

“The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons”- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Parma Experiencing Investment In Commerical And Industrial Sectors

by Leannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter said the City is working with manufacturers and small businesses to expand and grow jobs in Parma. "Keeping and creating jobs is a top priority for my administration, and we're working hard with our manufacturers and small businesses to help spur economic growth in Parma," he said. So far, efforts are successful.

Mayesh Wholesale Florist, Inc. has purchased the vacant Great Lakes Tool facility at 12631 Plaza Drive, bringing 12 jobs to Parma, along with the expectation of expansion and new hiring. This purchase marks the third and final purchase of previously vacant manufacturing space on Plaza Drive over the last two years.

Currently, there are no vacant buildings zoned for manufacturing on Plaza, Corporate or Venture Drives listed for sale. Space for lease there is also very limited.

OSG/Sterling Die purchased and renovated the former Earnest Products building at 12502 Plaza, and Absolute Haitian purchased and renovated the former Clamco building at 12900 Plaza. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and OSG/Sterling Die Vice President Ed Segula

signed a new economic development agreement recently, granting OSG/Sterling Die a 46% rebate on payroll taxes paid to the city for the next 12 years.

This agreement replaces a 10-year, 50% deal that brought OSG/Sterling Die to Parma in 2001. After 10 years of leasing space on Venture Drive, OSG/Sterling Die recently invested millions in the purchase and renovation of its new home on Plaza Drive.

DeGeeter is very pleased with these Parma manufacturing developments. "We are thrilled with Mayesh's investment," he said. "Each of these purchases demonstrates a long-term commitment that we will do all in our power to foster and build upon. Our administration values public/private partnerships and job creation."

In its first 10 years in Parma, Sterling Die's payroll has increased by 40%. Since November of 2011, Sterling Die has hired 11 additional employees and is currently seeking additional qualified employees. The new agreement begins with the property tax year starting Nov. 1, 2011 and with a base of 62 jobs and \$2,715,596 in payroll.

"Based on the 11 new hires since 11/1/2011, Sterling

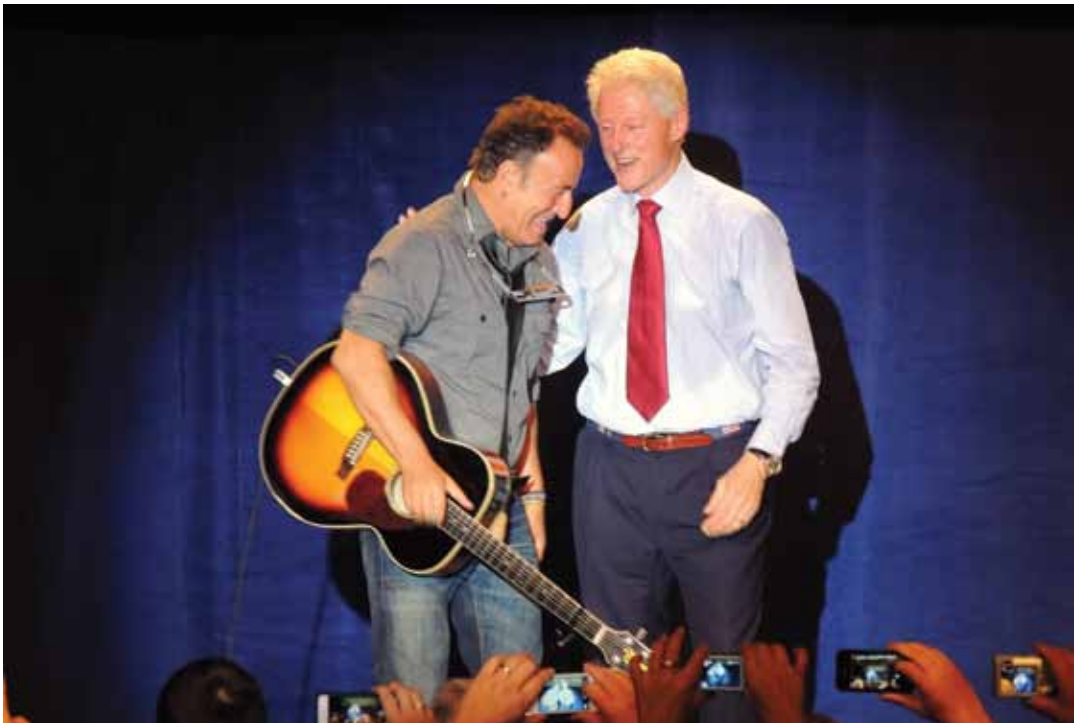
Die could very well exceed \$3,000,000 in payroll, which would trigger an automatic increase and extension of the original terms of the contract - a maximum 50% for 15 years," said DeGeeter. "It's a

testament to Sterling's success that it met its 12-year hiring goal in such a short time, and it's still looking to add people."

The City of Parma utilizes a uniform sliding scale for payroll tax incentives ranging

from a low of 15% for 5 years based on \$1,000,000 in payroll to 50% for 15 years on payroll in excess of \$3,000,000.

"We feel this is a fair and generous incentive for both **continued on page 12**



On October 18, Bill Clinton and Bruce Springsteen came to the Cuyahoga Community College campus in Parma to campaign for President Obama's re-election. There were over 3,000 people in the field house, where the event was held after being moved inside because of unpleasant weather, while another 700 or so were in a separate overflow area viewing the rally via large screen TV's.

Fortunes Changing For Parmatown Mall

by Jeannie Robert

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter will never forget his first day working in his City Hall office. Through the windows just behind his desk he can see Parmatown Mall, and on this first day came the announcement that Macy's department store was closing. Ten months later, DeGeeter still looks out those windows, but now he sees real opportunity for growth. News that Parmatown has been purchased by Phillips Edison & Co. has brought a surge of optimism to the area that also includes Byers Field, Parma Community General Hospital and this fall, a new Cuyahoga County Public Library. Every day, the first thing I see when I look out my office window, I see Parmatown Mall,"



Roy Williams, of Phillips Edison & Co., was in town last month to represent his company's purchase of Parmatown Mall.

DeGeeter said. "Until a deal was finalized, I saw an area that was a source of uncertainty for the city. Now, it's a view that brings with it a new vision of hope and energy. We have a partner to help revitalize this area."

That partner - Phillips Edison & Co - is a fully integrated retail real estate company which owns and manages more than 225 neighborhood and community shopping centers in 35 states. The company has headquarters in Cincinnati and Salt Lake City, as well as regional offices across the country.

Roy Williams, vice president of Phillips Edison's Strategic Investment Fund, has met several times with DeGeeter and other Parma officials to discuss the deal for Parmatown Mall, which includes three components: (1) Parmatown Plaza, an enclosed, single-story, regional shopping mall anchored by JC Penney, Dick's Sporting Goods and Walmart; (2) Parmatown Strip

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Parma Hospital Honored Among America's 100 Best Hospitals For Coronary Interventions

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital's cardiac program has been recognized by HealthGrades, the leading provider of information to help consumers make an informed decision about a physician or hospital, as the best hospital in Cuyahoga County for cardiology services and coronary intervention procedures. The findings are part of American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: HealthGrades Report to the Nation, which evaluates the performance of

approximately 4,500 hospitals nationwide across nearly 30 of the most common conditions and procedures.

Patient outcomes are important to consumers making choices today about hospitals. According to new research conducted by Harris Interactive for HealthGrades, 86 percent of Americans in 27 top designated market areas agree they would be more likely to choose - or not choose - a hospital if they could learn ahead of time the mortality

continued on page

Parma Business

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Sadly, throughout my tenure on Parma City Council I have received countless calls from older and disabled adults who are having a difficult time making ends meet. Luckily, many public and private assistance programs offer savings to help these residents maintain their independence and improve their quality of life. However, many do not know about these programs or how to take advantage of them. Thanks to BenefitsCheckUp, help is now available.

The excellent BenefitsCheckUp program is a free and confidential service, which can be accessed via the internet at <http://dsas.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/benefits-checkup.aspx>.



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

Although BenefitsCheckUp screens for numerous benefits such as health care programs, property tax breaks, home

energy assistance, telephone service discounts, free legal services, nutrition programs, employment and volunteer opportunities, its most popular feature is BenefitsCheckUp Rx, which directs folks to programs that can help lower their prescription drug bills.

Since many older adults do not own computers and lack Internet access, the Cuyahoga County Department for Senior and Adult Services (DSAS) and Parma's own Donna Smallwood Adult Activities Center (formerly the Parma Senior Center) offer BenefitsCheckUp outreach programs. To schedule appointments call the DSAS at 216-420-6750 or the Smallwood Center at 440-885-8800.

If you are 55 years or over, disabled, a concerned family member, or a caregiver, please consider participating in a BenefitsCheckUp Screening. Please note that as a participant, all informa-

tion you provide is strictly confidential.

In closing, I wish to express my sincere thanks to our BenefitsCheckUp local partners, including Smallwood Center Director Jo Ann Mason, for their continued dedication to Parma's residents. I hope that you find my column helpful and informative. As always, if you have suggestions for future columns, please feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. I would also like to express my wishes to you for a safe and wonderful winter season.

Editor's Observation

by Patty Knox

The monthly Parma Observer is my chance to keep up with my hometown

and be "in the know." But I also have a full-time day job at a daily newspaper with a full staff. The banter in the newsroom is often spicy with details. My coworkers will bandy about a topic, sometimes with humorous results. Now and then, the reporters and editors have verbal exchanges about their craft. One reporter recently commented, "I've been warned to watch out for when, as a reporter, eventually you wind

up inadvertently covering a part of your life. If I belong to an organization or I happen to be somewhere during off-work hours and something newsworthy happens, I have to distance myself from it. So, to be fair to all, I can't have an opinion in public, and I always have to edit what I say before I say it. If asked to comment, I can't.

If people want me to try to get their event or special interest in the newspaper, I need to let them

know that's not my decision to make, it's an editor's prerogative. I need to be aware of maintaining impartiality."

This is where citizen journalism has taken the road that has diverged.

We, the writers, get to decide what's important. We get to tell the story as we see it.

Pure journalists, those who hold the sheepskin or equivalent experience and cover news stories telling "both sides" are expected to be impartial and keep their opinions out of it. "Just the facts, ma'am." Who, what, where, when, with why and how usually left up to the reader if the news itself is at all subjective. Opinions are confined to the Editorial Page, where letters to the editor are published.

So it was for many years, for the most part, except for a few mavericks out there who published their own small-run newspapers, often with unpopular political viewpoints.

Then came the internet, the world-wide web and the blog.

Self-proclaimed writers could "blow it on out there" to anyone in cyberspace. Wildly inappropriate things get said on Facebook and posted on other sites that can affect a person's job or ability to get one, as well as give unwanted attention to a one-time indiscretion. We

are all now living in a fishbowl. The news world is still grappling with how to embrace the powers of the web, where much is free (as of this writing), and still stay in the news business. The physical newspaper, made out of pulp, is in danger of succumbing to the push for a paperless world. There are paperless classrooms in elementary school where all assignments of reading and homework are done online. Who'd o' thunk?

The Parma Observer, as a bold example of citizen journalism, gives writers an opportunity to share opinions. Online and on the

Observation Deck, as well as on paper for those who are computerless or just prefer something they can sit and read anywhere, then recycle or wrap fish & chips, or line their bird cage with, or use in window washing. Don't forget paper doll chains, and newspaper Christmas trees. As for myself, my eyes prefer the comfort of the printed page; when a person spends eight to twelve hours every day staring at a computer screen, one's retinas begin to scream in protest.

But for now, you have your choice of picking up the Parma Observer at one of our advertiser's locations or other businesses that distribute it, as well as the Parma Library on Ridge Road near Snow Road; or bring it up on parmaobserver.com online and keep current on our ever-changing tri-city community. Better yet, write and send it in to us.

So jump in. The water's fine. We want to hear from first-time writers, as well as our faithful folks. Tell us about your Parma.

Parma Hospital Honored Among America's 100 Best Hospitals For Coronary Interventions

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rates for a certain procedure.

Other notable HealthGrades recognitions include:

One of HealthGrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Coronary Intervention™ for 2 Years in a Row (2012-2013)

Recipient of the HealthGrades Coronary Intervention Excellence Award™ for 5 Years in a Row (2009-2013)

Ranked Among the Top 5 percent in the Nation for Coronary Interventional Procedures for 5 Years in a Row (2009-2013)

Five-Star Recipient for Cardiology

Services for 3 Years in a Row (2011-2013)

Five-Star Recipient for Coronary Interventional Procedures for 9 Years in a Row (2005-2013)

"This recognition, once again, from the leading independent quality rankings firm in the nation is validation that excellence in quality is not about size and national stature but about the personalized care you provide to the community," said Terrence G. Deis, Parma Hospital's president & CEO. "While we are proud to be among the top 100 hospitals in the nation

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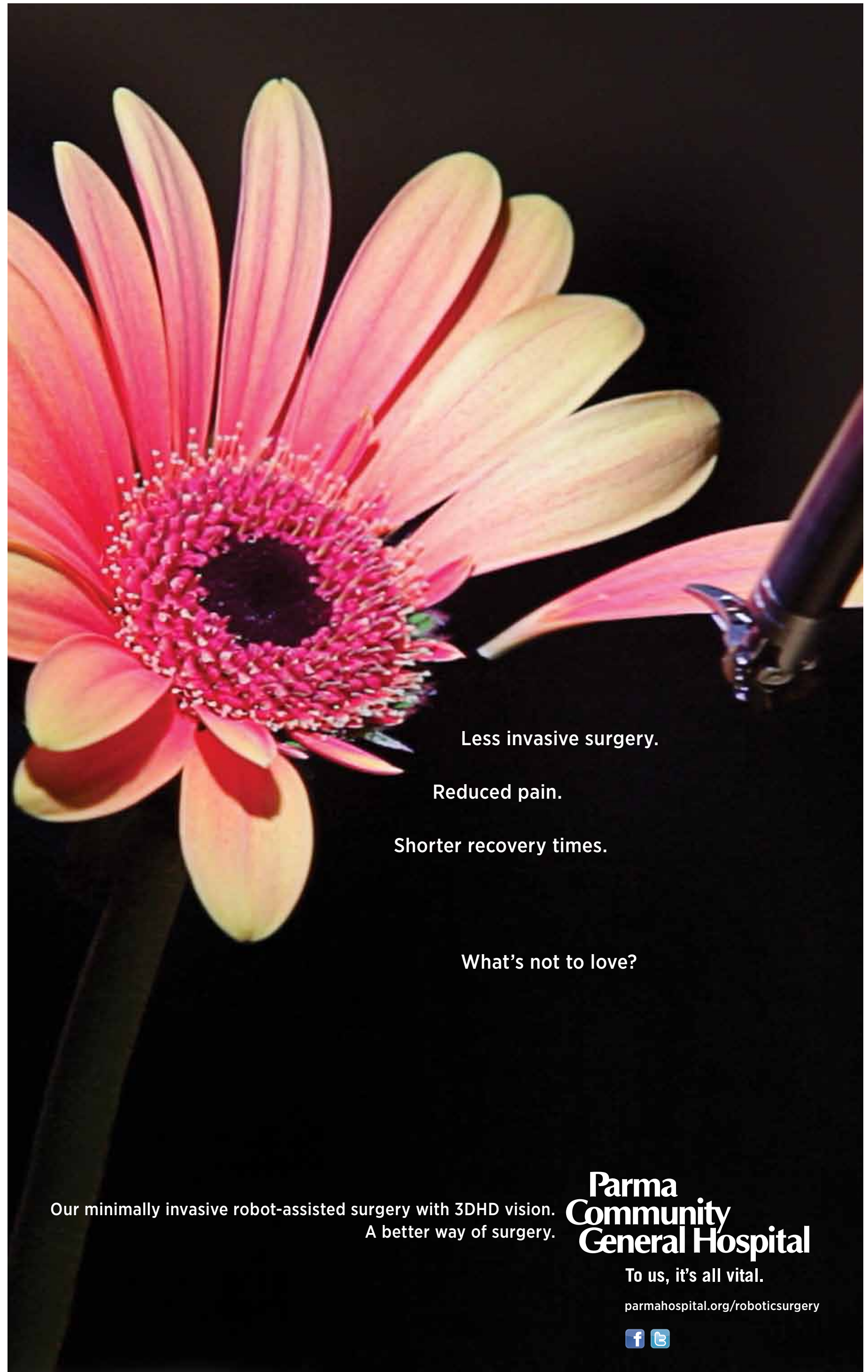
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Parma Observer

Home, Even Far Away

Tim Santorio

I was born at Parma Hospital and raised in and around Parma for the first half of my life. And then you learn life takes you places you never intended nor wanted to go. I had to leave my home that I loved in 1997 and was displaced for the past years on the west coast.

Though I have not been able to live there in quite a few years, I now know better than ever that Parma is home no matter where I live.

I recently came back to visit with my family. Instantly, all those years of being away went away. It's like I had never left.

The people of the city are real people. Everywhere you look there is

a genuine sense of community. People believe in and are invested in their community. The citizens of Parma are invested in one another. A random stranger is happy to see you. Stores are happy to have your business. Nobody is a number to anybody.

Anyone who has ever been out west knows one thing, everything is the same. It is too uniform and bland. There is zero character.

However...driving down Ridge Road, I see the exact same houses and buildings and signs and landmarks that I saw 15, 20 and more years ago. They all exude life. They have character.

I went to Parmatown. So many of my memories come from that place. Sadly, it doesn't look the same. And it

was just too quiet. Where is my late 80s Parmatown Mall--when my Grandfather owned the Parmatown Smoke Shop in the food court? When Mr. Fong had his Chinese restaurant across the way, next to Antonio's? Where did that mall go?

As a young kid, I often played at Ridgewood Park. All these years later, I got to take my son there and watch him play. The park has changed over the years. The random play stations, now replaced with a fancy playground structure. I still remember an old slide they had that was, of all things, made from reflective metal. In July, it was like sliding down a flat top grill. You roasted your rear areas all the way down, and like a fool went back for

more. But that aside, it was one of the greatest joys in the three years since my son was born, watching him play in that park. Then watching him and his 19 month old brother feed the ducks in the lake behind the park. And then my son looks at me and says "Dad, I love this park." I heard it loud and clear, but made him repeat it just because it was worth that much.

Why was home just a visit? I have a new mission in life and that is to return. To no longer remember but to be there. To pull out my driver's license and see 44129 in the zip code. I want to come home. Parma is home.

Start Your Holiday Shopping At Juried Arts, Fine Crafts Festival November 16-17

by CJ Sheppard

Kick off a great holiday season – and support community health and wellness – by attending the Sixth Annual Arts at the Center, a juried arts and fine crafts festival sponsored by the Parma Hospital Auxiliary on November 16-17 at St. Michael's Woodside, 5025 East Mill Road, Broadview Heights. Local artists will present one-of-a-kind pieces ranging from metal work, melted glass and giclee to handmade jewelry, pottery and photography.

Enjoy a special preview and the opportunity to purchase unique items

first at the Diamonds and Denim opening event on Friday, November 16, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Guests are encouraged to don their favorite Southwestern attire and enjoy cocktails and exquisite cuisine, plus music by Akin for Jazz and a keynote address by Parma Hospital President & CEO Terrence G. Deis. Beer and wine has been donated by Heidelberg Distributing, which is a Diamond Sponsor, along with Cox Business, Corporate Jewelers and the Parma Hospital Health Care Foundation.

Tickets for the Diamonds and Denim preview are \$50 per person. For

tickets, call 440-743-2371. The Saturday show, held from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Proceeds from this year's Arts at the Center will go toward the provision of the Home Run Van service, which brings patients to Parma Hospital for tests, procedures or surgery who have no other means of transportation. In 2011 alone, the Home Ran Van made over 6,400 trips.

"We are thrilled with the generous support we have received from corporate sponsors, volunteers, employees, and community leaders," says Andrea Sack,

Parma Hospital's director of Volunteer Services. "This event is successful because of the many people who attend this great show, and for the works of fabulous artisans who are so talented. We look forward to another wonderful show, and we are proud to support community health and wellness. Please come out and get your holiday shopping off to a good start, and know that you are contributing to a very worthy cause."

Parma Hospital Honored Among America's 100 Best Hospitals For Coronary Interventions

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for coronary interventions, we are even more pleased to have the exceptional nurses, physicians and support staff who contribute to making us the leading hospital in the county for cardiology and coronary interventions."

According to the HealthGrades study, the risk of death is 58 percent lower

at hospitals receiving 5 stars versus all other hospitals. The 2013 performance outcomes are now available free to the public at www.healthgrades.com.

For its 2013 hospital quality outcomes analysis, HealthGrades evaluated approximately 40 million Medicare hospitalization records for services performed from 2009 through 2011 at approximately 4,500 short-term, acute

care hospitals nationwide. HealthGrades independently measures hospitals based on data that hospitals submit to the federal government. No hospital can opt in or out of being measured, and no hospital pays to be measured. Mortality and complication rates are risk adjusted, which takes into account each hospital's unique population (demographics and severity of illness).

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Parma Schools

ASSET CORNER

Visit the "Asset Corner" on Facebook. Share your Asset building ideas.

Asset Corner #35

by Gene Lovasy

The empowerment assets focus on community perceptions of youth & the opportunities they have to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Feeling valued and appreciated is important to all of us. For young people, this means feeling safe and believing they're liked and respected. These feelings can go a long way toward empowering children and youth. Providing opportunities and recognizing accomplishments helps young people build self-esteem. This in turn, gives them the confidence to share their ideas, knowledge, and creativity by volunteering and working in paid jobs. By paying attention to young people, you show that you value them.

- Empowerment Assets Include:**
- #7 Community Values Youth** – Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth. (22%*)
 - #8 Youth as Resources** – Young people are given useful roles in the community. (26%)
 - #9 Service to Others** – Young person serves in the community one hour or more a week (48%*)
 - #10 Safety** – Young person feels safe at home, school & in the neighborhood. (51%*)
- (* The percent of youth who experience or have this asset in their lives. Data based on an aggregate Search Institute sample of 148,189 students surveyed in 2003. The sample included students in 202 cities in 27 states.)

Tips for building these assets

It's not always easy to know what it takes for young people to feel empowered. Sometimes young people doubt themselves or don't feel valued despite the good intentions of and recognition from caring adults. Communicate with young people openly and honestly about relationships, politics, religion, and other serious issues. Young people need to know that their questions and concerns are valid and important.

- Also try this:**
- In your home and family: Empower your child by providing choices. Have regular family meetings to plan, solve problems, and encourage one another. Rotate who leads the meetings.
- Here are some more ideas:**
- Attend community events as a family.
 - Have a family meeting and get everyone's ideas on accomplishing household tasks. Share the decisions and share the work.

- Be a role model for your children by serving others.
 - Walk or drive your child's friends home after dark even if they live nearby.
 - Keep track of all family members' whereabouts and plans. Let each other know about changes.
 - Set aside two hours one weekend for serving others as a family.
 - Work with your neighbors to address safety needs and concerns in the neighborhood.
- In your neighborhood and community: Get involved in the community and advocate for developing meaningful opportunities for young people, such as volunteer projects and civic activities.

- Here are some more ideas:**
- Give positive feedback to youth you encounter in stores (as clerks, sales help, and wait staff) when you notice them doing a good job.
 - Get youth involved in your organization or business.
 - Ask kids how they would like to serve. Match opportunities to their interests and abilities.
 - Promote and support neighborhood watch programs, block clubs, DARE and other crime prevention, community-building efforts.
 - Provide young people with safe, supervised times and places where they can hang out with their friends.
 - Publicize and celebrate the ways young people contribute to the community.
- In your school or youth program: Take a field trip to a nursing home or senior housing complex. Have students and group members perform a concert, and afterwards talk to residents and learn about their present situations, as well as their pasts. Ask participants to send thank you notes to the residents they met. Also encourage the young people to discuss what they learned from their visit and what they contributed to the lives of the residents.
- Here are some more ideas:**
- Train teenagers how to help, tutor, and befriend younger children.
 - Teach children how to tell adults about bad things that happen to them.
 - Establish a peer mediation program so students can help each other resolve conflicts peacefully.
 - Actively work to create an environment that accepts, welcomes, and celebrates diversity. Don't tolerate bullying or disrespect of any kind.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

- Sundae Bars hosted by CBS part-

- ners will be taking place at most of our elementaries this month. Ask your child if he/she will be attending?
- 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.
 - If you or your organization is

interested in helping support families during the up-coming holidays consider partnering with Parma Area Family Collaborative. Donating cash, a gift card, a single gift, a filled stocking, adopting a child, adopting an entire family, or even hosting an angel tree are just some ways you can help. Call Whitney Liptrap at 440.887.4873 (liptrapw@parmacityschools.org) if you're interested.

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.

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Inspiration

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

The topic for this month is: Picks From the Book of Proverbs-

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act.

Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.

The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers

harm.

Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

He whose walk is upright fears the Lord, but he whose ways are devious despises him.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction

gains understanding.

Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice.

If a man pays back evil for good, evil will never leave his house.

Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.

Food gained by fraud tastes sweet to a man, but he ends up with a mouth full of gravel.

The glory of young men is their strength, gray hair the splendor of the old.

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

Do not envy wicked men, do not desire their company.

Do not say, "I'll do to him as he has done to me; I'll pay that man back for what he did."

A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house³/₄too much of you, and he will hate you.

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.

Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; someone else, and not your own lips.

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Better a poor man whose walk is blameless than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Community Supports Family

by Daniel McCarthy

On October 19th. a benefit was held at the Blue Line Bar & Grill in Parma in order to help the family of Michael and Anthony Gibson, two brothers who died in a fire at a home on East 45th. St. in Cleveland on August 12th. of this year. What makes this story especially sad is that they were merely overnight guests at the home, and it seems that there was no insurance on the property, so in addition to the unbearable pain of losing these two young brothers, the family was also forced to shoulder the cost of their funeral expenses as well. Their uncle, Joe Osborne, owner of Two Men and a Wrench at 3201 Brookpark Rd. here in Parma, organized this fundraising event at the Blue Line Bar & Grill, which featured the excellent pizza and wings that the Blue Line is known for, along with a full array of beverages. I attended, and I felt that there was a good turnout- people were having a



Joe Osborne, owner of Two Men and a Wrench in Parma, with his niece Sarah at the Benefit for Michael and Anthony Gibson at the Blue Line Bar & Grill on October 19th.

good time and seemed to have satisfaction knowing that they were helping a family cope with their tragic loss. As of press time, I am not aware of how much money was raised, but I'm sure that if anyone would care to help this family further, they would love to hear from you. Anyone interested can reach Joe at 216-404-9188, and thanks to all of those who came out to the Blue Line Bar & Grill on October 19th.; you DID make a difference!



Family, friends, and people from the community came to the Blue Line Bar and Grill on October 19th. to help the family of Michael and Anthony Gibson.

Chilling Winds And Swirling Snow

by Ruth Revecky

We observe so many things in November and December.

For instance, on November 4th, Daylight Saving Time comes

To an end; but we gain an hour of extra sleep by turning

Our clocks back one hour.

Not far behind we have Election Day, which is on the 6th of

November--be certain to cast your vote!

Veterans Day is November 11th; but we observe it on Monday,

November 12th.

Another big event in November is the celebration of Thanksgiving

Day--Thursday, November 22, which brings many families

Together to enjoy a browned, steaming turkey and ending

The meal with a delicious pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is celebrated in many churches and some

Families begin their meal with a quiet prayer.

December usually begins by covering the ground with a blanket

Of snow, bringing out snow plows, snow blowers, and snow

Shovels.

On December 7th we observe Pearl Harbor--a day we will not forget.

On December 8th our Jewish friends observe Hanukkah at sundown.

The calendar indicates that winter begins December 21st, but I'm

Certain we've already been experiencing snowflakes and chilling

Winds; so many sports-minded people have already waxed their skis,

Ready to shoosh down snow-covered slopes; ice skates have been

Sharpened, people have been enjoying tobogganing, snowboarding

And throwing snowballs; children, too, have been creating lopsided, Carrot-nosed snowmen.

The month of December is quite busy, buying gifts and evergreen

Trees and preparing for the Christmas meal for family gatherings.

Some people travel out-of-state to be with their loved ones.

Some families open their gifts the night before Christmas; however,

You can be certain that residents in Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills will have their family get-together on December 25th--which is Christmas day!

Many people have attended the church of their choice and are

Prayerful during the holiday season, remembering Christ's birth.

Winding up December is New Year's Eve, December 31st ,the night

Before we welcome in the new year, which begins January 1, 2013!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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Parma History

The Henningers of West Creek

by Irene Toth

The stone house on the hill on Broadview Road was once the center of several homes of Henninger family members. The homes were clustered close enough that one could call or signal to another home from a doorway.

Philip Henninger was born on October 20, 1813 in Germany. His wife Sophia Orth Henninger was born on May 23, 1823 in the same town in Germany. They came to the United States in 1830 and settled in Parma. When Sophia turned eighteen, she married Philip. They built a log cabin on the site of the current Henninger Homestead, but in 1849 after the birth of five of their ten children, Philip replaced the log cabin with the Greek Revival stone house, using the stone from the quarry on his property along Rockside Road. The house was the home of Henningers through the third and fourth generations until 1987.

Philip Henninger was a tinsmith, but the stone from his quarry proved to be valuable for building projects in the area. Stone from the quarries along Rockside Road were used for the locks and bypasses for the Ohio and Erie Canal. These quarries also provided the stone for the Lake Erie break-wall. Stones were shipped to many ports in



planned to build homes in the area. Mr. Stahl was a real estate developer in the 1920's. The development never became a reality, even though streets and improvements were put in place. The Depression put an end to Mr. Stahl's plans.

My information about the Henninger Family was provided by Helen Vlasak, a daughter of Arthur Henninger. Sharing her memories made it possible for me to write this article.

Mrs. Vlasak remembers sitting on the porch of the Henninger Homestead with her Uncle Ed. He told her about Town Line Road, now Broadview

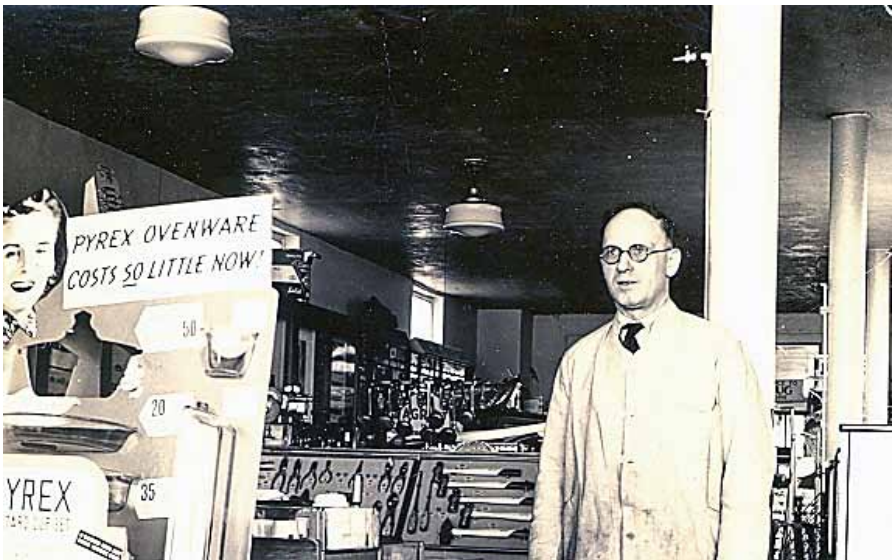
ningers became partners in a hardware store. About 1906, August Decker and William Henninger went into a joint business, the Henninger and Decker Hardware Store. It was located at the corner of Krather and Pearl Road. Their reputation for quality was known throughout the Cleveland area. Any size nut, bolt, or screw could be found in the drawers that lined the walls from floor to ceiling. Ladders on casters rolled along the sides so that the higher shelves could be reached. Carpenters

from all over the area stood outside the store as early as 6:30 am, waiting for the store to open.

Many hardware stores of the era sold furniture and made caskets for funerals. Henninger and Decker included furnace repair, sheet metal work, and tinsmith work. William Henninger hired his brothers Edwin, Carl, Arthur, Oscar, and Roman to work in the store. Art and Ed were tinsmiths and set up their shop at the rear of the hardware store. They provided gutters, furnaces, and large steam pans for the greenhouses along Schaaf Road.

August Decker sold the business to William Henninger when he retired. William later sold the business to his brother, Roman, who operated the hardware store until the 1950's, when it was finally sold. The street next to Krather off Pearl Road is named for the Henninger Family and the hardware store.

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.



and around the Great Lakes. Grindstones and building stone were in great demand. Almost every home built more than a hundred years ago had stone cellars, steps, and foundations. In the early 1900's, the need for stone decreased with the use of concrete.

Henry Henninger was born July 3, 1845, son of Philip and Sophia. He owned 100 acres of farmland and gave each of his sons portions of the land in the area. His son Carl had a farm in the location of Carlton Drive, the street named for him. Arthur, another son had five acres in the area that is now Parmatown. At that time, the area was a thick forest. Arthur Henninger cut wood from his land and sold it for use in heating and cooking. Arthur used a horse-drawn sled to transport the wood. With his brother, Carl, he delivered milk in that same wagon.

Arthur had a lease agreement with H. E. Stahl and was paid a monthly fee to hold the property for Mr. Stahl, who

Road, and the difficult travel when it was dusty or muddy. Later it became a plank road, using logs that were cut and placed crosswise on the road. Tolls were charged to pay for the maintenance of the logs.

From the porch it was possible to see a great distance because there were few buildings or homes in the area. For a time, Mrs. Vlasak's parents lived in the Henninger Homestead while a home was being built for them on Tuxedo Avenue. Her mother would use binoculars to watch her father as he went to work and could view him almost to Brookpark Road.

Mrs. Vlasak's grandparents had a home where St. John Byzantine Church is now located. A creek ran through their cellar, running cold and clear. Milk, butter, and other foods that needed to stay cold were placed in this creek. This was before refrigeration was available.

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Political Perspective

The Patriot Corner

by Wayne Mahowald

On November 19, 1863, Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. "Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation, so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

In many ways, the United States today is as divided as it was in Lincoln's time. However, rather than being engaged in a civil war, we are instead engaged on what George Washington called the "battlefield of ideas". The battles of this war are oftentimes

fought over differences in ideologies and no matter what is said, the true believers in a position cannot be swayed no matter how indisputable or overwhelming the evidence to the contrary. Many of us are frustrated by the exchanges between these partisan groups and rather than be caught in the crossfire, we choose to disengage from the discussions.

But as a nation, can we afford to

disengage? From my perspective, that answer must be a resounding no. This is a government that is of, by and for the people. Such a government cannot function without the involvement of the people.

In just a few days, we have an opportunity to utilize our most important method of direct involvement. As citizens, we have a responsibility to vote for the can-

didates we believe best represent our personal values. Each of us must make the choices for ourselves but as responsible citizens we must make that decision.

Ultimately, I am suggesting that each of you do 3 things. First, research the candidates and learn what you can. Second, vote for the candidates you feel best represent you. Finally, after the election process is over, hold those who were elected accountable. Demand results.

Voting Power is in Your Consumerism

by Michelle E. Rice

Media sways public opinion and discussion by playing an agenda setting role. Public concern of issues follows media coverage of issues rather than any real changes actually occurring in the world. Politically, they create the impression we have a real choice as if the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are very different. Really, on substantive budget or economic issues they both support high military spending, corporate backed global trade agreements and generally favor big business, corporations. They are so similar because most voters are moderate and they both try to get the moderate vote. It's really not an election but more so an auction. It's really not about their ideas or their public service record; it's about how much money they can raise. What are being sold are positions such as serving on an advisory panel, ambassadorships, policies and other honorary appointments.

How much power does government have if corporations have more money? Government is supposed to balance the needs of society based on ethics and social and moral responsibility. Corporations hold themselves accountable to stockholders, not who

or what is at stake when achieving their ultimate goal – to make money. Damage to people, animals, ecosystems, the environment, our planet is factored in as a cost of doing business. Fines and penalties are gauged against profit as they aren't severe enough to curb damage, sway the moral compass. Corporations don't have thoughts or feelings. To continually make more money requires using more resources and having more consumers. The effects of industrialization and pollution are severe.

What can we do? What power do we have? We have purchasing

power. If you don't agree with the ethics, actions and policies of a business, don't buy from that company. If you disapprove of a company, don't do business with them. You don't have to spend your money with a company that is damaging the health and life of the planet and the species that live on the planet. You have a choice. You can choose to contribute to harmful actions or say no by purchasing from socially responsible companies. Spend your money in a way that is aligned with your beliefs, your ethics. We, as consumers, have purchasing power. Utilizing the power of your cash spending is more powerful than who you vote for in an election.

Taking Out The Trash

by Brigitte Gerard

I am sick of all the political mail I've been getting, and I don't care who sends it. It all goes right into the trash. Well, okay, I recycle some of it. One mailer recently got my attention. It features a picture of an older man wearing a double-breasted blue blazer, gray trousers, and a white shirt with an ascot. He's holding a brandy snifter in one hand and a cigar in the other, looking down

his nose with a disapproving scowl at the camera. It reminds me of Thurston Howell III from Gilligan's Island. The caption reads, "It's party time", along with a smaller black and white photo of a local candidate, suggesting that the candidate is a bad guy because he's wealthy. References to his voting record appear in very small print, like footnotes. The mailer was paid for by American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees PEOPLE (AFSCME), showing an address in Washington, D.C.

I guess they haven't heard about Jimmy Dimora's non-stop private party, paid for with Cuyahoga County taxpayers' (OUR) money.

President Clinton and Bruce Springsteen visited Parma on October 18. They're both millionaires and they didn't show up in blue blazers. So are President Obama and Vice President Biden. The Kennedys, the Bushes, the Beatles. Even Ghouardi was a millionaire at the end of his career.

We've got local millionaires, too. They didn't use OUR tax dollars to create their wealth. They earned it by working hard, getting tired, dirty and sore. By being smart competitors in the marketplace. By taking risks with their own money and building businesses that provide jobs in our community. We shouldn't despise them. We need them. And we're smart enough to know that.

Why not make a case against the candidate based on his record? How about printing the actual roll call votes and the texts of the House resolutions, instead of treating that information like footnotes? AFSCME thinks they can influence my

continued on page 9

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Political Perspective

The Reality Of Circus Life For Animals

by Michaelle E. Rice

Animal act circuses may appear to be fun-filled family events, but in reality they are no fun for the animals involved —whose spirits are broken. The public may not witness animal training and abuse; although there is a plethora of photographic and video documentation confirming the horrors of circus life for these animals. Inspection reports of animal act circuses from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) reveal continuous citations for violations of standards set forth in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Major corporations such as General Mills, Liz Claiborne, MasterCard, VISA, and Sears Roebuck and Co. all ended their sponsorships of circuses after learning of the abuse inherent in animal circuses.

Circus animals can spend up to 11 months per year traveling in cramped cages and/or chained for up to 21 hours a day or days, enduring extreme weather conditions, eating and sleeping in their own excrement, and forced to perform unnatural and demeaning tricks which may also be painful. If it wasn't for pain inflicted or fear of pain, they would not perform such unnatural acts.

Elephant life within a circus is especially miserable. It is detrimental to their physical and mental health. All that is natural to them is taken away. In the wild, elephants stay with their family unit their whole life. Males leave in their teens but are rarely alone. Yet, in the circus, babies are taken away at 2 years of age or younger and all the elephants are shuffled around. In the wild, they roam seven to dozens of miles a day. They are active for 20 out of 24 hours, foraging, exploring, socializing and raising their young. They naturally browse, serving the needs for sustenance as well as physical and mental health.

Elephants have a natural lifespan of 60-70 years. Yet most captive

elephants are euthanized at around 40 years of age. This is due to the long suffering, painful conditions of foot rot, arthritis and osteomyelitis from lack of movement; stemming from lack of space, standing too long on hard surfaces and in their own excrement. Tuberculosis (TB) is known to thrive in their cramped, conditions. In several instances, elephants known to have TB have been used to give rides to the public. The detrimental effects of confinement produce boredom and severe stress developing into neurosis within elephants so they are observed displaying repetitive behaviors such as stepping, head bobbing, and swaying due to lack of: space, mental enrichment and socialization. These are all captivity induced diseases, not found in the wild.

That their living conditions have been so utterly devoid of respect, famil-

Taking Out The Trash

continued from page 8

vote by using pictures to succeed in pitting me against the people that run the Chinese restaurant I like to eat at with my son, own the salon where I get my hair cut, and operate the car wash I use. These people are millionaires. They are also my neighbors, and yours, too. They're not the enemy, even though AFSCME wants us to think so. That's their real purpose.

And by the way, these mailers don't look cheap. It took plenty of money to produce, print and mail them. But garbage, even dressed up in a blue blazer, is still garbage and there's plenty of it in Washington. We don't need AFSCME, or any other group, sending us this stuff; too bad the United States Postal Service doesn't deliver to my trash can.

ial/social relationships, love, kindness, care, freedom; free from mental and physical pain, is a disgrace of humans. We need to acknowledge the facts about their natural lives in the wild versus the facts about their lives in captivity.

Having animals perform in circuses is so barbaric and cruel; I'm surprised it is even legal. These are just some of the realities these animals are forced to endure in circuses. The abuses they endure are horrific, cruel,

and very sad.

What is family fun at an event that is inherently cruel? Let's teach children compassion and respect for animals instead of hurting them and forcing them to perform demeaning and unnatural acts for "entertainment." So, when the circus comes to town, please don't give your money to support this cruelty. Circuses are no fun for the animals.

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Editor's Observation: Vote Your Conscience

by Patty Knox

If you're like me, you're sick to death of all the political ads, unsolicited phone calls, political spam in your mailbox, and annoying editorials endorsing this or that candidate or issue. So the last thing I'm going to do is to tell you who to vote for or what to vote against.

Just vote your conscience. At the end of the day, you have to live with yourself. You know the issues. You know what you think of the candidates. Trust your gut. Don't overthink it. Don't be finessed by slick ads. You know what you think by now. It doesn't matter what anybody else thinks. "Stick to your guns," as the saying goes.

Just vote your conscience.

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Parma Observer

Holy Name Graduate Wins Geneva Internship With The World Health Organization

by Paige Greene,
Parma native Charlie Hayes, a junior in the International Studies program at Baldwin Wallace University, has been chosen as one of the youngest interns for the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland. The dedicated student with a passion for research is excited to be spending the fall semester “learning more about, not only the world and different cultures, but also myself.” Having the Swiss Alps as a backdrop is a nice bonus.

Hayes, a 2010 Holy Name High School graduate, is working in the WHO’s Tobacco Free Initiative division under the director of Tobacco Product Regulation. His responsibilities include updating the WHO Tobacco Laboratory Network Database, researching tobacco product regulation, and assisting in the preparation of the Science Based Tobacco Regulators meetings.

“Diplomats from member UN



nations will contact our director before they have a parliamentary meeting to hear the official WHO stance on specific products... One of my tasks is to e-mail these diplomats back as soon as possible with the WHO’s stances on different products.”

No stranger to research, Hayes participated in BW’s 2012 Summer Scholars Program, and also served as an ambassador for the University’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Studies program. His interest in research started as an upperclassman at Holy Name High School.

“I was working fast food and was desperately trying to find a more appealing job when I came across an opportunity for a paid research internship at the Cleveland Clinic,” he said. “Interested and wanting to stop working with grease, I applied, not thinking I would get it. Fortunately, I did ... which turned into working with the Cleveland Clinic for about two years.” During his time at the Clinic, Hayes was a research assistant for a Nursing Administration study that was later published in The American Journal of Nursing.

Along with his WHO internship, Hayes is taking classes while in Geneva, so that even after changing his major “several times,” he will be able to graduate in four years. “BW wants you to challenge your academic major and I feel the curriculum is set up to allow for a lot of self discovery.”

Theatre and German have been part of Hayes’ self-discovery. In fact, he remains involved in plays at BW, even after moving on from majoring in theatre. Hayes performed in Mr. Marmalade, directed by Jack Winget, in February and, in the spring, in The Violence of One, a student-written play that explored the effects of serial killers on the community. He also serves as one of two house managers for the University’s Kleist Center for Art and Drama. Recently, he was inducted into the German National Honor Society at BW (Delta Phi Alpha).

Hayes recommends that students who may be looking for similar expe-



riences should not fear rejection. “Go out of your comfort zone. Talk to people you normally would not strike up a conversation with. If something seems interesting to you, try it. You may not like it, but if you don’t try, you never know... Go out and have fun, but stay very motivated and on top of your studies. I think that is what college is all about. Study hard, work hard, play hard.”

For Hayes, the time in Geneva is a gift that blends study, work and play. “I am so grateful for this opportunity to intern at WHO,” he said. “I have a 3-day weekend every weekend, so it gives me chances to travel. I want to fly back to America (in December) with amazing stories of my travels, a glowing recommendation from my supervisor at WHO, a greater appreciation for different cultures, but most of all, an even clearer sense of my own self and values.”

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The Blues-Rock Scene Around Parma Lately

by John Allender

Time has a way of slipping by, and suddenly I realize that it has been too long since I’ve written my column about the Blues-Rock scene in Parma, but don’t let that make you think that there isn’t a lot going on when it comes to the music front here in Parma; I’ve just been very busy with too many things lately, such as earning a living, interacting with other musicians, jamming and recording, etc. There is an event coming up on Friday November 16th. at 8:30 p.m. at Lucky T’s Pub in Parma at 11717 Snow Rd. The John Allender Band, featuring Steve Candow and Tim Gingley, will be doing a live recording session there, and we hope that everyone will come out and be part of our event. This is a laid-back place where everyone always has a good time, so I’m sure that you’ll fit in. Above all, don’t forget to boogie!

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Caregiver's Kitchen

Sundowner's Syndrome Tips

by Patty Knox

The reasons for the baffling behavior of Sundowner's Syndrome are still a mystery, although there are various theories. An otherwise agreeable person may be cantankerous as sunset turns to twilight. An elder whose mind is normally clear as a bell can exhibit uncharacteristic confusion in the evening. Some people, like my father, present both.

Those with dementia are more vulnerable. Not all elderly experience Sundowner's. But anyone who has ever worked in a nursing home has seen how the place goes crazy as the evening wanes. Think full moon and emergency room stories. No joke.

What you need to know is that your cared-for is not intentionally being difficult, but is at the effect of a condition still being studied by doctors and researchers. One observation is that Sundowner's Syndrome gets worse in the winter months when the shorter days are more often gray and the elderly suffer more frequently from depression, leading experts to conclude that Seasonal Affect Disorder (SAD) may somehow be related to Sundowner's. Another theory is that overstimulation from the activities of the day may lead to something of a sensory overload, resulting in an irritable disposition. Realize that it is nothing your elder asked for. As unfun as it is for you to have to deal with your loved one at this time of day, it's even more unfun for him or her. (Yes, I know that unfun is not a word. But it's as close as I can get.)

But as nurse aides expect it and prepare for it, so can you. No caffeine in the afternoon, or any stimulants. Avoid sugar, try soothing unsweetened beverages that have great flavor without needing anything added, like herbal tea, especially mint or chamomile. Warm chicken broth or comfort food, like a baked potato or fettuccine Alfredo, may work for some elders. Try some clever distractions. Bring out the comfy slippers, turn on the taped shows of Lawrence Welk, let your cared-for indulge in anything harmless that strikes his or her fancy, including hopefully a refreshing nap. For those who get fussy or angry and say some mean, hurtful things, cut them some slack and don't take it personally. It's a symptom of a phenomenon that doesn't have a sure cure. Make a list of what works at this time of day for other caregivers who may be with your loved one on respite care days. And know that the symptoms of the

syndrome play out differently for each person, with no rhyme or reason. Mellow out, go with the flow – and hope your cared-for follows suit.

Now for that comfort food. The oven serves double duty by adding soothing warmth to the house as well as cooking a satisfying meal. A baked potato, pot roast with onions, potatoes and carrots, some old-fashioned egg custard, or a favorite baked family recipe could cheer your cared-for. One pasta dish that always brought a smile to my family's faces is Stuffed Shells.

Put on a big pot of water to boil half a box of jumbo pasta shells for eight minutes, brown a pound of hamburger sprinkled with salt and pepper and about ½ a teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce, then drain off the grease to add

to a 32 ounce jar of your favorite tomato sauce – I like Prego meat flavored. But first, add a thin layer of tomato sauce to a baking dish before mixing the rest with the hamburger.

Now, beat 2 eggs and mix 4 cups of ricotta cheese, 2 cups of shredded mozzarella cheese, ½ cup fresh-grated Parmesan cheese (when in Parma, it's Parmesan), 1 heaping tablespoon of fresh chopped parsley, ¼ teaspoon black pepper and a pinch of Kosher salt together.

Drain shells and rinse in cold water. Fill each shell with a tablespoon of the cheese filling and place in one layer in the baking dish. Cover with sauce. Bake at 350 degrees for about a half-hour. Add a layer of 1 cup of shredded mozzarella and ½ cup fresh-

grated Parmesan on top of the shells, bake until melted, about 10 minutes. Set on a trivet on the table and sprinkle with a teaspoon of fresh chopped parsley. Dish up but let cool until cool enough for your loved one. If it's still steaming, it's too hot. Then sit down together, and enjoy.

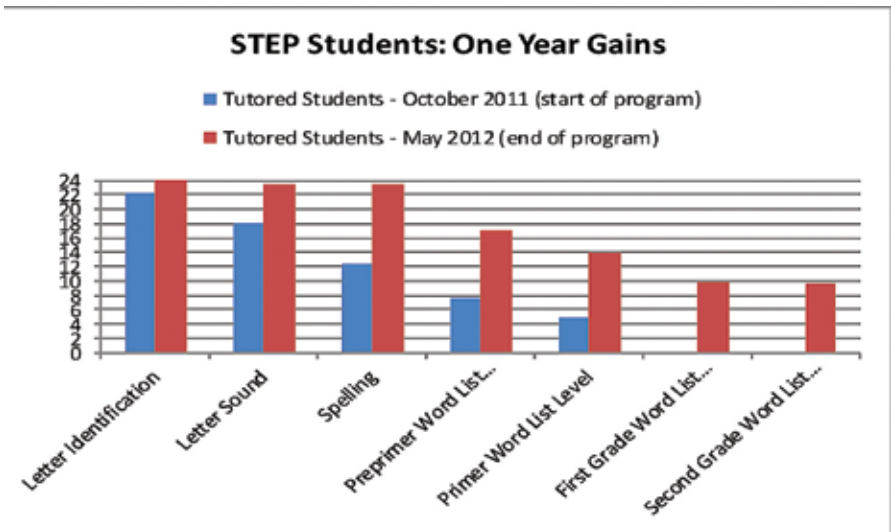
Thank you for reading Caregiver's Kitchen and the Parma Observer. Please keep those cards and emails coming! I welcome your comments and questions at alzheimerannie.com or Patty Noonan Knox, 6501 Wilber Ave., Parma OH 44129. My prayer is that this information helps you and your cared-for through difficult moments, and gives you the support you need to be a more cheerful caregiver. Know that you are in my prayers every day.

The Literacy Cooperative's Pilot STEP Tutoring Program Makes Impact

by Katherine Bulava

To help address the learning gap for students in first grade, The Literacy Cooperative pulled together a group of community literacy partners and developed STEP (Supporting Teachers Engaging Pupils). The tutoring program was designed specifically to help underperforming children and prevent reading failure through one-on-one, structured tutoring sessions that coordinate with the classroom curriculum. Results from the 2011-2012 school year show that STEP is making an impact.

The goal of STEP's bi-weekly, 30 minute per session pullout tutoring is to improve outcomes by helping students acquire the skills necessary for reading success. The STEP initiative at



Marion Sterling School in Cleveland focuses on first graders who are below grade level; research shows that children who are not reading proficiently by third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers and a new Ohio law (Third Grade Reading Gaurentee) requires that all students pass a third grade reading test to advance to fourth grade.

Research further shows one-on-one tutoring programs are effective in preventing reading failure, especially in the early grades. Understanding that children learn best from well-planned and consistent tutoring sessions, STEP provides volunteers with a variety of tools to use, including scripted lesson plans. The tutors use research-based methods to deliver lessons that emphasize phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text compre-

hension.

STEP also strives to establish strong, mentoring relationships between tutors and children. Research has shown that regular interaction strengthens assets in children that lead to improved skills.

The Literacy Cooperative partnered with Dr. Catherine A. Rosemary at John Carroll University to oversee a formal assessment protocol for STEP that measures the value of the initiative as an intervention that can improve outcomes for children.

Results for the 2011-2012 STEP tutoring program at Marion Sterling show that the STEP program has made a positive impact. STEP participants demonstrated gains on all measures of reading skills and gains in total scores from October were significantly higher than the gains of the non-tutored

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Fortunes Changing For Parmatown Mall

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Center, a neighborhood retail center anchored by Marc's Grocery Store; and (3) Parmatown Medical Center, a four-story medical office building.

Said Williams: "Phillips Edison has been in the business of redeveloping retail properties for over 20 years. Parmatown represents an ideal opportunity to apply our expertise and bring

this historic property to its full potential. Now that the acquisition process has been concluded, we will focus our efforts on a comprehensive strategy that will revitalize this key component of Parma's commercial center."

DeGeeter's vision for the area includes a "city center" type concept that encompasses the mall area and the other nearby community touch points -- Byers Field, the Day Drive corridor,

the new Cuyahoga County Library behind City Hall, and Stearns Farm.

"From Day One, our administration has been committed to doing whatever is possible to aid in the redevelopment of the mall and Day Drive corridor," the mayor said. "The bottom line is quality of life for Parma residents. With the building of a new library under way, and with City Hall and Byers Field nearby, the redevelop-

ment of this area is an important piece of the puzzle for Parma's future. I am thrilled with the progress this acquisition represents.

"We're excited to work with such a reputable company that has a track record of success," he continued. "This is a substantial investment, and means so much for Parma, in terms of vitality, economic development, tax base and also to encourage long-time residents who have been here and have seen what the mall can mean to the city,"

Parma Experiencing Investment In Commerical And Industrial Sectors

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the employer and taxpayer," DeGeeter said. "We are rebating money already paid to the city as opposed to property tax abatement deals that could cost the school district money should the company fail."

OSG/Sterling Die is the largest manufacturer of threaded rolling dies in the United States and services internationally to over 20 countries.

City Council recently approved Economic Development Grant Awards to Melin Tool, OSG/Sterling Die, Eaton Corporation, CopperLogic Inc., and will soon review a new agreement for Marlin Manufacturing. Each agreement shares a percentage of payroll taxes paid back to the company for its reinvestment into job creation and expansion.

Parma demolished residential structures at 7404 Snow Road and 8213 Greenlawn to make way for much needed parking and building expansion. S-N-H Properties recently gained approval from the City Planning Commission to expand the parking lot serving its retail center at 5772-96 Ridge Road, while Chuppa's Marketplace at 5640 Pearl Road will look to expand its parking and retail structure.

"Addressing the parking needs of our small businesses is paramount,"



Mayor DeGeeter and Ed Segula of OSG/Sterling Die sign a new economic development agreement.

Mayor DeGeeter said. "Instead of having successful businesses outgrow their space and move, we will do everything possible to implement projects like this to make things happen and keep those jobs and those storefronts active and profitable."

Parmatown Mall is one of Northeast Ohio's largest retail properties. The 1.18 million-square-foot, mixed-use complex is located on 83 acres. Prominently located at the corner of Ridgewood Road and Ridge Road, two of the busiest thoroughfares in Parma, the mall was built in 1955. Expanded and renovated in 1985, 2004 and 2005, the complex has been managed by a court-appointed receiver since July 2011 after the original owners defaulted on the mortgage.

DeGeeter credited hard work by that receiver and its representative, Dave Browning of CBRE Group Inc., to help spur the sale of Parmatown. "We appreciate Mr. Browning's help and determination to see this through to a successful conclusion," DeGeeter said. "Parma is the seventh-largest city in the state, and we have a real opportunity to show what kind of city we really have here."

STEP Makes Impact

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students. The results further demonstrate that the gap that existed between tutored and non-tutored students in October was closed by the end of the school year and some of the tutored students were close to or at grade level in May. This translates into higher overall gains for the tutored students, who caught up to their peers.

As promising as the academic results, the STEP participants enjoyed their learning experience and want to stay in the program. STEP helped to improve not only the reading skills of the program participants but also their confidence in classroom participation and their social interactions with peers.

The Literacy Cooperative is currently launching the third year of the STEP pilot program and intends to further demonstrate results and refine STEP for replication. It is the hope of The Literacy Cooperative that STEP will be recognized as an effective tutoring model and subsequently adopted by organizations offering tutoring services in Greater Cleveland area schools.



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