

“The invasion of armies can be resisted, but not an idea whose time has come” - Victor Hugo

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Parma Hts. Mayor Michael Byrne Speaks Out

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Can you tell me something about making Parma Hts. a greener city?

When I took office in 2010, I put in place what I like to call my “Greening of Parma Heights Initiative” aimed at improving the quality of life here in our city. Bringing that initiative to life has led us down several paths: the revival of the Parma Heights Garden Club, the automated “Green Refuse and Recycling” trash collection program, and taking full advantage of “green” grants and public/private partnerships.

First off, the Parma Heights Garden Club volunteers have already made a tremendous effort toward “The Greening of Parma Heights”. The first thing they did, back in 2010, was to plant a Community Garden in the Greenbrier Commons to provide food for the Parma Heights Food Pantry. Their work has really paid off, and last year, thanks to grant funding, the garden was moved to a larger plot and is now marked by an arbor and necessary fencing to keep our animal friends away. Last year, the club expanded their efforts and planted 500 daffodil bulbs around town and that created a beautiful display this spring. They intend to expand that program this year so spring becomes an event in Parma Heights.

The “Green Refuse and Recycling” system has contributed to the “greening” of our



Parma Hts. Mayor Michael Byrne addressing audience at Memorial Day Services on May 27.

town on a totally different, but important, level. The program has yielded dramatic increases in our recycling tonnage and decreases in our solid waste tonnage – both huge benefits for the environment. Our city has won a “Recycling Grant” from the Sewer District for the last eleven years in a row. In addition to providing an informational newsletter on the importance of recycling as we have in years past, this year additional grant funds from the program will also allow us to expand our special waste collection community events, purchase a recycling container for the Greenbrier Commons and a composter for the Community Garden and distribute biodegradable yard waste bags to our residents.

Grant funding has also played a very important role in the improvement and expansion of our park system. A couple of years ago, thanks to

a Parks and Playground Grant from the Cuyahoga County Department of Development, we were able to make improvements in five parks by restoring ball fields, and replacing swing sets. Through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), we were also able to tear out the outdated tennis and basketball courts at Radlick Park and install an asphalt walking path connecting our neighborhoods.

Radlick Park improvements didn’t stop there though: public/private partnerships also played an important role. In partnership with the Parma City School District, the city received a Lowe’s Foundation Grant to cover the cost of constructing a pavilion and carpentry students built the structure as designed by their teacher.

Just last year, in another public/private endeavor, we were fortunate to collaborate with a very generous lady named Margaret Colombo. Through the use of CDBG grant dollars, we were able to purchase land from her. She then constructed and donated back to the city, a beautiful, new park on that land. Colombo Park, so named in honor of her late husband, developer Charles Colombo, now graces what used to be a fenced-in, blighted lot on Pearl Road in the center of town.

This year, we will be dedicating our Parma Heights 9/11 Memorial. This is truly

a community effort, reflecting the monetary donations of residents, businesses and employees, and the hard work of many local union members

How about joint efforts with other agencies?

The Parma Heights - Big Creek Connector Project truly is an example of public agencies working together for a common goal: in this

case involving collaboration between the state, county and two political subdivisions; Cleveland Metroparks and the city. Our new “front door to the Metroparks” is currently under construction and will be completed this summer. Funding for the \$320,000 project is coming from a \$150,000

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Parma Area Chamber Of Commerce 23rd Annual “Rib-N-Rock” June 6-9th

by Dave Nedrich

The Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Parmatown and Phillips Edison & Company (New Parmatown Owners), proudly presents our 23rd Annual Rib ‘N Rock Cook Off on Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9, 2013 at Parmatown in front of Wal-Mart.

Our returning Rib Vendors are Armadillo's, Butch's BBQ of New Jersey, Jack on the Bone, MOJO'S, Smokin T's, and Texas Pit will compete for Best Ribs and Best Sauce. Our other Food Vendors include Euclid Beach Custard, Jimbo's Concessions, Little Polish Diner, Mapleview Concessions, Parma Area Jaycees Roasted Corn, Sue's Pierogies, The Original Greek Gyros, D Kay's Belgian Waffles and Buckeye Concessions.

New this year is the Parma Area Jaycees People Choice

Awards for Best Ribs, Best Sauce, Best Pulled Pork Sandwich and Best Fair Food. Stop by the Parma Area Jaycees Roasted Corn booth to place your vote.

We will also have many Exhibitors and offering a Large Amusement area provided by Great Lakes Exposition.

This Annual Rib ‘N Rock can only be brought to you with the assistance of Countless Volunteers and our many sponsors. Major Sponsors are Parmatown Mall and Phillips Edison Company (New Owners of Parmatown), Brunswick Auto Mart, Parma Community General Hospital, Axelrod Buick/GMC, the Mueller Family (Suburban Press), Kimble Company, Giant Eagle on Day Dr., Hampton Inn on Tiedeman, COSE, Coca Cola, Bud Light, Cuyahoga Community

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Parma Receives FEMA Reimbursement, Convenience Credit From Republic Services

by Jeannie Roberts

The City of Parma received two pieces of positive financial news lately – welcome news after state budget cuts to local government that are expected to impact the budget next year as well.

The City will be reimbursed \$92,689.38 for expenses incurred while providing emergency measures and debris removal as a result of Hurricane Sandy in late October last year.

Almost \$80,000 of the reimbursement comes from

FEMA – the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The other roughly \$13,000 will come from the State of Ohio, Office of Emergency Management. The City of Parma was required to complete paperwork documentation of emergency related expenses, and that total was approved to be reimbursed at 87.5%

Parma’s documented expenses were \$105,930.72 - \$86,455.34 in debris removal (man hours and equipment use) and \$19,475.38 in emer-

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Parma Hts. Mayor Michael Byrne receiving membership key from Joe Germana of the Parma Area Kiwanis on May 15.

Parma Business

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

Last month I had the honor of being invited by Congressman Jim Renacci to take part in the Greater Cleveland Partnership's Empowering Local Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. During this two-day seminar I had the opportunity to hear from and/or talk one-on-one with most of Ohio's Congressional delegation, including Mr. Renacci, Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Senator Sherrod Brown, Congressman Tim Ryan, and Speaker of the House John Boehner, among others. The other local elected leaders in attendance and I also had opportunities to get to know one another, as well as business and non-profit leaders from northeast Ohio. This excellent opportunity prompted this month's column.

As an elected official, I obviously work closely with other elected officials at the local, state and federal levels. For instance, I often find myself, as I did in Washington last month, contacting colleagues to share my perspective on the issues and to seek their advice, guidance, and assistance. One thing I think all of us in elected office can agree upon is the importance of input from our constituents. With the multitude of issues we deal with, one is certainly not an expert on all of them, nor can one think of all of the various ways policy can impact everyone in the community, state or nation. Therefore, we depend on folks like you to inform and educate us.

As you may know, Parma was divided into two Congressional dis-

tricts following the 2010 census. As a result northern Parma is now located within the 9th Congressional District and is represented by Democratic Congresswoman Kaptur. On the other hand, southern Parma is now located



Parma City Council President Sean P. Brennan

in the 16th Congressional District represented by Republican Congressman Renacci. When I first learned about this division I was somewhat perturbed. However, having met with the Congresswoman several times and the Congressman in D.C. recently, I believe this arrangement will work in our community's favor.

One thing I walked away with from the conference in D.C. was how down to earth both Congressman Renacci and Congresswoman Kaptur are. Neither has airs about them and both seem truly concerned about

the challenges facing northeast Ohio. I was especially struck with a positive vibe when I saw the two of them speaking to one another cordially when they did not think anyone else was watching. Further, both expressed their wish to work in a bipartisan manner for the good of northeast Ohio.

hope that you will contact your Representative to share your views on the issues periodically. Your input helps us all do a better job of representing you.

As always, if you have suggestions for future columns, please feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. I hope you are taking advantage of the warmer weather. Have you been out for a walk or a run yet, as I suggested last month? See you at the 23rd Annual Parma Rib 'n Rock from Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9 at Parmatown.



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SATURDAY June 8 2 PM To 11 PM	Blackstone 2 — 4 pm	Stone Pony Band Springsteen & Southside Johnny 4:45—7:15 PM	TUSK The Tribute Sounds of Fleetwood Mac 8:00 — 10:30 pm	
SUNDAY June 9 1 PM To 11 PM	RIB & SAUCE AWARDS 4-5:30 pm NEW PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS being Sponsored by Parma Area Jaycees	New Century Beatniks 1:30 - 3:45 pm	CINEMA SHOW Genesis Tribute Band 4:30—7 PM	TIME TRAVELLER Moody Blues Tribute Band 7:45 — 10:30 PM

Visit the **Parma Hospital Entertainment Tent**
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Friday 4:30-10:30 pm Parma Hospital Band Fest
Saturday 3-5:30 Ron Fiorentino / 6-9 pm Sarena Orchestra
Sunday 3-6 pm Honky Express (Polka Band)

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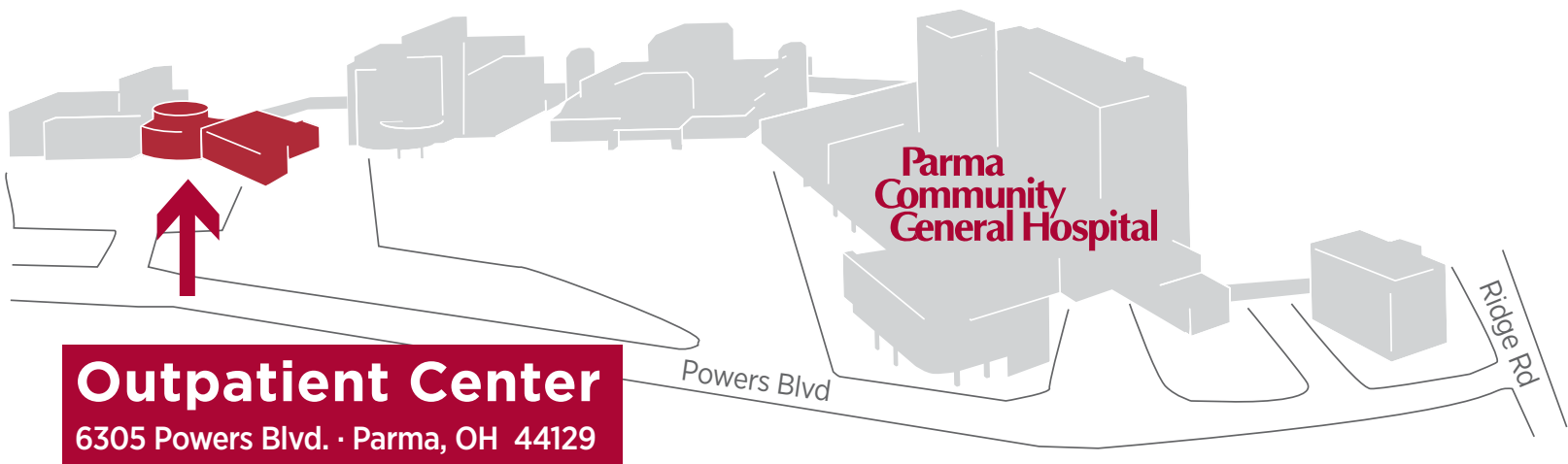
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Parma Health

Your Health Questions Answered At Free Physician Talks In June

by CJ Sheppard

Whether you are planning to have a hip or knee replaced, are considering pain treatments or spine surgery to relieve pain, want to know about minimally invasive gynecologic surgeries or are worried about preventing prostate cancer, Parma Hospital will cover these topics and more at its free You and Your Health series in June.

Chronic Pain – How Can We Help You? – Pain Management specialist Andrew Kalin, MD discusses the diagnosis of neck pain, back pain, nerve-related pain, musculoskeletal pain & abdominal pain. Held in Parma Hospital's Auditorium on Wednesday, June 5 at 2 p.m.

New Standards in Spine Surgery – Spine surgery now can be performed with small incisions that minimize risk of bleeding and infection. Neurosurgeon Steven Fulop, MD explains what patients need to know when surgery is recommended to treat their pain. Held in Parma Hospital's Auditorium on Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. Call 440-743-4900 to register.

Prostate Cancer Screening & Treatment – Featuring Carson Wong, MD, FRCSC, FACS a nationally recognized expert in endourologic, minimally

invasive and robotic prostate surgery. Free PSA blood test. Held at the Holiday Inn Westlake, 1100 Crocker Road, Westlake, on Thursday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. Call 440-743-4900 to register.

Women: Feeling hot, hot, hot? – A candid discussion on menopause and minimally invasive treatment options for women, presented by OB-GYN Kristine Pelagalli, MD. Held at the North Royalton Family YMCA, 11409 State Road, North Royalton on Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. Call 440-743-4900 to register.

Joint Replacement Education Session – A one-time informational session for patients scheduled for or contemplating total joint replacement surgery at Parma Hospital. Held in the Parma Hospital's Auditorium from 2-4 p.m. on June 3 & 17. The same session also will be held on July 1 & 15, and August 5 & 19. Call 440-743-4024 to register.

Weight Loss Solutions – The latest weight loss options presented by a Parma Hospital bariatric surgeon. This program is presented monthly in Parma Hospital's Auditorium. Summer dates are June 18, July 16 and August 20 at 7 p.m. Call 440-743-2900 to register.

Parma Hts. Mayor

continued from page 1

grant the Cleveland Metroparks won from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Recreational Trail Program, an additional \$20,000 pledged by the Metroparks, and a \$150,000 CDBG Grant awarded to the city. The Parma Heights – Big Creek Connector Trail will consist of over 1,400 feet of trail and will involve the construction of an 85 foot bridge spanning the Big Creek. As they say, "stay tuned" for opening day details.

What are the latest developments concerning the former Cornerstone property?

I am pleased to announce that the property is now owned by Wells Fargo Bank. I am also happy to say that Wells Fargo is currently in the process of assessing the land value of the property and has chosen an area commercial real estate broker to handle marketing. This is a major step forward, as prior to this announcement, all calls from interested parties were being directed

to the North Carolina Wells Fargo office. Legal action by the city has also resulted in the demolition of the old Too's Company bar. The property manager, also hired by Wells Fargo, is in the process of working with an engineering firm to clean up the rest of the property, including the removal of the two mounds of dirt.

Are you actively campaigning for re-election as Mayor of Parma Heights?

Yes, I officially announced my decision to seek a second term as Mayor of the City of Parma Heights on April 25th at the Greenbrier Health Care Center. After nearly four years of hard work, we've conquered an enormous deficit and brought the city back into the black, we restored safety forces to full staffing levels, and I hear positive feedback from businesses and residents on a daily basis.

The energy is returning to our community and I want to continue working to keep the city moving in a positive direction.



Parma's own Dixon Family rocked the 2010 "Rib 'n' Rock." This year Band Fest will debut at Rib 'n' Rock.

Band Fest Debuts At Rib 'n' Rock

by CJ Sheppard

Tune in on Friday, June 7 as the Fifth Annual Band Fest brings the diverse musical talents of Parma Community General Hospital staff to Parma's Rib 'N' Rock.

Five bands – from classic rock 'n' roll and contemporary Christian to polkas and acoustic folk – will play from 4 to 10:30 p.m. on the stage at the east end of Parmatown's Ridgewood Drive parking lot, across from the Walmart.

Longtime Parma Hospital cardiologist James Sechler, MD, will kick off the sets with a solo performance on his bagpipes, followed by Desmond & Molly, an acoustic folk duo. In the 5:30 hour, the Edelweiss 5 Combo, featuring Mike Caba of Parma Hospital's Cardiovascular Services, will perform polkas. Next up is the Dave Parsons

Band, featuring Creative Services Manager Marty Pytel on keyboards and EMS Education Manager Joe Toth on drums. The five-member band, which has two CDs, also covers songs by James Taylor, the Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young.

Band Fest cranks up the classic rock around 8 p.m. Galaxie Deluxe, a rockabilly band with The Rev. Jon Paulus on the upright bass, will play vintage rock 'n' roll from the '50s and '60s. The hospital's director of Pastoral Care jams with his band to tunes by such artists as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and the Stray Cats. Band Fest concludes with Second Time Around, with ICU Manager Steve Neylon on bass, performing cover tunes of power rock bands such as Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones and Journey.

Free GED Classes Available This Summer

by Valerie Jerome

In January 2014, the current version of the GED® test will be replaced, so anyone who has passed some but not all parts of the current test will have to start over. Plus the test-taker will pay \$120 instead of the current \$40.

The new test will be fully computer-based instead of paper-based, and will be in a more difficult format. To help adults earn their GED® diploma, preparation classes will be offered for free at several locations in Parma and Parma Heights.

To register, prospective students must complete the orientation session:

Employment Connection Brookpark, Thursday, June 13, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Parma City Schools Hanna Building, Monday, June 24, 9:30-12:30 p.m.

Divinity Lutheran Church, Tuesday, July 9, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Tri-C Western Campus – Call for orientation information.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age or older.

GED® test preparation classes are sponsored by Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) at ParmaCitySchool District. For more information, call 440-885-8797 or email parmaadulted@parmacityschools.org.

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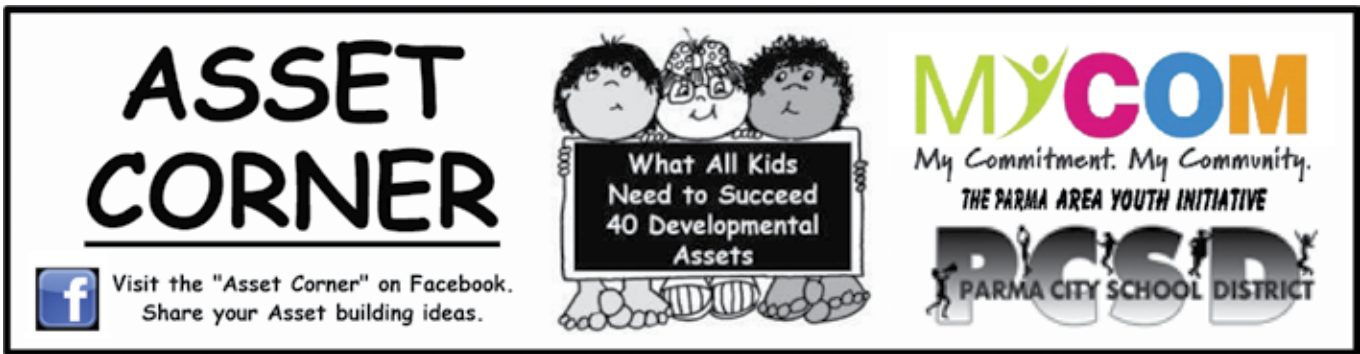
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Parma Schools



Asset Corner #42

by Gene Lovasy

June’s Asset Category: BOUNDARIES and EXPECTATIONS: Boundaries are important to young people because they give clear messages about what’s expected, what is approved and celebrated, and what deserves censure. By the same token, caring adults who expect young people to do their best help them to learn good judgment. Every day young people face many options and choices. Boundaries and expectations provide young people with the support they need to choose wisely.

Boundaries and Expectation Assets Include:

- #11 **Family Boundaries** – Family has clear rules & consequences & monitors the young person’s whereabouts. (46%*)
- #12 **School Boundaries** – School provides clear rules & consequences. (52*)
- #13 **Neighborhood Boundaries** – Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people’s behavior. (47%*)
- #14 **Adult Role Models** – Parent/s & other adults model responsible behavior. (27%*)
- #15 **Positive Peer Influence** – Young person’s best friends model responsible behavior. (63%*)
- #16 **High Expectations** – Both parent/s & teachers encourage the young person to do well. (48%*)

(* 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.)

Today, we’re going to be focusing attention on **Asset # 11, Family Boundaries.**

Clear, concise, consistent boundaries—for all

What happens if you’re late to a business meeting? Run a red light? Fail to pay for your morning coffee? Rules and expectations are important. They help establish the do’s and don’ts for society and help things run smoothly. But rules are not automatically known; they must be created and learned. That’s where parents come in. If young people are not taught early on that there are rules they must follow, they think they can do anything they want at any time. And, while we may like the freedom to make choices, having boundaries to follow—and expectations to live up to—can make life easier for everyone.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people are more likely to engage in positive behaviors and attitudes—and less likely to practice high-risk behaviors—if their families set clear rules and consequences and monitor the young people’s whereabouts. About 46 percent of young people, ages 11–18, have families with clear rules and consequences and parents or guardians who regularly monitor the young people’s whereabouts, according to Search Institute surveys. Working with young people to set boundaries is an important way to show them you care.

Tips for building this asset

As a family, set clear, concise, and consistent boundaries based on your values and expectations. Make sure everyone—not just the children—is following the same rules, although there may be some differences depending on ages and maturity. Be sure to set up clear consequences for family members who break the rules. Also, make it clear everyone must always let the rest of the family know where he or she is.

Also try this

In your home and family: Meet monthly as a family to discuss boundaries: Are they fair? Do they still work? Do they reflect your values and principles? Adjust them as needed.

In your neighborhood and community: Communicate with your neighbors about the rules and boundaries in your family. Ask for their support. For example, neighbors can remind children to ask a parent’s permission before accepting sweets.

In your school or youth program: Divide students or participants into groups. Have each group discuss family boundaries and consequences. Identify the reason for each rule.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

- Partnering w/the Parma Hunger Center, the Parma Area Family Collaborative will host its next Food Pantry/Clothing Center offering from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, Thursday June 13th. Remember, that the Mobile Pantry is being offered every 2nd Thursday of the month while the Clothing Center is now available every Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, as well as by appointment. Keep abreast of Collab/MyCom offerings by visiting their page on the Community section of Parma City Schools web site – www.parmacityschools.org.
- With support from the Cleveland Food Bank & the Arby’s Foundation, the Collab will be hosting a SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM for kids ages 2 - 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday starting June 10th

to August 23, 2013. Registration is not required.

- Our grant funded MyCom initiative is alive and well, hosting the following summer activities...1. YOUTH GROUP/P.A.T.C.H. Leadership development program open to all Parma area teens ages 12 to 17 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. every Thursday starting June 13th and ending on July 18th w/a Family Cookout, Bingo & Door Prizes. 2. SUMMER DAYZ 2013, Monday thru Friday starting June 24th and ending on August 2nd. This is a free, supervised, activity filled outdoor program for kids between ages 5 - 12. Hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the following locations: Walters Grove Park, James Day Park (Nike Park) and the Collab facility (Hanna Elementary). Call Kathy Hall

Senior Health Fair Sparkles

by Judy Martins

Hundreds enjoyed the Annual Senior Health Fair at the Shoppes of Parma, presented in May by the Smallwood Activities Center. Nearly sixty healthcare exhibitors set up their attractive tables for the crowd. Attendees were given free health screenings, informative brochures and reports, and samples and goodies to enjoy. Their bags were filled with educational literature to read and study at their leisure. Exhibitors represented nearly every phase of health care, fitness and life planning, including nursing, rehab and assisted living

at 440.842.7043 for details.

- For more information regarding Developmental Assets and about programs & services offered by Community Ambassadors, visit their web site at www.comamb.org.
- Partnering w/Parma City Schools, the County Library has put together the most amazing, best ever reading program, as well as developed a whole host of incredible programs and activities for our kids this summer. Your child should have or already has brought home information about the program or, failing that, simply visit the Library’s web site at: www.cuyahogalibrary.org/. They’re doing some great stuff for our kids and it’s all free.

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.

facilities, prescription and insurance providers, home health care, and wound, vision, hearing and podiatric care, just to name a few.

If you are over 55 years of age, come to the Donna Smallwood Activities Center (formerly Parma Senior Center) any weekday between 8:00 and 4:00. Located at 7001 West Ridge-wood Drive, it's behind City Hall, up the hill at the first light east of Ridge. All seniors are welcome! Visit their web site at www.smallwoodcenter.com, or call 440.885.8800 for more information

Community Invited To Strawberry Festival

by Mary Beth Breckenridge

Parma-South Presbyterian Church is sharing a delicious tradition: its annual Strawberry Festival, planned for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 9, on the church lawn.

The community is invited. The event features food, entertainment, a bake sale and, of course, strawberry desserts.

On the menu are hot dogs, hamburgers, turkey burgers and vegetarian burgers, along with side dishes. A full adult meal is \$8. A child’s meal for ages 10 and younger is \$5.

Activities will include a bouncy

house, crafts and treats for children, steel drum music by Island Jeff and a corn hole tournament with prizes for adults and youth (\$5 a team). The bake sale will offer a variety of homemade goodies, along with fresh strawberries. A health fair will offer blood pressure screenings and information from providers.

Proceeds will support the church’s community garden, which raises vegetables for the local food pantry.

Parma-South Presbyterian Church is at 6155 Pearl Road, Parma Heights. For information, call 440-885-2652 or visit www.parma-south.org.

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A lie told often enough could become known as truth.

Always be yourself, because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones who mind don't matter.

Blaming prevents us from correcting the problem.

Change is inevitable.

Complaints from people tell us what is in their hearts.

Don't argue with a know-it-all; he

You Have A Choice

by Tami Vajskop RN

My best friend, Donna, is a nurse in Columbus, and she is a great nurse. We first met in nursing school here in Cleveland. She was in her early twenties and I was 42. I was old enough to be her mother. Occasionally, she feels the need to remind me of that fact. Donna is an RN in an Ohio Medical ICU; I am an RN at Holy Family Hospice in Parma. Last month, Donna called me because her father-in-law received the news that his physical condition was more serious than they thought and they needed to decide whether to continue with "aggressive treatment" or to choose hospice care. After reviewing his options, her father-in-law made his wishes very clear. "No more hospitals, no more tests, no more treatments. I want peace. I want to go home." Of course he asked Donna to help his wife set it up and help them go home.

Donna's inlaws, like many of us who have grown up here, know the richness and diversity of our communities. Those of you who can relate to being natives know Cleveland has not always been represented in a positive light. Times are changing. Cleveland is on the move. There is an air of hopefulness and pride that is palpable. One of the reasons for that pride is the medical care we have right in our backyards. We have access to spectacular health care options. Cleveland is developing a worldwide reputation for excellence in care as well as in research and innovation.

Integrated into the health care system is hospice. There are over twenty hospices in our area, each having different features that provide individuals with many choices that address their unique needs. I work for a non-profit, faith-based hospice with over five decades of experience in comfort care. Other hospices may be larger or smaller, for profit, hospital-based, or facility based. All of them provide a service that is a part of the Medicare

will drag you down to his level.

Evening news is where they begin with "Good evening" and then proceed to tell you why it is not.

Everyone should catch others doing right and praise them.

Everyone should socialize, optimize and exercise.

Freedom is not a license to be non-law-abiding.

God does not hold our sinful past against us if we place our trust in Him.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

benefit. There are many choices. YOU have many choices.

One of the most difficult decisions to make for yourself or for someone you love is when to have that conversation about hospice. When is the right time? When do I call hospice? Can I stay at home and have hospice? How will hospice help? Can I live at a long-term care facility and still receive hospice? Should I go directly to a residential hospice? Can I try to stay home for as long as I can and then transfer into a residential hospice? Is there a cost?

We provide counseling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to answer those and any other questions that come to mind.

My friend Donna and her husband drove in from Columbus to be at the bedside when the physician and social worker at the hospital were presenting options to her father in law. We were honored to have them choose Holy Family Hospice.

Donna's father in law was happy and peaceful at home at the time of his death. He was surrounded by the people he loved. Most importantly, he was the orchestrator of his own destiny. He understood that hospice would enable him to live with quality of life. He chose the path, the timing, the hospice, the place, and the manner in which he envisioned the last months of his life would unfold.

Because we live in a tumultuous and changing world, every moment is precious. So it is important to let the people who love you know exactly how you feel about your life and your wishes. This is especially important if a time arrives when you cannot express those wishes for yourself. Let your loved ones know what your hopes are for your transition out of this life to whatever awaits you. Know that you have a choice. You have options. You have a voice. No matter what the state of your health is, you always remain the orchestrator of your destiny.

Honesty beats withholding the truth.

If a relationship has to be a secret, we should not be in it.

If we are going to make the most out of the rest of our lives, we cannot be stuck in the past.

If we think an unkind thought, we don't have to express it.

It doesn't take all kinds; there just happen to be all kinds.

It is error only and not truth that shrinks from inquiry.

No one has to win or lose an argument; agree to disagree.

Not being known does not stop the truth from being truth.

Other people's business is usually not our business.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

This, too, shall pass away.

Those who take responsibility for their actions set a good example.

Those who travel the "road of life" best are those who make the road better for those who follow.

To love our neighbors as ourselves is a truth for regulating society.

Truth will always be truth, regardless of lack of understanding, disbelief or ignorance.

We are never too old to learn something stupid.

We can get by without any other book except the Bible.

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

Parma Area Chamber Of Commerce 23rd Annual "Rib-N-Rock" June 6-9th

continued from page 1

College and Great Lakes Exposition. Other sponsors include City of Parma, Mayor Timothy DeGeeter, City of Parma Recreation Department, Century 21 DePiero & Associates, Westview Acres Apartments, Rosemary Gulick, Parma City School Board and Parma Montessori Child Care.

Please join us at this family-fun, community event that is close to home. Admission is still only \$3 per person (children under 12 are free "BOGO" coupons available through the Chamber, in Val Pak, Town Money Saver and at other locations. For information contact the Parma Area Chamber at 440-886-1700 or email chamber@parmaareachamber.org or by going to our website www.parmaareachamber.org

Main Entertainment Tent

Thursday, June 6 4-11pm
Orchard Park, 4:30-7:15 pm
Disco Inferno, 8-11 pm

Friday, June 7 4-11pm
Rock Radio, 4-7:15 pm
Vicious Cycle, 8-11 pm

Saturday, June 8 2-11pm
Blackstone, 2-4 pm
Stone Pony, 4:45-7:15 pm

Tusk, 8-10:30 pm
Sunday, June 9 1-11pm
Rib Awards, 1-1:30 pm including the New People's Choice Awards sponsored by the Parma Area Jaycees
New Century Beatniks, 1:30-3:45 pm
Cinema Show, 4:30-7 pm
Time Traveller, 7:45-10:30 pm
Parma Hospital Entertainment Tent (East Tent)

Thursday, June 6 4-11pm
Frank & Dean 6-9 pm

Friday, June 8 4-11pm
Parma Hospital Band Fest 4:30-10:30 pm

Saturday, June 9 2-11pm
Ron Fiorentino 3-5:30 pm
Sarena Orchestra 6-9 pm

Sunday, June 10 1-11pm
Honky Express (Polka Band), 3-6 pm
Please join us and the community in enjoying this fun filled weekend by attending and supporting this annual kick off to the summer season. It is sponsored by the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce with the proceeds supporting other events and organizations in the community. We look forward to seeing you at the 23rd Annual Rib N Rock 2013!

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Parma's City Beat

Mayor Day's Plan Could Save Parma Theater

by William Subjoc

A solution to the Parma Theater situation may possibly be found in a 1962 Regional Planning Commission plan completed by the administration of former Parma Mayor James W. Day. Similar conclusions can also be drawn from the 2008 Parma Sustainable Design Asset Team (SDAT) guidelines completed by the administration of former Mayor Dean Depiero. Most discussions on the Parma Theater primarily focus on activities that could be conducted inside the building; however, redevelopment of this building may be much more financially viable by looking at the two block stretch of Ridge Road from Snow Road to Bertha Avenue as well as one block of Snow Road west of Ridge.

Not all of Mayor Day's planning came to fruition, but after 51 years a small part of the 1962 plan could spur significant redevelopment around the Parma Theater. The plan clearly shows taking Essen Avenue and converting it to a cul-de-sac at the west end of the Theater Property. The business portion of Essen was proposed as additional parking. The 1962 plan shows a major addition to the Theater as well as a large building to be constructed on the south side of Essen. Creating this cul-de-sac today is still a very viable concept; however the focus now would be to create an outdoor courtyard on the business section of Essen, which would promote additional outdoor activities involving the Theater and the buildings on the south side of Essen. The East Fourth Street concept downtown would be emulated in a small way. Three parking ingress-egress will still be possible: from the Snow Road entrance, the Bertha Ave. entrance, and from Ridge Road into the Theater lot or the property south of Essen.

The Parma-Ridge Library branch is also key to this development. Unfortunately, the Cuyahoga County Library Board of Directors decided they no longer wanted to be part of this neigh-

borhood and this branch will be vacated in about six months. At that time, the City of Parma assumes control of the building. Parma Theater redevelopment would have greater likelihood if Parma would also market the library building to potential investors and developers.

An events grounds surrounding both properties would greatly improve the area by creating additional activities surrounding the Parma Theater. Outdoor events, similar to the Polish Constitution Day parade and after party, would be created and have room to expand. Additional outdoor family events could be conducted through the Old World Parma organization and enhance the ability of the Theater to expand its mission.

Providing multiple financial incentives would better attract investors and developers to this multi-million dollar investment. Incentives for the Parma Theater alone primarily consist of historic tax credits and the possibility of a legacy project for an individual. Still, a renovated theater alone would have difficulty balancing its books for the foreseeable future. However, including the library would also provide potential investors with a third incentive to step in by including a for-profit building to develop.

To make this development even more attractive, the City should use the funds from the library property sale to make infrastructure improvements in the two-block area. Essen Ave. is city property, and the library sale would provide funds to cul-de-sac the street and make other infrastructure improvements in Polish Village. It should be pointed out funds from the City's general budget would not be used, and any library building sale funds also should not disappear into the general budget, but the sales funds should directly benefit the neighborhood that is losing a library. In this way a capital investment

is converted into a new capital improvement in the same neighborhood.

Another potential funding source is the new storm water fees. The library and theater comprise about 2.25 acres of nearly 100% impermeable surface. All of the rainwater goes directly into the storm sewers. Redesign of the storm water system on these two properties could be accomplished in an aesthetically pleasing manner while serving as an educational example for all built up, paved over, inner-ring suburbia.

Now, let's turn to a short history lesson. First, how does former Mayor Day enter the picture? How many residents actually remember his time as mayor? After serving several years as a Parma Councilman, James W. Day was Mayor from 1962 to 1967. As quoted from a Cleveland.com article by Grant Segall on August 26, 2010 following his passing, we can learn the following about Mayor Day:

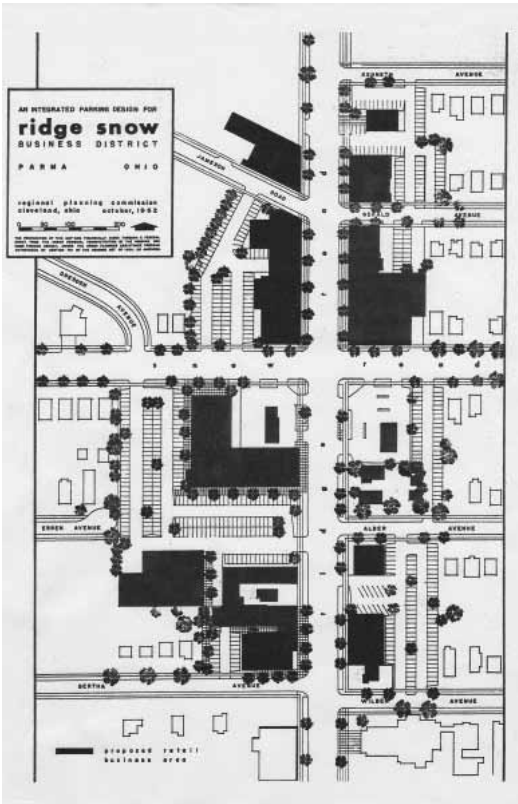
"The man had vision," Council President Chuck Germana said.

Day pushed for one of the first municipal master plans in Cuyahoga County and wielded it like a Bible. "For someone to think 40 years ahead was amazing," said Germana.

Mayor Dean DePiero recalled that Day "never stopped expanding, improving and building the state's seventh largest city into what we see today."

In 1967, Bob Seltzer of the Cleveland Press called Day "an aggressive, incisive hustler."

Day became a councilman in 1954 and chaired the planning and zoning committee. He pushed for Parmatown, other retail sites and the hospital.



1962 Regional Planning Commission Ridge-Snow Business District map.

He promoted comprehensive zoning and wider minimum residential lots. He also won a master plan from the Regional Planning Commission.

"You wouldn't think of building a house without a plan," he later told The Plain Dealer. "How can you build a community without one?"

Now consider three historical timelines. First, a line can be drawn from the 1962 Essen Ave. plan through the 2008 SDAT guidelines and on into the future. Second, fundraising, planning, zoning reviews, and engineering plans and construction realistically make a theater renovation a likely three year project. Third, in 1816, Benaiah Fay and his family settled near Ridge and Theota. Interestingly, all three timelines seem to intersect in 2016 in the general vicinity of the Parma Theater on the 200th anniversary of the first Parma settlers.

However, projects like this require input from many sources and give-and-take from all interested and affected parties. This is a unique point in time where two connected larger properties are ripe for development concurrently. Ponder what is best for long term development in the neighborhood. Another fast food store? Another cookie cutter drugstore or oil change business? Or a development that promotes local community activity and events. The time to act is now.

Mayor James W. Day's vision for the City of Parma may still not be complete. Maybe it is time to implement some of his administration's unfinished business.

Parma Area Kiwanis Welcomes New Member

by Joe Germana

Parma Area Kiwanis has inducted their newest member John R. Marolt. A 43 year resident of Parma Heights and member of Saint Bridget Parish. John is married to wife Susan of 24 years, has six children and 7 grandchildren. John is a graduate of Ohio University with a degree in engineering. He is retired from a career that spanned 24 years of hospital administration that included engineering and construction, having served as Director of Facility and Plant operations at Kaiser Permanente, Massillon Community and Huron Road Hospitals. Besides his community service John enjoys travel, golf and bowling.

The Parma Area Kiwanis is a local chapter of Kiwanis International that is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one commu-

nity at a time. Our primary focus is giving an opportunity for children to learn leadership skills while providing service to their home, school and community. For school age children we sponsor the Kiwanis K-Kids at Pleasant Valley and Green Valley Elementary Schools, the Greenbriar Builders Club and the Normandy, Parma, Valley Forge and Padua High School Key Clubs. We also sponsor a "Terrific Kids" Sundae Bar at Ridge-Brook Elementary, for kids who "Bring Up Grades" and exhibit good citizenship. Our "Young Children Priority One" initiative for pre-school children includes car seat safety and providing adult interaction in arts & craft projects with kids with disabilities in the district's First Step program.

The Parma Area Kiwanis meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings

for breakfast at 7:15am at the Pappou's Restaurant at 8320 Snow Road, and for dinner on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 6:15pm at Anthony's Restaurant 10703 W Pleasant Valley Rd, and has service and fund raising projects throughout the year. For more information contact Membership Chairman Joe Germana 440-882-2012 or e-mail joe@fourstarinsurance.com



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Perspective

Three Years Since The ACA Was Passed, Two Versions Of America Are Emerging

by Lee Kamps

It has been more than three years since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) was signed into law and almost a year since the Supreme court upheld the act. Now as the deadline for the health insurance exchanges and Medicaid expansion as called for under the act is approaching; it appears that the act is creating two different versions of the United States based on how the states are implementing the act.

Already in states run by Democrats or where there is cooperation with the ACA, those states are rushing to implement the act and have their exchanges up and running by October 1. In those states that are refusing to cooperate with the implementation of the ACA, the federal government will run the health insurance exchanges. So far a total of 26 states have deferred to the federal government to operate their exchanges including Ohio. So whether or not the state is cooperating with the act, the federal exchanges will be up and running on October 1 with the insurance purchased through the exchanges becoming effective on January 1 2014.

However the supreme court left it up to the individual states to decide whether or not to expand Medic-

aid, another key part of covering the uninsured population. To encourage states to cooperate with the Medicaid expansion, the ACA calls for the federal government to cover 100% of the additional Medicaid cost through 2017, eventually reducing to 90% in 2020. Because of the federal funding of the cost of the Medicaid expansion, most states have decided to accept the Medicaid expansion. But many Republican led states have already refused to go along with the Medicaid expansion. It is still in doubt whether Ohio will accept the Medicaid expansion.

Even though the federal government will be running the health insurance exchanges in many states, it will be the internal communication that will drive people to get their health insurance through the exchanges. If someone does not know how to access the exchanges or what their options are under the exchanges; it is unlikely that they will become insured. It is estimated that most of the people who will have to get their health insurance through the exchanges will be eligible for a premium subsidy that will limit their premium payments to just 8% of their federal adjusted gross income. But unless those people are aware of the exchanges and know how to navigate

them, they will not take advantage of what is available to them. Non cooperation by the states could cause an increase in their residents uninsured.

But perhaps the largest consequence of not cooperating with the ACA will be felt by the public hospitals in those severely red states. Because it is expected that there will be much less uninsured and uncompensated medical care given by hospitals, federal funding to compensate hospitals for care given to the uninsured has been slashed. So in those severely red states where they are not expanding Medicaid or cooperating with the exchanges, the hospitals in those states may be hurting financially because of the loss of funds to compensate them for uncompensated medical care.

The effect of this may cause many hospitals in those non cooperating states to be in financial difficulty with some closing. Others will continue to shift those costs to the paying population which would

increase health care costs further. In some communities local taxes will have to be raised to make up for the loss of federal funds.

This could cause a loss of jobs and with more uninsured population (which is a severe economic drain on the local community), in those states that are refusing to cooperate with the ACA might find themselves losing business as well as population as people and business migrate toward those states that have a much better and stronger health care infrastructure as well as a healthier population.

I have believed that health care should be a basic right of every citizen. Business and government realize that a healthy population is a productive population and a productive population is a prosperous population that can enjoy a higher standard of living and a better quality of life. By their refusal to cooperate with the implementation of the ACA, those severely red states could be jeopardizing their future prosperity and fall into second class status among the different states.

Nuisance Property Demolished, Neighbors Celebrate

by Jeannie Roberts

A blight on Parma's neighborhood landscape – and a perennial source of law enforcement activity – has been literally wiped out. Where there was formerly a home located at 7707 Bertha Avenue, there is now a vacant lot.

The home was demolished late last month, and the land will be placed in Parma's land bank. This action was a direct response to neighborhood concern about the property. Last year, Mayor Tim DeGeeter and other city officials met with concerned neighbors and Councilwoman Debbie Lime about the problem property.

In a little over a year, nearly two dozen calls for service came to 911 for that residence. Those calls included numerous reports of suspicious conditions, several disturbance calls, drug overdoses, animal violations, and a child endangerment call. Myriad additional calls involved building violations.

After meeting with neighboring residents, the administration, working with law enforcement, deemed the location a nuisance property and began proceedings to see it eradicated.

"This is definitely a success story in terms of protecting our quality of life here in Parma," Mayor DeGeeter said. "We are very happy to get rid of this source of trouble and to put this property in our land bank."

This home has been in foreclosure since 2005 and did not sell at subsequent Sheriff's Auction. A fire this past February caused extensive damage, and after notification of pending demolition, no party stepped forward to repair the structure.

DeGeeter was on hand to witness the demolition, as was Councilwoman Lime, several neighbors and Erik Tollerup, the City's Director of Economic Development and Community Services.

Over the past three years, Parma has demolished 35 housing structures deemed a local nuisance. Six more demolitions are pending for this month.

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Friday- \$4.00 Hookah All Day
Saturday- 50% Off Specialty Drinks Noon-6 PM
Sunday- Open Mic Night-Patio

Perspective

Parma Firefighters' Recent Deer Rescue An Excellent Example

by *lucy mckernan*

On Sunday, May 19th, one very lucky, very stuck in a trench, doe found herself in the loving care of certain Parma Firefighters, including, Capt. Laskey.

Mock Trials Enrich Area Fifth Graders In Leadership Program

by *Kathryn Yates*

The Anthony C. Zielinski Leadership For Tomorrow program was begun in 2005 by the former Parma Treasurer and Councilman and co-founders Timothy DeGeeter (then, State Rep.) and Thomas Mastroianni (our current City Treasurer). The program has grown since its inception to include all local public school 5th graders, and private school 5th graders when possible. The program's mission is to educate the middle-school students on the workings of the municipal government and what they can do to get involved. Not only do the students get to meet public officials and ask questions of them (some very personal), but mock trials are enacted with Judge Deanna O'Donnell presiding.

The day I was invited to observe one of these trials, approximately 50 Shiloh Middle Schoolers filled Courtroom 1. Nine had occupied seats in the jury stand, and one lone student named "Natalie" had drawn the short straw. Her crime: "Failure to do homework."

When Judge O'Donnell read the charges, and an audible gasp and some snickers riffled through the room, a few slouched down in their benches, and one student disappeared entirely from view as if to tie shoes.

It was at this point that I realized what a horrendous task the court stenographer has – I just couldn't keep up, not knowing the art of shorthand and sans e-gear. My apologies to those appointed as prosecutors, "Nick" and "Dan", was it?

The first witness called to the stand was Mr. Ealy – a popular Science and Social Studies teacher at Shiloh. Examination by Judge Deanna revealed that "Natalie" did not turn in her "Branches of Government" homework as required, with the thin excuse that a classmate had absconded her work, and had "eaten it". Cross-examination also revealed that Mr. Ealy rarely makes mistakes.

The next witness called was Ms. Wilco who also testified that "Natalie" did not do her homework in her Language Arts class. It wasn't looking good

Which begs the question: what would Seven Hills firefighters have done?

In a community where Councilwoman Lecznar-- whose husband is second in command to trophy-hunting

for "Natalie", who stole a glance at the back doors of the courtroom, blocked by the Clerk of Courts, Chris Phelps. Mr. Howard's testimony, the Math teacher, dealt the final blow with four pages of OAA practice sheets "Natalie" had neglected to turn in. "Four pages?" Judge Deanna chastised the teacher, "Don't you think that was a lot?"

The jury was unsympathetic however, and returned a verdict of "guilty". "Natalie" was sentenced to 6 months in jail, and a \$1,000.00 fine. There was an uproar in the courtroom, enough to bring down the gavel, as the poor fifth grade pupil was led away in handcuffs to a room that later became part of their tour.

The students were encouraged to pitch forth their questions about the judicial process both prior to and following the mock trial. Most questions were directed to Judge Deanna O'Donnell: "What's your no. 1 priority in life...your most unusual case... your favorite T.V. show...Have you ever misjudged anyone?" Judge O'Donnell fielded all questions, enlightening wherever possible. Judge O'Donnell is approaching the end of her sixth year as Parma Municipal Judge and will be running for re-election. She explained how she decided to run for judge when her predecessor was mandatorily retired (by law) at the age of seventy.

The program provides a valuable learning experience for children at an age most ripe for the sowing of seeds of thought needed for future involvement in citizenship and community activism. The program has won many area awards and received national attention.

fire chief McConville -- continues to gather information through a 17-question survey about how residents perceive the deer, a highly subjective proposition, it's not hard to imagine. Surely, they'd rather not be bothered, like last year when yours truly asked for help removing birds stuck and dying in the recreation center overhang, and instead received inexplicable hostility and a refusal to help; the birds' carcasses are accumulating there.

Haters.

Filling the Seven Hills caucus room February 19 with activists and major TV media presence showed unequivocally that Seven Hills residents oppose any and all lethal methods. But that did not daunt Ms. Lecznar or certain council members. Neither did demonstrating that three adjacent communities, Broadview Heights, North Royalton and, likely, animal-friendly Parma, won't engage in this short-sighted and obviously self-serving "urban backyard hunting safari" Holocaust against wildlife.

For those uninitiated to "compensatory rebound effect," whereby numbers of highly adaptable wildlife like deer are temporarily reduced through lethal methods quickly return to carrying capacity, consider how the human population boomed after WW I and the Pandemic. Hunting does nothing but maintain Ohio Division of Wildlife's fifty percent annual revenue, and turn the special interest six percent of the population -- hunters and those in certain political positions wanting to do favors for them – against the majority.

Our consensus filled the room February 19 in Seven Hills, saying "No Hunting in Seven Hills." Our majority has spoken through published letters to the editor of our local papers, pleas to city council and the mayor, and various other ways and means.

If Parma Fire Capt. Laskey thinks one doe's life is worth a little trouble, it should give all readers and residents pause to consider that maybe the "Bambi-loving," animal rights activists, and three adjacent communities

who are not adopting lethal policies, are right: if hunters kill 250,000 deer in Ohio every year, which has not by one iota reduced populations, what the hell makes Caryl Lecznar and – lets' face it, Mayor Dell'Aquila, who has twice refused to comply with my open public records requests sent through certified mail and is in violation of Ohio's Sunshine Laws -- think that a couple of knuckleheads in tree stands in Seven Hills is going to make a difference? I will ask the same thing of anyone running against her in the next election; party lines mean nothing in the War on Wildlife. That's what the League of Humane Voters is all about: voting blocs and endorsements for those on our side.

Thank you, Fire Chief Laskey, and your unselfish colleagues, for allowing that frightened deer to be free to run back to her family in the woods and live her life. And thank you to the contractor who wisely called the fire department to help with the deer.

I know firsthand, and many dozens of times that rescuing any animal is a thrill that has no equal, which makes me wonder: is the opposite true? Does turning a blind eye, engaging in cruelty, or just plain not wanting to be bothered – not being moved to do your part after reading this -- make one feel less alive? My guess is it does, which would explain that zombie, detached look from those who view all other species as beneath them, or when they bemoan how the deer have eaten their flowers.

How DARE those in positions of power have the temerity to casually dismiss the validity of others' lives! If that doesn't come close to the definition of "terrorism," what does? When you are evil, you don't get to pick how people perceive you and, yes, in private discussions, activists constantly compare animal killers and abusers to terrorists.

What is being proposed is nothing less than a Holocaust against other living beings. The time has long passed that we craft laws prohibiting the killing or persecuting of ALL LIVING BEINGS, even if they are evil.

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Parma Observer

Worldstock's City Beat

by Wayne Mesker

I Have a lot to report this month. Attended the City Council meeting on May 6th where some interesting rezoning proposals were presented to the chagrin of some area residents. An Ordinance to rezone portions of Parcels 442-31-071 & 442-31-050 on Greenlawn Rd. from Single-Family to Retail Business in order to expand parking for Zabor Funeral Home/ Chuppa's Market met with protests from Greenlawn Rd. residents who claimed that while the Zabor's have been Good Neighbor's, Chuppa's has been anything but! Citing the unsightly view they have of Chuppa's garbage area, noise & traffic problems caused by the constant comings & goings of delivery vehicles & the fact that they weren't informed or

consulted about a proposed zoning change that could not only affect the aesthetics of their neighborhood, but also property values, they asked that Council do some further investigation. In what we consider a fair response to citizen's concerns, Council agreed to do just that. Another proposed rezoning that met with concern from residents was an Ordinance to rezone a parcel to facilitate the proposed building of a Dunkin' Donuts at the northeast corner of Ridge Road and Regency Drive. The plan would involved tearing down a single-family house at the corner & some area residents expressed concerns about potential traffic congestion & hazards that might be caused by allowing this to occur.

In other news , on Thursday

May 16th, I attended a reception/ fundraiser sponsored by the Ohio Democratic Party held at the newly opened BrewCo Parma. Party Chairman Chris Redfern, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Ohio Representative Nick Celebrezze, Parma Hts. Mayor Mike Byrne, Seven Hills Councilman Matt Trafis & Cuyahoga County Executive hopeful Armand Budish were among those in attendance to be congratulated on the party's successes & hear about the upcoming challenges the party still faces prior to the next election. The event was put together by Chris Redfern, Mayor DeGeeter & Ohio Democratic Party event coordinator Rachel Rossi.

Last, but certainly not least, on May 24th I was honored to attend the Call To Courage fundraiser for Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus & Michelle Knight put on by WKYC Channel 3, LaVilla Party & Convention Center, WGAR 99.5 FM & assisted by food service from many area restaurants, catering services & bakeries. Donations of

prizes for the Chinese auction & a "Live" auction run by local celebrity auctioneer Bob Hale came from numerous businesses, celebrities, sports teams & others. The monumental task of coordinating this event with only a week's notice was miraculously handled by Sherri Foxman & her crew from Party411 Events. T-shirts that read #MIRACLEINCLE on the front & had the names of the 3 young women on the back were available for a donation of \$10 or more with 100% of the proceeds going into the fund. It was certainly a miracle that given so little time to handle all the logistics, the event came off without any apparent hitches & to all appearances was a huge success! A big round of applause goes to all those who were part of the herculean effort it must have taken to pull this off.

In future issues, we plan to change the column to Worldstock's City Beats & expand our coverage to include our neighbors Parma Heights & Seven Hills.

Does Your Garden Overflow Every Summer?

by Debbie Sillett

It is hard to think about harvesting your garden at the time of year when there was still snow on the ground, but you are probably already planning what you will plant this spring and summer. When that harvest comes in, what will you do with the abundance? The Parma Area Historical Society at Stearns Homestead would like to help you with this problem by providing a food preservation/canning class July 27, 2013. An Extension Agent will teach the class demonstrating how to safely "can" your vegetables and fruits. If you are interested in such a class, we need to know by June 15, 2013. There will be a small fee for the class. Please contact Debbie at: 440-882-6234

There is a limit of 15 for this class so register early.

Here is our 2013 Event Schedule for Stearns Homestead:

June 14th – Friday Night at the Farm

June 22nd – Farmer's Market Opens

July 13th and 14th – Antiques and Collectibles

July 21st – Cow Plop Bingo from 2-4 PM

August 17th and 18th – Rummage Sale

September 14th and 15th – Farm City Days

For More information about Stearns Homestead please visit: www.stearns-homestead.com

Bank On Student Loan Fairness Act H.R. 1330

by Michelle E. Rice

This new legislation is a combination of two bills: Student Loan Forgiveness Act H.R. 4170 and The Graduate Success Act H.R. 5895. The full text H.R. 1330 can be read at: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr1330/text>. The full text of H.R. 5895: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr5895/text> and H.R. 4170: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/hr4170/text>

The Student Loan Fairness Act would enact a "10/10" plan, requiring ten years of payments at 10% of discretionary income, after which, the remaining federal student loan debt would be forgiven.

The Student Loan Fairness Act would cap federal interest rates and allow existing borrowers whose educational loan debt exceeds their income to convert their private loan debt into federal Direct Loans, and then enroll their new federal loans into the 10/10 program.

If not passed, as of July 1, 2013 the interest rate on federal subsidized Stafford Loans will double, from 3.4% to 6.8%. This new bill is requesting that student loan interest rates be the same as the Federal Reserve discount of

.75%.

Currently, we have an economy that does not have the jobs that support repayment of student loans. These loans cannot ever be filed in a bankruptcy. Thus, if you cannot pay them, your credit is damaged and you are unable to buy a home or get a loan to start a business.

The government can either get some of the money back or they won't get any of it back and neither will the economy. Additionally, the government needs to stop loaning everybody money for college and colleges need to stop accepting everybody. Colleges are doing this because they know they will receive the tuition because the government will loan anybody the money for tuition. Colleges and the government need to be selective. Loans should only be given to those who make an appropriate GPA (like 3.0) and colleges should be more selective as to whom they admit. Both are responsible for this student loan crisis.

Here are a couple petitions you can sign supporting this new legislation:

<http://pac.petitions.moveon.org/sign/give-students-the-same>

http://act.credoaction.com/sign/warren_bankonstudents/




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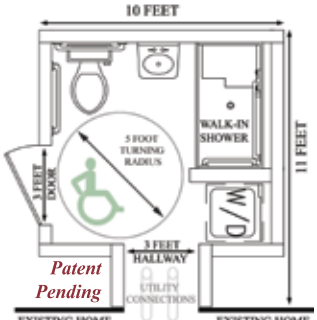
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Parma Observer

Maggie's Place Ohio To Offer 1st Annual Charitable Golf Scramble June 23

by Tricia Kuivinen

Maggie's Place Ohio will offer a new charitable golf scramble on Sunday, June 23 beginning with a 1PM shotgun start at Fowler's Mill golf course in Chesterland. The scramble will support the continued operation of The Zechariah House, a non-profit hospitality home for pregnant women in Parma, and will include 18 holes of golf with cart, a box lunch, beverages, and steak dinner for each registered player. A silent auction and raffle of unique packages will also be offered to participants.

Maggie's Place is a community of hospitality homes in two states (OH & AZ) for expectant women who may have no place to live during their pregnancy. Maggie's Place provides safe housing, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, parenting preparation, employment readiness and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances.

Maggie's Place Ohio hopes the golf scramble will raise at least \$25,000 in operational support for The Zechariah House in Parma, which can house up to

nine expectant women at a time. Each mother in residence at Maggie's Place has the opportunity to engage in personal goal setting and the completion of life skills sessions such as budgeting, parenting, job searching and personal growth and discovery. Mothers can also increase their educational level while living at The Zechariah House, by completing their GED, job training or attending college classes, positioning them for better job opportunities. 50% of Maggie's Place moms are either employed, in school or in a job training program when they leave Maggie's Place. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 8% and the child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place OH is playing an important role in the lives of expectant and new parents.

Fees for the 1st Golf Scramble are \$150 per golfer or \$500 for a foursome; golfers can register for the scramble online: mpohiogolfscramble.eventbrite.com. A portion of event registration is tax-deductible, and all event proceeds benefit the moms and babies of The Zechariah House.

Parma Receives FEMA Reimbursement, Convenience Credit From Republic Services

continued from page 1

agency measures (police, traffic and fire man hours and equipment use.)

Also, the City will receive just over \$73,000 by trash collection provider Republic Services as an inconvenience credit as a result of a work stoppage in April.

Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Service Director Brian Higgins were in constant contact with Republic Services during the work stoppage in Parma and asked about whether the City would receive compensation.

During the work stoppage, Parma was one of the first communities to receive replacement workers, but some residents did not receive service in a timely manner. "We appreciate everyone's patience during that time, including our City Council members who tried to

help residents and also, of course, the residents themselves," DeGeeter said. "We're all glad this is over, and we feel that the reimbursement is just."

The work stoppage came just as residents were being educated about a new collection system in Parma. Residents will continue to receive educational materials from Republic – refrigerator magnets with dates for bulk pick-up and yard waste collection will be mailed this month.

"We continue to strongly encourage residents to utilize recycling containers, because recycling is at the heart of our new collection system," DeGeeter added. "It is good for the environment, and also good for the city. The savings realized through recycling efforts helps us to reduce trash collection fees for the city."

Free Medical Services At North Coast Health Ministry Now Available To Residents Of Parma, Parma Heights And Seven Hills

by Jeanine Gergel

North Coast Health Ministry (NCHM), a faith-based charitable health center located in Lakewood, is now offering its services to low-income, uninsured residents of Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills.

Previously, NCHM services were available only to individuals who resided in 17 zip codes in northwestern Cuyahoga and eastern Lorain counties. In May 2013, NCHM eliminated zip code restrictions from its patient eligibility guidelines to be able serve all of northeast Ohio.

"Our mission has always been about increasing access to health care for the underserved," says NCHM Executive Director Lee Elmore. "The elimination of zip code restrictions will allow us to better meet our community's changing gaps in need as the health care environment evolves."

NCHM provides and optimizes access to health care for uninsured individuals below 250 percent of the

federal poverty level. A vital part of Greater Cleveland's health care safety net for the past 27 years, NCHM provides primary care, prescription assistance, specialty referrals and health education. With the support of over 150 volunteer physicians, nurses and other caregivers, NCHM provides preventive care and chronic disease management as well as care for acute illnesses and injuries. In February 2013, NCHM became the first free clinic in Ohio to be recognized as a Patient Centered Medical Home, Level 3, by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

All patients must register for services before an appointment can be scheduled. To register to become a patient, call 216-228-7878 ext. 127 or visit our Web site at www.nchealth-ministry.org to print out an application form. NCHM is located at 16110 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio and is accessible via bus on RTA's route 26.

Pleasant Lake Villa Earns "Best Nursing Home" Award From U.S News

by Jennifer Keirn

Pleasant Lake Villa has been named one of the country's "Best Nursing Homes" by U.S. News & World Report, one of only 3,000 facilities nationwide to earn the highest ranking of five stars. Every year, U.S. News compiles extensive data on 16,000 nursing homes across the country to find best performers in the areas of safety, health inspection, staffing and quality measures.

What makes Pleasant Lake Villa so unique?

Our nursing care is three times the national average. We employ significantly more registered nurses (RNs) than other facilities. In fact, our rate of RN hours per resident per day is more than three times the national average.

We provide advanced care for all patients. In addition to our RNs, we also employ full-time nurse practitioners who can take quick action in an emergency, which can prevent a patient from having to return to the hospital. The area's leading cardiologists visit Pleasant Lake Villa regularly to see not just their patients, but all patients with a his-

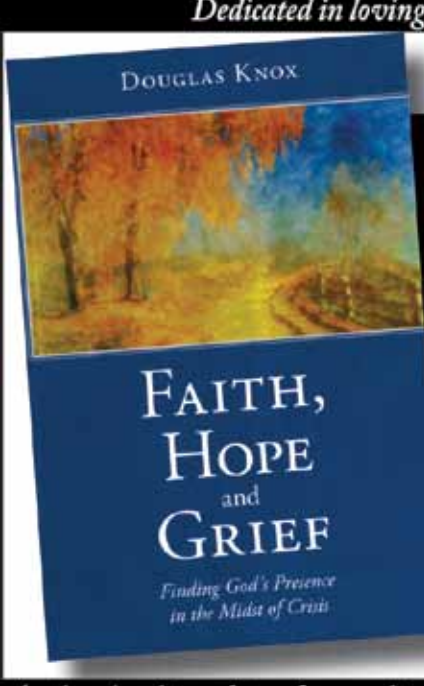
tory of cardiovascular illness.

Life enrichment, not just activities. Pleasant Lake Villa is rare among area nursing homes for having a full-time art therapist and a chaplain who serves residents of all faiths. Having opportunities for creative expression and spiritual support makes our home a place for inspiring hope and promoting healing.

Long tenure enhances continuity of care. Nursing homes commonly experience high rates of turnover, but not so at Pleasant Lake Villa, where average tenure is six years. Nationwide, administrators and nursing director average less than two years of service; our Director of Nursing Sharon Santoli has served more than 21 years and Administrator Jim Taylor nearly 10 years.

"Being honored as one of only 3,000 of the Best Nursing Homes in the U.S. is an honor," says Taylor. "We take seriously our responsibility to our patients and their families to create an environment of excellence in quality of care and of life."

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"As a Board Certified Pulmonologist practicing in the Parma area for more than 20 years I am pleased to be associated with Pleasant Lake Villa.

High quality health care is the reason I choose to practice at both Parma Community General Hospital and Southwest General Health Center, and for now joining Pleasant Lake Villa."

Gregory Hickey, M.D.
Director of Pulmonology



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