

“Tax reform means don’t tax you, don’t tax me, tax that fellow behind the tree”- Russell Long

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DeGeeter’s State Of City Speech Is Feb. 25

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter is scheduled to offer his second State of the City presentation on Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. Continuing the trend he started last year, he will showcase a community partner and deliver the speech at Parma Community General Hospital. Last year, the speech was at GrafTech Industries. DeGeeter is excited to highlight the many accomplishments dur-

ing his administration’s first year in office. He will also look ahead to work still left to be done and goals of the administration. The speech will also serve as February’s “Mayor Out” event during which residents may speak to the Mayor before or after the speech.

DeGeeter’s speech will highlight his approach to the Mayor’s job - combining common sense and hard work to

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Parma To Hold Informational Meetings About New Trash Service

by Jeannie Roberts

Republic Services and the City of Parma will be hosting several informational meetings about the new automated rubbish and recycling program. Here is the schedule: Wards 1 & 2 – Thursday, Feb. 21; Wards 3 & 4 – Tuesday, Feb. 26; Wards 5 & 6 – Thursday, Feb. 28; Wards 7, 8 & 9 – Thursday, March 7. ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 6:30 p.m. AND ALL ARE IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL.

Officials from Republic and the City will be on hand to answer questions about the new program, set to begin

this spring. City officials are pleased that the new contract is set to save the City an estimated \$800,000 per year because of a substantial reduction in tonnage to landfills. Recycling is expected to rise by at least 20%, and Parma will remain one of the few communities that still offers trash pick-up at no charge to residents.

Additionally, residents will be mailed information from Republic Services, describing the different sized trash carts, recycle carts, what to do with yard waste, and answering various other questions about the program.

Parma City Schools Adult Education Department To Offer Classes At Hanna Building

by Valerie Jerome

Beginning in March, the Parma City Schools Adult Education Services department will offer classes at the Hanna Building, previous home of the James E. Hanna Elementary school at 11212 Snow Road in Parma.

Adults in the community can attend GED test preparation and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes in the Adult Learning Center, a repurposed area of the retired elementary school building.

Prospective students must attend an orientation session to register. The orientation sessions are



Parma City Schools Hanna Building, previous home of the James E. Hanna Elementary school.

scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 25 for GED and on Tuesday, February 26 for ESOL.

Classes will be held from 9 a.m. to Noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. on Monday and Friday (GED) and on Tuesday and

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Parma At The Inauguration



photos by Tyler Wick

Observer photographer Tyler Wick, age 19, went to the Inaugural Ball to shoot photos for the Observer project. You can see some of his photos, and one Parmanian that had excellent seat for the Inauguration on Page 2.

Friends Of Parma Theater Gaining Momentum

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Since last month, there has been a good deal of activity surrounding Friends of Parma Theater concerning their effort to preserve the historic Parma Theater and transform it into a catalyst for a healthy, vibrant Arts Community here in Parma. The group is seeking as many opinions and ideas from interested people as they can. Mark Davenport from Cooperative Theaters of Ohio attended one of the weekly meetings in the Parma City Hall conference room, where he offered a great deal of very useful information concerning many aspects of the dynamic world of film presentation. He traveled a great distance in order to attend, and the group was most appreciative of his consideration for the cause. Another guest was Chuck Zavagno from Universal Insurance Company, Inc./Zavagno Insurance Agency. Chuck is a Parma resident, living close by the Parma Theater, and he imparted essential advice



Friends of Parma Theater members meeting with members of the Parma Area Fine Arts Council

about the costs associated with insuring such an endeavor planned with this project. It was an eye-opening experience to hear an honest assessment of the challenges entailed with creating something of this scope in a community, and it was informative to see some actual numbers that could be expected. Everyone in the group seemed to be of the opinion there is no doubt that we are up to the task.

Another meeting that took place during January was between Friends of Parma

Theater and the Parma Area Fine Arts Council, held in their space at the Donna Smallwood Senior Center. PAFAC has been in existence for 50 years and has a rich heritage of supporting and nurturing the Arts in the Parma area. It was an enjoyable gathering, a lot of information was exchanged, and both groups are contemplating what future cooperation and collaboration may take place. We will keep everyone informed of any future developments.

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Parma Business

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

On January 21, I had the opportunity to travel to the nation’s capital with a colleague and my brother-in-law to witness the fifty-seventh inauguration of the President of the United States. As a self-described history and government junkie, the Presidential inauguration has become my quadrennial (yes, that is a word, meaning every fours years) pastime. In fact, I was there for both of George W. Bush’s inaugurations (2001 and 2005), as well as both of Barack Obama’s (2009 and 2013).

Since the inauguration, several folks have had a multitude of questions about the event and one asked me to write about it. So, although my space is limited, I will try to do my best. I think the best way to so is in a question-answer format. Thus, below I have selected the most frequently asked questions and my responses.

*How do you get into the Presidential inauguration? To attend the swearing-in ceremony on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building, simply contact your U.S. Representative’s or



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

Senators’ offices and place a request for tickets. Make sure you do it very early, as there is a lot of demand for tickets. Tickets are free. If you are not successful in getting tickets, there is plenty of room on the National Mall, however, you will be pretty far away.

*Have you met anyone famous in the four times you have gone? To name a few – Drew Carey, Jeb Bush, Bill, Hillary and Chelsea, Don King, Ben Stine, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a multitude of

U.S. Senators and Representatives, governors and other elected and appointed officials.

*What is your most memorable moment at the inaugurations? Getting on the D.C. Metro in 2009 was incredible. From the time we got on, until the end of the inaugural ceremony, it was like being in a sardine can. However, it was an exhilarating experience with all of the excitement in the air. Everyone went out of their way to be kind to their fellow citizens. I felt more proud than ever to be an American that day.

*How close did you get to the President? This year was the closest I have ever been. We sat just behind the Congressional spouses, which was about 100 or so yards from the Presidential podium.

*Why are you drawn to the event? The peaceful transition of power after a heated election season is an historical anomaly. We are blessed to live in a nation where this rare event takes place. Regardless of who wins, we should all be proud that the Constitution is king in America – it always prevails.

*Where do you stay in D.C.? Usually in a hotel, once with a colleague’s relative. This year we stayed at the Washington Hilton, where the Reagan assassination attempt took place. It was creepy to stand in the spot where the President had been shot. It was close to the Metro, which made it easy to get to the event.

*How do you get there? It is about a 6 ½ hour drive. My deal is that I get the tickets, someone else has to do the driving! I dislike long drives on highways.

*Are you planning on going in 2016? Definitely. I learn so much every time I go and come home with an overwhelming sense of patriotism. I recommend that everyone make the effort to go at least once.

*What advice do you have to someone who wishes to go in 2016? Book your room early. They book up fast and can be very expensive. Stay close to a Metro stop. Be sure to visit the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, as they

are very inspiring. In fact, give yourself an entire day (or more) before the inauguration to visit the many memorials, monuments and museums on the National Mall.

I hope that you find my column informative. If you have any questions about visiting Washington, D.C., feel free to contact me. As always, if you have suggestions for future columns, please let me know. I can be reached at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. Happy Valentine’s Day!



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan at the Presidential Inauguration on January 21, 2013

More Images From Observers



photos by Tyler Wick



photos by Tyler Wick

One of the many things the Observers take great pride in, is working with students and amateur writers and photographers and matching them up with great professionals to really help get young folks off to college or their careers on the right foot, and providing amateurs and others a venue to show off their skills while helping to build and define the community they are in. This summer Tyler Wick worked with the Observers covering the many presidential appearances and campaigning throughout the state of Ohio. To show our appreciation for a great job done Tyler Wick went up to cover the Inauguration. Isn’t it time you got involved in the Parma Observer? Your words and images will help build and define the Parma brand.



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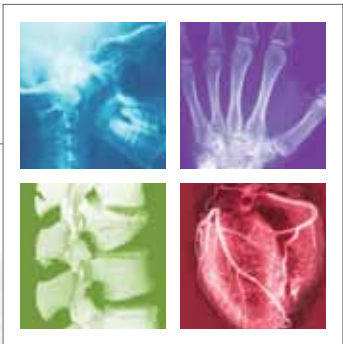
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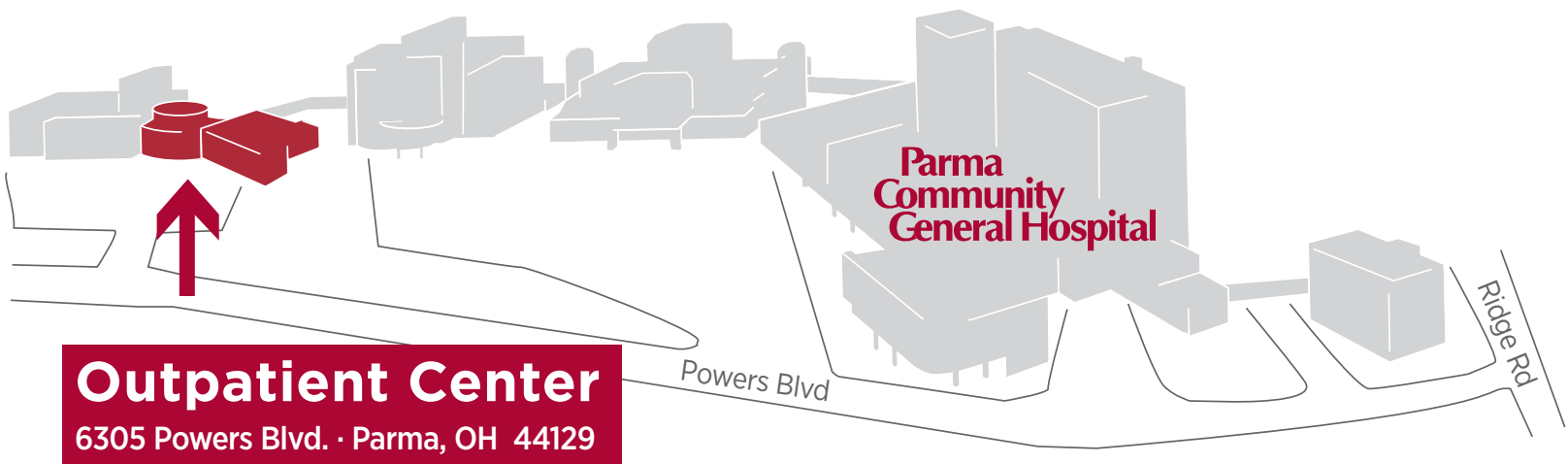
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Parma Health

Food And RTA Pass Donations Sought By The Zechariah House

by Tricia Kuivinen

Maggie's Place Ohio is seeking donations of non-perishable food items and RTA passes for young mothers currently in residence at The Zechariah House. Maggie's Place operates The Zechariah House in Parma to provide safe housing, personal necessities, counseling, and employment and educational coaching 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.

The Zechariah House can lodge up to nine pregnant women and has a structured yet compassionate program for helping women complete their pregnancy with dignity and get back on their feet. The pregnant women who come to live at the Zechariah House typically face numerous life challenges which are further complicated by pregnancy. These include homelessness, poverty, low literacy and job skills, poor self-esteem and often, a sense of hopelessness. The stability and positive family atmosphere provided by the Zechariah House are key ingredients to helping many of these expectant mothers overcome the odds and begin a brighter future for themselves and their children.

The Zechariah House currently has seven mothers in residence and four infants. The facility is always in need of non-perishable and nourishing food items such as macaroni and cheese, canned and dried beans, peanut butter, tuna, rice and stuffing mixes, baking supplies and more. A donation of RTA passes can go a long way to helping a young mother attend classes, job interviews and needed medical appointments. Donations can be made by calling 440.886.2620; view our needs list online at [http://www.maggiesplace.org/Locations/The-](http://www.maggiesplace.org/Locations/The-Zechariah-House/)

Talks On Joint Replacements, Weight Loss

by CJ Sheppard

If you're considering some major health improvements this year, start with the experts at Parma Community General Hospital.

Upcoming talks include Joint Camp education sessions for those planning to undergo a joint replacement, and informational programs on the Metabolic Clinic's medical and surgical weight loss options.

Joint Camp holds its two-hour introductory talks on joint replacement on the following Mondays from 2 to 4 p.m.: February 4 and 18, and March 4 and 18. Call 440-743-4024 to reserve your spot, and plan on bringing a support person who will be with

you throughout your recovery. Occupational and physical therapists will cover exercises that will help patients both pre- and post-surgery.

The Metabolic Clinic holds its next informational meeting for the New Direction weight loss program on Wednesday, February 6. This medically supervised program involves instruction from a registered dietitian, a certified diabetic educator and a fitness specialist. Participants are required to keep a written journal of food/water consumption and attend weekly meetings for weigh-ins and educational information. Individu-

als who have tried medical weight loss and are now seeking a surgical alternative can attend Weight Loss Solutions. This session, held in Parma Hospital's Auditorium on Tuesday, February 19 at 7 p.m., is also free and open to the public. Call 440-743-2900 to register for both New Direction and Weight Loss Solutions.

For more class listings, go to www.parmahospital.org/classes. The next schedule of Parma Hospital programs and classes will be mailed in February. If you do not receive one at your home, call 440-743-4900 to have one mailed to you.

Volunteers Needed For Pediatric Study

by CJ Sheppard

The Cleveland Pediatric Research Center, whose principal investigator is Dr. Diane Butler, chair of Parma Hospital's Department of Pediatrics, is looking for female patients to participate in studies on breast milk and infant formula. Compensation is provided to families who participate.

The studies are being conducted in Suite 30 of Parma Hospital's Medical Arts Center 1. If you are interested in participating, contact Cynthia Cardinal, coordinator of the study and founder of The Cleveland Pediatric Research Center, at 440-743-4511.

[Zechariah-House/](http://www.maggiesplace.org/Locations/The-Zechariah-House/).

Maggie's Place welcomes referrals from social service agencies, hospitals, schools and other organizations. Women can also inquire about openings directly online or by calling 440.886.2620. For additional information on Maggie's Place, please visit us on Facebook or www.maggiesplace.org.

DeGeeter Named To Ohio Municipal League Board

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter has been named to the Ohio Municipal League's Board of Trustees and is looking forward to serving in his new role. His two-year term began on Nov. 1, 2012.

The Ohio Municipal League was incorporated as a statewide association to serve the interests of Ohio municipal government. The OML represents the collective interests of Ohio cities and villages before the Ohio General Assembly and the state elected and administrative offices.

Numerous bills affecting cities and villages are introduced each session. While the Ohio General Assembly is in session, weekly legislative bulletins are sent to municipal officials by regular mail and e-mail. These are supplemented by "fax bulletins" usually outlining some specific or fast action required.

OML staff testifies before legislative committees, coordinates testimony of municipal officials, prepares amendments, and meets and confers with legislators and their staff regularly.



It is governed by a Board of Trustees, which is elected by the membership. The Board is the policy-making body and appoints an Executive Director to manage the League under their general direction.

The 28-member Board of Trustees also includes Georgine Welo, the Mayor of South Euclid and Mayor Frank G. Jackson of Cleveland.

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Parma Schools

ASSET CORNER

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



What All Kids Need to Succeed 40 Developmental Assets



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Asset Corner #38

by Gene Lovasy

February's Asset Category: POSITIVE VALUES. You are what you believe. Values shape young people's relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends. Search Institute has identified these six assets in the Positive Value category that are crucial for helping young people:

- #26 Caring – Young person places high value on helping others. (50%*)
- #27 Equality & Social Justice – Young person places high value on promoting equality & reducing hunger & poverty. (52%*)
- #28 Integrity – Young person acts on convictions & stands up for his or her beliefs. (68%*)
- #29 Honesty – Young person "tells the truth even when it's not easy." (66%*)
- #30 Responsibility – Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility. (63%*)
- #31 Restraint – Young person believes it's important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs. (45%*)

(* 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 month's column will focus on Asset #29 Honesty: *Honesty is the best policy*

Honest people are trustworthy, sincere, and genuine. They display dignity and earn respect from peers and others in the community. Although telling the truth is not always easy,

teaching young people the value of honesty, is important. Without it, dishonest habits, such as lying and cheating, can become a big problem. Honesty is crucial for success in all areas of life, including relationships, school, and jobs.

Here are the facts

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



Future pilots participating in the paper airplane contest - a HEROES activity hosted by Community Ambassadors.

when they tell the truth, even when it's not easy. Honesty leads to less violence and reliance on alcohol and other drugs. About 66 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they tell the truth even when it's not easy, according to Search Institute surveys. People who are honest value diversity, good health, and success in school. They also make effective leaders.

Tips for building this asset

To instill the value of honesty, adults need to talk about it, model it, and explain why it's important. Work with your family, school, and community to come up with rules about honesty and the consequences for dishonesty. Encourage the young people you know to make a personal commitment to tell the truth—and you do the same. Honestly admit to your own successes and mistakes.

Also try this

In your home and family: Don't overreact or be accusatory if you sus-

pect that your child is lying to you. Instead, give her or him the opportunity to tell the truth by asking questions, such as "Do you think I may be struggling with believing you right now?"

In your neighborhood and community: Model honest behavior. For example, return extra change if you receive too much from a store clerk.

In your school or youth program: Discuss what it means to be honest. Ask

whether there are situations in which it's better to tell a "little white lie."

ASSET RELATED NEWS

• Visit Community Ambassadors' web site at www.ComAmb.org for updates on all the activities, programs and initiatives they're sponsoring and how you may be able to help. They're one of a number of really great family resource organizations available in our community. Take the time to visit their site. You'll be glad you did.

• If Community Ambassadors is not your cup of tea then visit Parma Area Family Collaborative's web site by going to parmacityschools.org, clicking on "For Community" then "Family Collaborative". There you'll find all kinds of information about the Collab, its mission, resources and up-coming events/activities. Oh, and by the way, they're having an Open House on Wednesday, February 20, from 10:00 am to Noon and again from 4:00 pm to 6:00pm. The Collab's housed at Hanna Elementary, 11212 Snow Rd (close to

the corner of Snow & Chevrolet Blvd).

- Then there's MYCOM – My Commitment/My Community, a kind of subset of the Family Collaborative. Information about that program can be found by visiting the "For Community" page of the District's web site and clicking on the "MyCom – My Commitment/My Community" link.

- And finally, there's our state recognized, award winning Community/Business/School (CBS) Partnership, a collaboration aimed at matching available resources with the needs of the district's, students, teachers and administrators and providing mutual benefit to the community and its businesses. Learn how you can get involved by going to the "For Community" page of the District's web site and clicking on the "Community/Business/Schools Partnership" link.

- If you or your organization/business is interested in supporting a student via a scholarship I'd recommend participating in the Parma Council of PTA's Annual Scholarship Drive now underway. Learn how by going to the "For Parents" page of the District's web site & clicking on the "Parma Council of PTAs" link.

- The Parma Housing Court is looking for teams of 5 – 6 people to help court referred disabled and/or senior citizens maintain their property. Call Ken Lusnia at 887.7400 X- 7406 is your church group or organization is 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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DeGeeter's State Of City Speech Is Feb. 25

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produce real results. He will touch on themes such as keeping and creating jobs, strengthening the local economy and making city government more effective, efficient and accessible. He will also highlight the ways that the administration has improved the quality of life for residents by keep-

ing neighborhoods safe and strong, enhancing infrastructure, caring for senior citizens and providing recreational opportunities for residents.

Residents are encouraged to attend the presentation. More details are available at the City of Parma Facebook page, on the ParmaMayor Twitter account and in local media outlets.

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Inspiration

What's Right? What's Wrong?

by Daniel Taddeo

I Believe...

Accountability is applicable to everyone because we reap what we sow.

Anything worth doing is worth doing well.

Attitude dictates our behavior.

Breast-fed children and their mothers both benefit significantly over the non-nursing choices.

Character is what we are and do when nobody is looking.

Christian Gospel is what only Jesus proclaimed. All other proclamations are false.

Contentment is living the virtues.

Eating a high amount of natural, whole grains and low amounts of processed foods puts one on a path of optimal health.

Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects.

Exaggeration tends to weaken whatever we exaggerate.

Faults are thick where love is thin.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act. It is an attitude.

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

Giving advice is best received when people request it.

If you really want insight about yourself, ask someone you know, trust, and respect.

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Joy is available to all who choose to put Jesus first, others second, and yourself third.

Kindness matters most with most people. No matter how small, it is never wasted.

Life is ten percent what happens to us and ninety percent how we respond to it.

Money lovers are seldom satisfied with their income.

Most people do what makes sense to them at the time.

No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.

Obedience in children is one of the most important responsibilities of parenting.

Optimism doesn't wait on facts. It relies on prospects.

Overweight children and adults tend to rationalize their condition rather than question their eating habits.

People do the best they can under the circumstances they find themselves.

Pleasure-craze behavior, such as drug abuse, gambling, overspending, promiscuous sex, and sports, are cause for grave concern.

Quarrels, more often than not, start over petty, unimportant matters.

Race, color and gender should not be factors in how we view people.

Saying only those things about people that you would say if they were present would contribute greatly to responsible conduct.

The God of the Bible is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and I put my faith in Him.

The single most important word in any language is LOVE.

Things turn out best for the people who make the most of the way things turn out.

To manage money and enjoy the process, give ten percent, save ten

percent, and live on the remaining eighty percent.

Truth can be viewed in three ways: my truth, your truth, and THE truth (God's).

Trying to drink eight glasses of water a day could be detrimental to one's mental health.

Unique characteristics of gender do not make one superior over the other.

Virtue is loving right; all sin is loving wrong.

Waste can be minimized by using it up, making it do, wearing it out, and doing without.

We are not punished for our sins, but by them.

We have all failed to practice ourselves the kind of behavior we expect from others.

We must learn to unlearn and then relearn.

We tend not to see things as they are, but as we are.

When you need to choose the right course of action, just ask yourself what most people would do, and then do the opposite.

Winners accept defeat and get up and go on.

Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere.

Xenocrates, a pupil of Plato, had it right when he said he had often regretted his speaking but never his silence.

You are only young once, but you can be immature forever.

You don't have to make yourself wrong to deliver an apology.

Zealous people can do harm by wanting to impose their zeal and character on others.

Self-reflection is always a good exercise. What I believe is a work in progress, not limited to these fifty statements and subject to change. What do YOU believe?

Parma-South To Serve Spaghetti Dinner

by Mary Beth Breckenridge

Parma-South Presbyterian Church will host its annual spaghetti dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at the church.

On the menu are spaghetti and meatballs, salad, rolls, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4.50 for children. Reservations are requested and may be made up to 4 p.m. the day of the dinner by calling the church office at 440-885-2652.

Parma-South Presbyterian Church is at 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights.



Parma City Council and Mayor DeGeeter were proud to recognize Jane Platten, a Parma native, for her service as the Director of the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. Platten has been widely praised for her work at the Board of Elections. She is shown here with Ward 4 Councilman Brian Day and Mayor DeGeeter. She currently serves as Chief of Staff for Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim McGinty.

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Parma's City Beat

Seniors Ring In The New Year!

by Judy Martins

Sparkling in their finery, area seniors gathered at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center on January 16th to celebrate and ring in the New Year at their annual New Year's Party



Dancing to the music of talented local musicians

and Dance! The Center glittered with festive decorations, hats and horns, as the merrymakers counted down with the gongs, cheered, hugged and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

After parading through the Center in a rousing conga line and New Year's chain dance, they enjoyed a delicious lunch, and toasted and shared their memories of the Holidays. With Wayne Tomsic's music filling the hall, they whirled to the waltz, swing, tango and Latin dances so popular now, as lively line dancers circled the floor. The seniors love the music and especially love to dance! Those who weren't dancing were tapping their toes, singing



Happy New Year!

and enjoying the festive atmosphere and the beautiful melodies. After a delicious dessert and bowls of punch, many happy party-goers won great raffle prizes and lovely centerpieces. A truly fun and exciting way to welcome the New Year, meet old friends and make new ones!

The Smallwood Center hosts a dance on the second or third Wednesday of every month. You can get a schedule of all parties, dances and their countless other activities by picking up a copy of the Center's 28-page Newsletter-Magazine, "The Center Line," published on the first of every month. On Wednesday, February 13th they are holding their "Seniors' Winter Mixer and Dance" at the Center from 1:00 to 3:00. There seniors can dance away their winter blues to the music

of Bob Lubecky, enjoy great company and refreshments, make new friends and brighten up a February afternoon! Advance tickets for this dance are \$4.00 at the Center, or \$5.00 at the Door. All seniors are welcome for a fun afternoon!

If you are over 55 years of age, come to the Center any weekday between 8:00 and 4:00. It's located at 7001 West Ridgewood Drive (behind Parma City Hall, up the hill at the first light east of Ridge). JoAnn Mason, Director of the Center, or one of the friendly, capable staff will be happy to show you around. Join them for lunch at noon, and take part in any of the many

fun, informative and healthful activities on the schedule every day! They offer line dancing, group singing, pinochle, bridge, chess, pool, computer classes, support groups, conversation groups, quilting, senior exercise, Wii leagues, Bingo, parties, dances, trips, advice on health coverage and programs available to seniors, and so much more.

Especially popular is the Center's support group, "Healing Hearts." This warm, welcoming group meets every Monday at 1:00. With over 50 members, they're growing all the time--in numbers, in emotional strength and in their hearts. If you have stress, grief, loneliness, illness or anything troubling you in your life--join them! Reach out! Healing Hearts is there to take your hand. "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress and healing together is success."

There are special days for free blood pressure and health screenings and interesting and informative presentations by many senior-related providers. They also offer home delivered meals and bus transportation



Seniors welcome 2013 with smiles and singing

programs. (Call 440.885.8143 for bus details) Their monthly Newsletter-Magazine, "The Center Line," has a complete listing of lunch menus, calendar of daily activities, party and trip



Welcome to another wonderful year!

listings, local events and great articles for seniors! Also, be sure to visit their colorful, musical website at www.smallwoodcenter.com for a calendar of



Seniors welcome 2013 with smiles and singing

Icy Roads, Blowing Snow And Snapping Winds- That's What January And February Are All About

by Ruth Revecky

On January 1st, we make our New Year's Resolutions That fizzle out as the days and months fly by. We, of course, listen diligently to the weather reports Before heading to work--of course, there are road Delays with the slush and snow all over the highways! And it's back to school for boys and girls after Celebrating the holidays. On cold wintry days, Mom will serve delicious hot Soup for dinner, plus other healthy goodies.. Inauguration Day is January 20th--that's the day we Swear in our next president. Then on January 21st, we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. January has much shorter and many dreary days; But, even so, men, women, boys and girls enjoy Skiing, sledding, ice skating and snow boarding On those snowy, wintry days. That's what happens in the month of January!

February can be much nastier than January! Snow drifts can be waist high, and the sidewalks Can be covered with snow, hiding treacherous ice, Making walking extremely dangerous. Abraham Lincoln has a birthday on February 12th; George Washington has a birthday on the 22nd of February; but we combine them and celebrate both Birthdays on the 18th of February. Of course, we never forget Valentine's Day, which Falls on February 14th, and is one of the sweetest Days of the year! The cold, cold winds of February will, hopefully, Disappear when the month of March makes its Welcome entrance. And, remember, February has only 28 days, Which is the shortest month of the year!

Perspective

The Elephant in the Room (That Everyone Ignores) Part Two

by Lee Kamps

Last month I wrote about Medicaid and how it will be affected by the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare"). This month I will explain how much Medicaid costs us and how Medicaid dollars are being spent. For most readers, this will be an eye opener.

Based on the latest figures for 2011, Medicaid insures 2,180,552 residents of Ohio, which is about 15 percent of the state's population. Cur-

rently it is estimated that 14 percent of Ohio's residents are uninsured at any one period during 2011. Therefore, nearly 30 percent of Ohio residents are either insured through Medicaid or are uninsured. Meanwhile 14 percent of Ohio residents are insured through Medicare, but not Medicaid. A total of 312,634 Ohio residents are eligible for BOTH Medicare and Medicaid (dual eligible).

Of those covered through Medic-

aid in 2011, 51 percent of those are children under age 18. Only 8 percent of those covered under Medicaid are over age 65 and another 17 percent are disabled or blind adults. Adults (presumably those caring for dependent children) make up 24 percent of the people in Ohio covered under Medicaid. Compared to the national average, Ohio has a lower percentage of aged and disabled on Medicaid than the national average.

In FY2010, Ohio spent \$15,261,773,582 on Medicaid. That figure represents the single largest expenditure for the state of Ohio and more than a third of all state expenditures. Simply stated, one of every three dollars spent by the state of Ohio is for Medicaid. Ohio spends more on Medicaid than it spends on education, highways or prisons. For every dollar the state of Ohio spends on Medicaid, the federal government spends \$1.75; so the total federal and state cost of Medicaid is actually much higher, at almost \$42 billion during fiscal year 2010.

While only 25 percent of Ohio's Medicaid population are aged, blind or disabled adults; those people comprise 76 percent of all Medicaid spending in Ohio. Children and non-disabled or aged adults comprise only 24 percent of Medicaid spending with children (who comprise 51 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries), accounting for only 15 percent of the spending on Medicaid.

Acute care, which consists mostly of payments for hospital admissions and physician's services (as well as other medical services necessary to treat illnesses and injuries) account for slightly more than 55 percent of all Medicaid costs. Prescription drugs account for just under 10 percent of Medicaid costs. But long-term care expenditures make up more than 40 percent of Medicaid costs.

Of the long-term care costs, almost 45 percent of that is for nursing homes, and another third of LTC costs on Medicaid are for home or personal care. What is especially important is that only a small percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries are receiving long-term care, yet they comprise a disproportionate amount of the Medicaid dollars being spent. The percentage of Medicaid dollars spent on nursing homes is declining as a result of more people receiving long-term care in the community. But Ohio lags behind the rest of the nation in that measure, as 44 percent of LTC costs nationally are for home and personal care.

For nursing home expenses, Medicaid covers 43 percent of all nursing home expenses nationally, according to a 2006 study by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Medicare covered 17 percent of nursing home expenses (mostly skilled care) and out-of-pocket costs paid 29 percent of all nursing home costs. When people who are paying for the cost of long-term care out of their own assets exhaust their assets, they most likely will become eligible for Medicaid.

As our population ages and the expansion of the ACA places more people on Medicaid, it is certain that Medicaid will become a much larger "elephant in the room" in the future.

The sources for my information are at these links:

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/mfs.jsp?rgn=37&rgn=1> and http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/2186_06.pdf

Next month I will discuss some solutions to this problem that few politicians have the courage to discuss.

School's Out

by Brigitte Gerard

As a part-time substitute teacher, I work with kids from kindergarten through twelfth grade in several school districts in the Greater Cleveland area. I frequently encounter children who, by the fourth grade, can't speak English correctly or do basic math. Worse than that, they don't follow directions, or stop talking when I'm speaking to them. They carry on conversations across the room and don't get their work done. It's more important to them to look cute or cool than to learn. I spend a lot of time and energy redirecting their attention to their work, which takes away time from actual teaching, and for that I get argumentative defiance in response. At lunch, I watch them throw food, whether it's a school-provided lunch or a home-packed lunch, into the trash. I haven't even talked about breaking up fights, watching desks and chairs being pushed, kicked and thrown around, or having to give kids pencils and paper because they don't have their own. For these kids, school's out every day.

Too many kids today have no idea why they're in school. It's hard to get any sense that a school culture is being imparted in classrooms. It's a disgrace, as well as a handicap to kids that are

trying to learn.

Free public education as it exists today is too often just another government handout. If parents, or mothers and fathers (because procreating isn't the same thing as parenting) had to pay for these resources themselves, and prove their commitment to their children's education, where would these kids be?

What if kids had to qualify for a free education after the third grade?

Let's introduce the idea of making school attendance a matter of merit based on work ethic and quality, behavior standards and commitment to achievement, rather than a legal requirement, which takes away any sense of accountability and value. It's time to think of education as a privilege, not a freebie. Millions of children around the world aren't educated because their parents can't afford it. Here, it's taken for granted and used as a place to send kids, get them fed and keep them occupied, all for free.

If kids had to qualify for a free education, their parents, mothers and fathers would be compelled to take education itself more seriously, and to hold themselves accountable for their children's progress academically and

behaviorally, starting with kindergarten.

I confess I'd been part of the problem. I had become tone deaf and didn't realize it until I started correcting kindergarteners' grammar. Then I began paying attention to older kids and repeatedly heard mistakes that should have been addressed with them years earlier, like hearing kids "axe-ing" questions, leaving verbs out of sentences, mispronouncing words and using slang.

Bad grammar has now become a showstopper in my classroom. Sometimes I even have an entire class conjugate the verb "be" together. I can't tell you how many times I've wanted to show up at a school for parent-teacher conferences and tell parents, mothers and fathers to learn proper English so they can teach it to their kids. I've taught English as a second language, and I'd be happy to help these folks out.

I've wanted to ask parents if they've ever balanced a check book or taken their kids to buy a few pieces of candy. That presumes that they use basic math to figure out how to pay for things. but pardon my leap of faith. I've come across fourth grade kids that don't understand how 100 pennies make a dollar, and then I have to talk about buying candy for five cents apiece, because that's what they understand. Too bad these kids don't understand how to pay for pencils, paper and erasers, and that when they lose their school supplies and need more, somebody has to buy those things using money—maybe even checks! .

I stand firm in the face of bad behavior. I'm not a babysitter or a social worker. I try to have fun with kids in the classroom, but the work comes first, and I am no nonsense about it. If kids can't or won't control themselves, they leave my classroom. Period.

Basic language, math and behavior skills need to be in place by third grade. After that, children can earn a place in school or parents can pay for it.



Mayor Tim DeGeeter's staff of directors donated peanut butter to All Faiths Pantry as part of Council President Sean Brennan's annual peanut butter drive. At a recent staff meeting, John Visnauskas, Director of All Faiths, came to City Hall to collect the donation.

Perspective

Charity Navigator Helps You Determine To Give Or Not

by Michelle E. Rice

Charity Navigator is the BBB of charitable giving. It only gives its stamp of approval to those charities that fulfill its rating system, so donors can be assured their money is being spent in the fashion they desire. It has been in force for 10 years now.

There are several guidelines it follows. First, the organization has to be granted tax-exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. In 2011, Charity Navigator added “accountability & transparency” to its rating system. This tracks aspects such as whether the charity used an objective process to determine their CEO’s salary, does it have an effective governance structure, and whether it has a whistleblower policy. This is critical data because charities that follow good governance and transparency practices are less likely to engage in unethical or irresponsible activities. Charities that practice these activities are less likely to misuse donations than those that don’t. The most efficient charities spend 75% or more of their budget on their programs and services and less than 25% on fundraising and administrative fees. A charity also needs to be able to sustain its programs over time so they must be able to grow their revenue at least at the rate of inflation, continue to invest in their programs, and have money for downturns. This too is analyzed and provided for free on Charity Navigator’s website. If an organization is not found there, request copies of its three most recent, Form 990. Their willingness to provide them reveals its transparency, integrity, and you can then examine their finances. The average CEO’s salary of the charities we evaluate is almost \$150,000. Salaries tend to be higher in the northeast and within arts and education charities. It’s also important to note that it is better to contribute to a charity with a well-paid CEO that meets the goals of the charity than an underpaid CEO that fails to meet goals. If you are committed to making real change don’t hesitate to have a conversation with the charity to learn about its accomplishments, goals



and challenges

and be prepared to refrain from any charity that is unable or unwilling to have this conversation with you.

With philanthropic investments that you’ve invested time to become knowledgeable about, have identified as a well-run charity engaged in a cause that you are passionate about, you should then feel confident in giving it a donation.

Spreading your money among multiple organizations results in your mail box filling up with more solicitations and also diminishes the possibility of any of those groups bringing about substantive change as each charity is wasting a percentage of your donation on resources soliciting for the donation. Committed donors see themselves as a partner in the charity’s efforts to bring about change, knowing that only with long-term, committed supporters can a charity be successful. They don’t hesitate to tell

the charity of their giving plans so that the organization knows it can rely on them so they don’t waste resources and harass the donor by sending numerous solicitations. Decide how much you want to give to them per year and it can even be divided monthly via automatic payments or stating it is a one-time donation. Donate wisely and be committed. For more information visit www.charitynavigator.org

Why Mythology Is Still Important Today

by Bryan N Griffin Jr.

Mythology is important for quite a few reasons. For one thing, it makes up a major part of anybody’s heritage. It is a constant reminder of who we are and where we come from. Every culture has their own legends, folktales, and myths – whether it may be Celtic by way of Scotland, Ireland, or Wales for example, or Germanic by way of Gothic tales.

To understand mythology, one has to define what comprises a myth. One good definition comes from the American Heritage Dictionary, in which it is “a fiction or half-truth, especially one that forms part of an ideology.” Another good dictionary defines myth as “a story presented as historical, dealing with traditions specific to a culture or a group of people.” These stories can be either cosmological, like battles between deities, or mundane, which can be an average, ordinary person doing superhuman things under certain circumstances.

Even American culture has its own mythology. One excellent example is Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, called Babe. Another good one is the stories of the Brer Rabbit from the Uncle Remus tales by Joel Chandler Lewis. Those stories are rooted in African mythology. The Brer Rabbit is a trickster character similar to that of Loki in Nordic mythology. Native Americans have also contributed to our history of storytelling.

Another reason mythology plays an important role is because it becomes a foundation for a lot of religions that are practiced. These particular myths are stories that tell us about battles between good and evil. Every religion has stories like that, both ancient and modern. The protagonist, or hero, has to go through struggles against the antagonist, or villain. During that journey, that hero learns important values and morals that are important and necessary to defeat that villain. One notices it a lot in the Christian Bible, as well as in ancient classics, like the Odyssey by Homer.

Saint George and the Dragon is an excellent example. St. George was a warrior who had to learn important virtues that were necessary to possess in order to defeat the dragon, which was at that time the Christian personification of evil, and marry Una, who was the personification of the Catholic church. This story was first told in The Faerie Queene by Sir Edmund Spenser, through the character of the Redcrosse Knight.

The most contemporary example of mythology is in modern-day comic books. How did Peter Parker become Spider Man, for example?

Today’s fantasy fiction is especially rich in mythology. Look at Rick Riordan’s Percy Jackson character, or J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter. Their stories have a myth of their own. C.S. Lewis’s Chronicles of Narnia are loaded with characters that are rooted in Greek and Roman mythology. Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings and the Hobbit has become modern mythology.

But the reason why mythology is still important is that it is pure storytelling. Everybody either likes to tell a good story or listen to someone tell a good story. As a longtime scholar of mythology myself, I love to do both. I enjoy listening to a good story, so I can pass it on to somebody else, whether it may be my younger relatives or a community of fellow writers or other scholars.

So, the next time you visit your local public library, consider picking up a good piece of literature that tells a good myth or two. It is a good form of escapism– something new, unique, and different from what you are used to. Better yet, if you are a parent, it will be something to share with your children. When they grow up, they will share it with their kids.

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Caregiver's Kitchen

Are You Angry Or Disappointed?

by Patty Knox

Are you angry or disappointed? Time for Plan B. An important part of caregiving is taking part of yourself so that you can really be there for your loved one or cared-for. If you don't resolve your own issues, you start to feel used, unappreciated, stuck, resentful, unfulfilled, disappointed and angry. If you're not careful, you could take this out on the person you're taking care of, either consciously or unconsciously. It's not good for either one of you. And it's not necessary to stay in that mindset. There is a way to refresh and renew your spirit, and reclaim your joy.

There are lessons for all of us in the following story, therefore I share it with all of you. I, too, must be careful to learn from these lessons myself; so keep in mind, I am as in need of being reminded of the following advice as anyone else.

Recently, I spoke with a longtime friend, someone I've known since elementary school. We've known each other virtually our whole lives. We've watched each other grown up. We've seen the journeys of each other's careers. Being in similar fields within the same general line of work, we've seen each other's ups and downs. We've watched each other crash and burn, personally and professionally, at different points in our lives, but there was no way to avoid it. All we could do was help each other pick up the pieces afterwards, and start over again.

She is a sensitive soul and has suffered many disappointments. She is angry and disillusioned, and she has every right to be. But I hurt for her. The hardness of life is making her bitter and is draining her reserves of hope. She has lost all joy in life. Is that any way to live?

No, it is not. And there is hope. But you have to be willing to see things from a new perspective, change your point of view. Your old point of view isn't doing you any good, anyway.

First, you are not your job. No, this isn't the career success either one of us envisioned for ourselves or each other. These aren't the careers we had dreamed of. That bubble burst long ago. We must finally acknowledge the pain of that, and let it go. We aspired to great heights, but those great heights were never within reach. That does not mean they weren't noble goals. But neither Carnegie Hall nor Severance Hall was part of our destiny. As hard as we worked and as much as we tried, it just wasn't meant to be. At a certain point, we both had to give up on those dreams.

Then there were the numerous attempts to reinvent ourselves, find a viable career, what we were meant to do. As one of Clint Eastwood's famous movie lines goes, "A man's got to know his limitations." But even Mary Lou Retton had to do the same after her Olympic career was over. It is hard to see the big picture, but it's a glass half empty/half full scenario. The Bible

urges us to renew our minds. We need to focus on what we can do, not dwell on what we can't do. We got a taste of the rarified air, enough to make us long for more, but we couldn't stay at those lofty heights. Kind of a bittersweet "Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all" scenario. If I had it to do all over again, I'd do it all pretty much the same way, in a heartbeat. I have no regrets. However brief my classical music career, it was great while it lasted. But there is nothing so inevitable as change. Life changes, and we have to change with it. Hence, Plan B.

There is a saying now, "It's all about the Plan B." I joked with my husband the other night, "My whole life is Plan B." In a sense, that's true. Where I am now is not Plan A. But how many people's lives are?

What is true is that Plan B is a good place to be. We need to wrap our mind around that. Leave our disappointments behind with our old dreams, let go of the anger, dream new dreams. There are still the years ahead, and if we're going to make the most of the rest of our lives, we can't be stuck in the past. And only we can choose for ourselves to become unstuck. We can keep singing, "It's the hard-knock life for us" from the musical, "Annie," or we've got to get past it. Kind of like the Slough of Despond in "Pilgrim's Progress." We've got to enjoy and appreciate what we do have now, in the moment, instead of obsessing about the past. The past is gone, baby. So live in the now, live in the moment.

Hope that helps others to process through unresolved issues and to come to a healthy perspective on where we are now.

And now it's time to go into the kitchen and cook up some nourish-

ment, food for the journey.

Groundhog Day, that February the 2th (pronounced "tooth") holiday which optimistically searches for signs of winter's end, is a lighthearted approach to a potentially depressing answer. But we're Browns and Indians fans, so hope springs eternal. We exult in the victories that are. One thing about this town, we all know that you gotta take the good with the bad. And so, in anticipation of the spring thaw, I am giving you my recipe for Kitchen Sink Brownies. Take them to your next Browns tailgate party.

First, use your favorite brownie mix or recipe. Cheap, expensive, doesn't matter. Pick up a bag of Kraft caramels, the kind individually wrapped in clear plastic, and unwrap two to three dozen caramels. The rest are for you. Get a bag of mini-marshmallows, milk chocolate chips, shelled walnut pieces, maraschino cherries, and anything else your sweet tooth has a craving for. Preheat the oven, prepare the brownie pan, and mix the brownie batter using one less egg than the recipe calls for, so that they'll be fudgy-chewy. Pour it in the pan and dot the top of the batter heavily with all the goodies you have assembled to include. Yes, they will sink into the batter while it bakes. But this way, they don't sit on the bottom of the pan where they would burn. Bake, checking halfway through the recommended baking time. The batter will be wet from all of your melted goodies, but when the brownie batter itself is done, a toothpick should come out fairly clean. Pull the pan out of the oven, let it cool on top of the stove. Try to cut the brownies while still slightly warm, as the sugars will solidify once completely cool and you will think you're in the LaBrea Tar Pits. Sneak a piece while still warm and gooey, and enjoy the Slough of Delight.

Friends Of Parma Theater Gaining Momentum

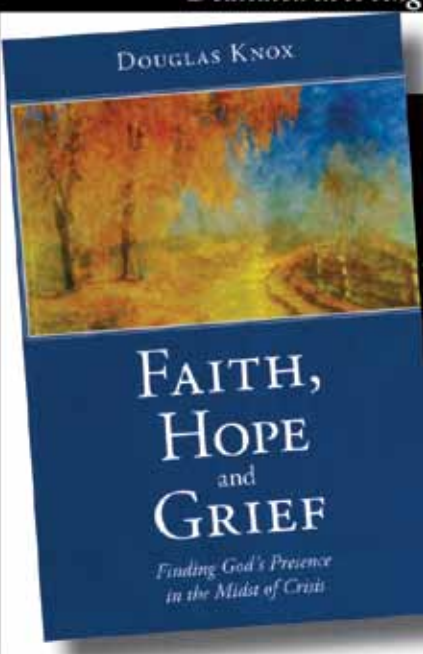
continued from page 1

Most importantly are the benefits and fundraisers scheduled in order to start building the finances needed to undertake this project and achieve the goals of the organization. The first event is scheduled for February 14th., Valentine's Day, at Griller's Pub at 5455 State Rd. in Parma. This will be a "Have A Heart for The Arts" benefit jam, and while there is no cover charge,

Have A Heart For The Arts cards will be available at one dollar each, and the proceeds will directly benefit Friends of Parma Theater in their cause. The next event is a fundraiser scheduled for Saturday March 2 at the Parma Cafe. The cost is \$20.00 per ticket, includes food and beverages, to be announced, sideboard raffles, etc., and unfortunately there are a limited number of tickets for this event.

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Parma Observer

Worldstock's City Beat

by Wayne Mesker

Is everyone ready for this month's Beat ? I began reaching out to city departments & community organizations & as a result I was invited to attend the "Energy Expo" at Parma's John Muir Elementary School on January 25th . With help from some of Cleveland's MC2 STEM High School and their mobile Fab Lab. Approximately 120 third graders from 4 different classes fabricated houses, wind turbines , solar panels , fireplaces , pipes & other items as part of their Project Based Learning assignment on non-renewable & renewable energy. They also learned valuable skills. Teamwork, interaction , problem-solving , researching , creative thinking & public presentations were all part of this lesson & will serve them throughout their lives !

Mrs. Melissa Moore acted as both Stage Manager & MC , ushering the various student groups on & off stage as they made their presentations , keeping things flowing smoothly. Each group spoke about their chosen renewable Energy Source, (Wind ,Water, Geothermal, Biomass or Solar) offering relevant facts from their research & their opinion of why their choice was

"Best". Special thanks to Muir principal Mrs. Jill Didow for her hospitality. I was also informed that John Muir will be holding an Art Show on Thurs. Feb. 7th from 5:30 – 7 P.M.at First Federal Savings & Loan at 1640 Snow Rd. in Parma, Ohio. Make an effort to attend & support our talented young artists !

I also received a response & invitation from Valerie Jerome - Communications Specialist for Adult Education Services with the Parma City School District to attend the upcoming Hanna Building Open House on Wed. February 20th from 10 a.m. - noon & 4 - 6 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

Hosted by the Parma Area Family to Family Collaborative, Parma City Schools Adult Education Services & Parma Area Community Television (PACT). The public is invited to tour the Adult Learning Center ,gather class information,access community resources, enjoy snacks & refreshments& enter to win prizes .

After reading her remarks in an article by Bob Sandrick in the Jan. 24th issue of the Sun Post , I reached out to Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur regarding the "One Heartbeat" ROCKS (Reaching Our Children with Kindness & Sensitivity) initiative I'm



hoping to start .

Hopefully we will be meeting to discuss this when she returns to Parma. To excerpt her comments on the subject of identifying and properly treating the mentally ill, Kaptur said: "From my experience, at the elementary school level, there is a lack of ability to diagnose youth who need help," Schools are short on funds." When they do identify mentally ill children, parents fight the diagnosis, due to the stigma attached to it. There's a huge problem in the early childhood years. We as a society have to open our eyes and do what's right." She believes that mass shooters are typically loners in school. Why

be in denial over a severe behavioral problem. We have to be on the alert for those who are functioning in an anti-social and destructive way. To address the problem, Kaptur would ask organizations like the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill for advice. In Ohio, I would restore funding that's been cut for young people with mental illnesses, money that was going to local mental health agencies or those at the country or regional levels."

In closing I want to invite everyone to join us on Thurs. Feb. 14th at Griller's Pub 5455 State Rd. Parma , Oh.

For the 1st Annual "Have A Heart For The Arts" Jam to benefit Friends Of Parma Theater.

There is no cover charge, but "Hearts For The Arts" will be available for a donation of \$1 or more & I will be the "Special Guest" vocalist that night with the regular Host Band (Tower City Blues Band). Festivities start at 8 P.M. but suggest you arrive early.

This will also be the debut performance & video-taping of "Smoke At Parma Theater"!

Antiques From Our Past...
A Timeless Classic, The Reading 78 Apple Peeler

by Gary Rice

Although you'd never know it these days, in the 19th century, there were once great expanses of orchards in the Greater Cleveland area. Perhaps you've read of the adventures of the preacher, John Chapman, perhaps better know as "Johnny Appleseed," and his oft-barefooted walk through this state, establishing apple orchards.

The 19th century was a time of many great inventions in our country. This amazing original Reading 78 Apple peeler, (patented in 1872, and first produced in 1878) that you see in the photo, was one of those inventions. Although mechanical apple peelers had been around since the dawn of the 1800's, the Reading machine was tough as nails, and well-designed enough to cleanly peel more than ten apples a minute; helping to make apple cider, apple butter, and apple sauce relative snaps to prepare. Originally made by the Reading Hardware Works in Reading, Pennsylvania, this sturdy machine surprisingly continues to be manufactured and sold right here in Ohio by Lehman's, a well known, fascinat-



The Reading Apple Peeler (Photo by Gary Rice)

ing, and eclectic country store located in Kidron, in Ohio's Amish country. Galen Lehman, the son of the founder of Lehman's, has informed me that his

company also produces other hard-to-find items like vintage style corn planters, butter churns, and farm bells.

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Parma Observer

West Creek Conservancy
invites you to:

Blues for Greens

A Night to Benefit a
Greener, Greater Cleveland

Saturday March 9, 2013, 6:00 —11:00 p.m.

Dinner, Live Blues, Raffles, & More

For Tickets:
www.westcreek.org
or call 216 749 3720



Blues For Greens To Benefit A Greener, Greater Cleveland

by Dave Lincheck

Friends will be gathering and the band will be playing live blues and more at Sava’s Event Center on Saturday, March 9, 2013 to help West Creek Conservancy raise funds for natural area conservation, stream restoration, and trails & greenways in Greater Cleveland. Blues for Greens, as the event is named, will feature live music, dinner, dancing, raffles, and a silent auction. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, with dinner at 7:00 and music through 11:00. Sava’s Event Center is located at 2151 West Wallings Rd, Broadview Hts. Tickets are \$40 each or \$75 per couple and are available through March 1st at www.westcreek.org or by calling 216 749 3720.

Blues for Greens is hosted by West Creek and many friends and volunteers from the community. “We’re inviting people to enjoy a fun night out and help the environment at the same time” said Joann Richards, a WCC volunteer. She continued “I’m looking forward to the party with old and new friends and the band too”

Formerly known as West Creek Preservation Committee, the land conservancy has protected over 100 properties and 700 acres around Greater Cleveland, including the establishment of the West Creek Reservation in Parma. Proceeds from Blues for Greens will support WCC’s mission of local conservation.

Parma City Schools Adult Education Department To Offer Classes At Hanna Building

continued from page 1

Thursday (ESOL). Classes are free, and open to the public.

An Open House for the Hanna Building will be held on Wednesday, February 20th from 10 a.m. to Noon and from 4 to 6 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the

building, gather class information, access community resources, enjoy snacks and refreshments, and enter to win prizes.

For more information, please call 440-885-8797 or visit parmacityschools.org.



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