucchini and yellow onions wraps up well, with a dip of warm maple syrup in a little bowl. Or the Italian, for which you grill or saute white onions, red tomato wedges, and green pepper slices with some nice half-inch slices of Italian sausage and wrap it all up. And my favorite is

called a California BLT: take six slices of bacon and put on a cookie sheet in a 400 degree oven. It will cook flat and all by itself till crispy, but keep an eye on it after five minutes until it is as done as you like. Meanwhile, dice up half a tomato, get a nice green lettuce leaf or two, mash up half an avocado and stir til smooth. Spread a layer of cream cheese on two soft flour tortillas, top with the avocado, add half of a teaspoon of minced onion if you like, lay the lettuce leaf on top, sprinkle with diced tomato, then crumble the crispy bacon on top. Roll up the bottom one third of the way, then fold over the middle lengthwise, like a burrito. Unbelievably good flavor. Enjoy.

Thank you for reading the Parma Observer and Caregiver's Kitchen. I welcome your letters at alzheimer-annie@yahoo.com or Patty Noonan Knox, 6501 Wilber Ave., Parma Ohio 44129. May you and your cared-for have a colorful October.



Town Meeting Held To Save the Parma Theater


continued from page 1

"This is bigger than just Parma." Others forwarded their opinions about what they would like to see done, but the Councilwoman stressed that first the groundwork had to be laid with the formation of the "Friends of the Parma Theater" committee. Anyone interested in joining this effort should contact Deborah Lime at Limeward2@gmail.com or forward comments to the "Save the Parma Theater" site on Facebook. Another meeting to begin the formation of the committee is planned on Thursday, October 4, at Parma City Hall.

Timothy J. ★ ★ ★

DeGeeter


Mayor of Parma




Vote YES on Issue 78

Parma Police Renewal Levy

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Parma Observer

Welcome To Seven “Bills,” A \$20 Million Dollar Business

continued from page 6

equipment. It costs less, and members can add one from the family for \$10. There, I ran into another Seven Hills couple who shared their own unsettling story about rude Seven Hills rec center staff.

Cruelty to animals: Six weeks after the nest and other dead birds were brought to the rec center director’s attention (April or May), the fledglings couldn’t get out. Two months later (September), there are more dead birds.

Inept CEO?: If the recreation center has the potential to turn things around in Seven “Bills,” why can’t the CEO and his comrades of the same party affiliation make the connection between abominable treatment of members and lost profits?

Corrupt system: The same needs to be said about certain city employees and most of council.

Man’s laws, not God’s laws: Corporatized mentality leads to ungodliness, apathy towards human and non-human species (I also found

out a service department employee attempted to run down Canada geese with a riding mower near the rec center), and residents held hostage to the ramifications of a system rife with cronyism, nepotism, greed and indifference.

Failed leadership: We may not have enjoyed great leadership with the past administration, but this one is colder, more calculating. A leader/lawyer who refuses to engage directly with residents, stands back and lets others do his bidding, and forces those under him to fight things out in the ring is no leader at all, but a figurehead, an aloof CEO.



Parma Observer Is Three Years Old

continued from page 1

more citizens in our community are well aware that there is a resource at their fingertips which enables them to reach out and communicate with their neighbors, friends, and community leaders about issues they feel are important enough to speak up about.

We have a new mayor, and I think that he is doing a good job of running the city, and I am so glad that he seems to relentlessly remind everyone that Parma is in fact the seventh largest city in the state. This is a fact that should have some significance to everyone; Parma is larger in population than Lorain, Elyria, Mansfield, and even Youngstown. We actually have suburbs, when you really think about it, and I feel that we should be considering that when we plan in terms of business strategy, housing trends, etc. - our community leaders should not be shy about aggressively promoting Parma.

These first three years have just flown by, and I am sure that the Parma Observer is poised to grow and change along with this community, and I want to personally thank all of the many wonderful people who have joined with us these past three years; our writers, our readers, and especially our advertisers, for without them, this paper could not exist financially. We will continue to endeavor to remain a "Virtual Public Square" for the Greater Parma Area, and we eagerly anticipate the positive experiences that a decent, well informed community will produce.

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