

“It is harder for the average ape to believe that he has descended from man”- HL Mencken

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West Creek Opens In Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On June 21 the long awaited opening ceremony for the Westcreek Reservation in Parma took place in front of an excited crowd, under a perfect clear blue sky. I had anticipated this moment since the day of the groundbreaking, and I knew that it would be most impressive, but I must admit that I was taken by surprise at how truly spectacular this center really is. The humble beginnings of this project are worth noting- a small group of people originally gathered in order to save the Henninger House, and their resulting efforts and organizational skills have finally led to the creation of this unique reservation here in Parma. We residents of Parma owe these people a huge debt of gratitude for their willingness to focus relentlessly on their goal of bringing this to reality, and I feel that most people will agree once they journey over to 2277 West Ridgewood Drive and see for themselves.

Turkey Vultures In Parma

by Kathryn Yates

A turkey vulture (buzzard) was spotted on June 17 a little before 10:00am along Big Creek Parkway in Ward 1 between Pinegrove Ave. and West Moreland. Passing motorists slowed to look at the big bird as it pecked at a raccoon presumably killed by traffic on the parkway this morning. It was something to witness when it took flight, having a wingspan between five and six feet. No need to lock your Chihuahuas up – the turkey vulture feeds almost exclusively on carrion. It is a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.



The Westcreek Reservation is the newest Metroparks reservation in our area, and with 324 acres, there are plenty of trails, natural grasslands, wetlands, picnic areas, and wildlife for all to see and enjoy. The Watershed Stewardship Center is simply amazing, and to my knowledge is one of the few centers of its kind in existence. This is the first Metroparks facility dedicated to scientific research and promoting sustainable action.

The center is staffed by natural resource and education professionals, land protection specialists, volunteers, and visiting scientists. Surrounding the building you will find over 30 watershed/stormwater management features.

I don't want to spoil it for future visitors by revealing too much, but when you enter the Center, you will see a fantastic aquarium which is designed to model a healthy Ohio stream, **continued on page 8**



Officials prepare to cut the ribbon signaling the opening of the Westcreek Reservation in Parma on June 21.

Teens Offer Free Home Repairs To Some Parma Residents



City Councilmen Larry Napoli and Allan Divis, along with Mayor DeGeeter, prepare hamburgers and hot dogs for teens in the Work-camp program.

by Jeannie Roberts

Chuck and Renita Nohejl didn't think twice about helping North Coast Mission Connection bring more than

400 teens and adults to the Parma area. The Nohejls, youth directors at Ridgewood United Methodist Church, **continued on page 4**

Third Annual Walk/Run For The Pierogies



by Sean Brennan

Lace up your shoes for the Third Annual American Cancer Society Parma Area Relay for Life 5K Run/Walk for the

Pierogies. The 5K run/walk and 1 mile walk will take place at Cuyahoga Community College's Western Campus, 11000 **continued on page 2**



View of the reservation from one of the new picnic pavilions.



Inside the Watershed Stewardship Center.



Cuyahoga County Council District 4 Representative Chuck Germana, who as Parma Council President was very instrumental in making the project a reality.

Parma Business

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

This month's column was inspired by my reading of my father-in-law's (army veteran Tom Denk) June/July, 2013 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Magazine. As I read this 60th Korean War Anniversary Special, from cover to cover, I lamented the veterans of what is called "the forgotten war." I also lamented how we do not show our appreciation to our veterans enough. Yes, we have Memorial, Veterans' and Independence Days, but how many people actually attend events on these days, remove their hats and place their hands over their hearts as the flag and veterans march by, or thank or pray for our military vets regularly. I dedicate this month's column to our Korean war heroes on the 60th anniversary of that war's end on July 27, 1953.

As I turned the pages of VFW Magazine, I was reminded, once again, of how our government continues to not show proper respect to our military veterans. From a lack of adequate readjustment services, to stories of G.I. Bill difficulties, to veterans still fighting a seemingly losing battle to win medical benefits for exposure to Agent Orange or for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), I was literally moved to tears as I contemplated their frustration and feelings of betrayal by the nation they fought to protect. Wake up America – pay the bill due to our veterans!

I was especially moved by an article about H.R. 543 – the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013. This is a bill currently under consideration in U.S. House of Representatives. Believe it or not, under current law



Parma City Council President Sean Brennan with heroes from the Joseph J Jacubik American Legion Post # 572 on State Road.

only Vietnam War veterans who fought on land are eligible for benefits for diseases attributed to exposure to Agent Orange. That is, if you were one of the 50,000 to 60,000 who served abroad and never set foot in Vietnam, you are not eligible for VA benefits for Agent Orange related ailments. If passed, this bill would extend coverage to those who served within 12 miles of the shores of Vietnam. Incidentally, this

bill is strongly supported by the VFW and other veterans' organizations. Amazingly, this is the sixth time this issue has been before Congress.

Last month, I wrote about the importance of making our voices heard to our elected officials. Please join me in contacting Parma's two members of

house.gov or (330) 334-0400. Place these numbers in your mobile phone for fast reference.

I hope that you find this month's column informative and moving. As always, if you have suggestions for future columns, please feel free to contact me at (440) 885-8091 or councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net. If you see a veteran, usually identified by a hat indicating their service, thank them. To all of our vets, especially our Korean War vets, thank you for your selfless service. Godspeed.



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the U.S. House to ask that they support H.R. 543. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur represents those of us on the north side of Parma and may be contacted via her website at www.kaptur.house.gov or (800) 964-4699. Congressman Jim Renacci represents southern Parma and may be reached at www.renacci.com.

Walk/Run For The Pierogies



Participants enjoying pierogies.

continued from page 1

West Pleasant Valley Road on Saturday, July 6 at 8:30 am. This year's race/walk is sponsored by Parma Community General Hospital, Cuyahoga Community College, Vertical Runner of Brecksville, the Shoppes at Parma, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Parma City Council President Sean Brennan. All participants will be treated with post run/walk pierogies courtesy of Parma's own Little Polish Diner and Krakow Deli. The top three males and females in several age categories will receive a pierogie necklace award. A golden pierogie necklace will be awarded to the top overall male and female. T-shirts, snacks, drinks, awards and door prizes will also be provided. Pre-registration is \$20 (\$10 for children 11 and under), while race day registration will be \$25. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Registration can be completed online at www.hermescleveland.com or call (440) 884-0489 or e-mail councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net for a registration form and with questions. Sponsorships are still available.

Parma Community General Hospital

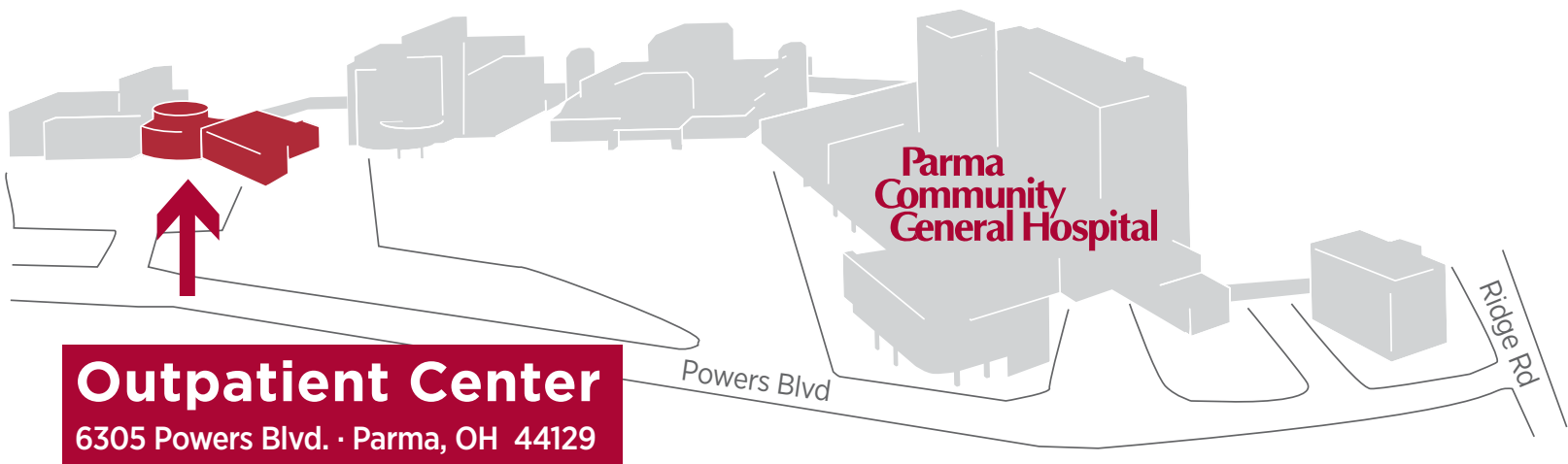
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Parma Health



Nicholas Tomeo on the mound at Progressive Field after throwing the first pitch last year.

Run For Pierogies, Wellness In Upcoming 5Ks

by CJ Sheppard

Lace up your running shoes for the remaining races in Parma Hospital’s 5K series this summer that concludes with its own 5K and 1-mile Wellness Walk on Saturday, September 14.

Parma Hospital is sponsoring the Third Annual Parma Run/Walk for the Pierogies benefiting the American Cancer Society Parma Area Relay for Life. Nearly 500 runners/walkers participated in this event last year. The race/walk will take place on Saturday, July 6 at 8:30 am at Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus in Parma. Parma’s own Little Polish Diner and Krakow Deli will provide pierogies to all participants.

The Hospital also is sponsoring the Gazebo Gallop, a 5K Run and Walk

and Kids’ Fun Dash on Sunday, August 4 in Parma Heights.

The 2013 5K Race Series concludes with Parma Hospital’s own 5K and One-Mile Wellness Walk on Saturday, September 14. The race begins at the Outpatient Center, 6115 Powers Blvd., at 8:30 a.m. and passes through part of Ridgewood Golf Course. For those who pre-register, the cost is \$20 and includes an adult short-sleeve T-shirt. Registration on the day of the race is \$25. Awards will be given to the top overall male and female finishers and top 3 males and females in each of the following age categories: 14 & under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65 and over.

Register for any or all of these events at www.hermescleveland.com.

Parma Hospital Hosts Farmers’ Markets

by CJ Sheppard

Keep your home stocked with locally grown produce all summer long by shopping at the Farmers’ Markets held at Parma Hospital.

Every Tuesday starting July 9, farmers will set up their produce stands outside the hospital’s main

entrance. Choose from seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, olive & grape oils, pasture-raised meats and eggs, and more.

Farmers’ markets will be held at Parma Hospital every Tuesday through September 24.

July 31 Is Parma Night At Progressive Field

by Jeannie Roberts

Nicholas Tomeo isn’t counting on two in a row, but you never know. Could happen. Nicholas’s parents bought tickets to the Indians game last year on Parma Night, and because they bought their tickets through the Parma Recreation Department, they got to enter a contest for Nicholas to throw out the first pitch. Their name was drawn, and the rest is history - Nicholas was the first winner in Mayor Tim DeGeeter’s administration. The Mayor gave up the first-pitch honor that is usually reserved for him, because he wanted a kid – Parma residents 17-and-under are eligible – to have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Turns out Nicholas’s big night came just a few days before his eighth birthday.

Whose big night will it be this year? The Mayor has given up his first pitch honors again, and everybody who buys tickets through the Parma Recreation Department gets entry into the

drawing for the first pitch. The bleacher tickets are \$10 each; they are on sale at the Parma Recreation Department in Parmatown Mall between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Parma Night at Progressive Field this season is on July 31; the Tribe is playing the Chicago White Sox at 7:05 p.m. That’s a promo item night as well – the first 10,000 fans will enjoy the game wearing an Indians mesh trucker hat. To top it off, it’s also Sugardale Dollar Dog Night at the ballpark.

“Last year, it was a great bonus that it happened to be near Nicholas’s birthday,” Mayor DeGeeter said. “This is exactly what we had in mind when we turned the first pitch into a contest. A Parma kid gets to be very excited about an opportunity very few people ever have.” Parma Recreation teams and coaches can also participate in a pre-game parade around the field.

Questions? Please call the Parma Rec. Dept. at 440-885-8144.

Teens Offer Free Home Repairs...

continued from page 1

knew what a wonderful thing they were doing for their community when they co-sponsored the teens through the Group Cares program.

The teens spent a week in the area recently as part of the Group Cares Workcamp program, which allowed them to volunteer their services by way of free home repairs for elderly, handicapped and low-income residents of Parma. The program is sponsored locally through the North Coast Mission Connection. The teens provided free home repairs, including interior and exterior painting, porch and wheelchair ramp construction and weatherization. About 70 or 80 residents benefitted from the program.

“This represents about 12,000 hours of volunteer labor with a total economic impact to the community of about \$300,000,” Renita Nohejl said. Added her husband, Chuck, “This service to the community would be impossible without the wonderful cooperation of the Parma Schools.”

The teens and their chaperones were housed at Parma Senior High, sleeping on classroom floors, eating in the cafeteria and enjoying evening programs in the gym.

The group was welcomed to the Parma area with a cookout hosted by the Mayor’s office and Parma City

Council. Held at Parma Senior High, the cookout featured City Council members on the grill and in the serving line. Thanks to Proud of Parma, FirstEnergy, Columbia Gas and Cox Communications for sponsoring the cookout.

“This is a great group of kids, and we are very thankful for the work they’ve chosen to do in our area,” Mayor DeGeeter said. “We have a sizable senior population here who can use the help, and it’s really amazing that these kids paid for the opportunity to come and be of service to others during their summer.”

The Workcamp registration fees pay for the food, insurance and building materials used during the group’s stay. The idea behind the nationwide Workcamps program started in Colorado in 1977 when residents suffered from the Big Thompson River flood in which hundreds of homes were damaged or destroyed. Church youth groups of many different denominations came from across the country to help.

In 1978 the program went nationwide to include other disadvantaged areas throughout the country. This summer, 48 Workcamps are taking place in many different states.

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Parma Schools

ASSET CORNER

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

Asset Corner #43

by Gene Lovasy

July's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME, one of the four EXTERNAL asset categories Healthy communications....provide a rich array of constructive after-school opportunities. Whether through schools, community organizations, congregations, or for-profit centers, structured activities stimulate positive growth and contribute to the development of the other assets.

Constructive Use of Time Assets Include:

- #17 **Creative Activities** – Young person spends 3 or more hours/week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts. (21%*)
- #18 **Youth Programs** – Young person spends 3 or more hours/week in sports, clubs or organizations at school and/or in the community. (57%)
- #19 **Religious Community** – Young person spends 1 or more hours/week in activities in a religious institution. (58%*)
- #20 **Time at Home** – Young person is out w/friends "with nothing to do" 2 or fewer nights/week. (51%*)

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

Today, we're going to be focusing attention on Asset # 20, Time at Home.

Quality time as a family

Work, school, activities, friends, and other obligations can at times pull family members apart rather than bring them together. You don't necessarily have to change activities to find family time. Just be creative.

Here are the facts

Research shows spending quality time together as a family helps young people strengthen skills such as leadership, good health, and success in school. About 51 percent of young people, ages 11–18, spend no more than two nights a week with friends "with nothing special to do," according to Search Institute surveys. Protecting young people from risky behaviors and helping them develop positive behavior is easier when you spend time together as a family.

Tips for building this asset

Simply start spending time together: First, choose an activity the entire family enjoys. Then, commit to do the activity together one evening a week. Decide if you want to continue

the activity or try something different. Ask yourselves: How often do we laugh together? Have fun together? Enjoy being with each other?

Also try this

In your home and family: Cook dinner together, with each family member preparing a dish. Then, for a fun change, eat dessert first.

In your neighborhood and community: Invite your child's friend and his or her family over for an evening of family time—movies, games, popcorn and other treats.

In your school and youth program: Avoid scheduling practices or meetings that conflict with the dinner hour. It's important for families to eat together.

Also try these:

- Show your support by attending your children's performances.

- Encourage your child to get involved with the arts.
- Set a good example by getting involved with a team, club, or organization that interests you.
- Limit the amount of time your children spend at home alone. Plan to be home with them as much as possible. Be available to help with homework or just talk.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

Check out & LIKE the Parma Area Family Collaborative's Facebook page for up-to-date information about their Little Free Libraries, the Summer Free Lunch program, Summer Dayz, their Community Garden, the Mobile Food Pantry, the Clothing Center and MyCom Youth Leadership/P.A.T.C.H. activities. Add the link to your Favorite Places & visit often. You can also keep abreast of Collab/MyCom offerings by visiting their page on the Community section of Parma City Schools web site

Parma Area Family Collaborative Community Garden

by Kristi Trunzo

The Parma Area Family Collaborative is growing in its new home at the PCSDHannaBuilding....and now "The Collab" is growing outside as well! The Collaborative Community Garden broke ground on Tuesday, June 4. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Council Members Sean Brennan and Mary Galanis as well as a news crew and meteorologist Mark Johnson from NewsChannel 5 were on hand to help Collab Director Kira Karabanovs cut the ribbon to open the garden.

Funded in part through grants from the Division of Children and Family Services and the Ohio State Extension, the CollaborativeCommunityGarden is an opportunity for families and civic groups to grow their own fresh, free produce. The poverty rate in the Parma/ Parma Heights area is around 40%. In the Parma City School District, approximately 50% of the students receive a free or reduced price lunch. During the summer, those children are not receiving lunches, and it can put a significant strain on a family's food budget, as food stamps do not adjust for the summer. Having access to free produce can help families stretch their food budgets. Plus, growing vegetables is great fun family activity! Growers keep all the produce they grow, although all growers have been asked to donate a percentage of their harvest to an area food pantry.

The Parma Area Family Collabor-



Groundbreaking on June 4th. was an exciting beginning for the Collaborative Community Garden located behind the James E. Hanna School building.

ative is a social services agency located in Parma that serves eighteen local communities. The objective of the Collaborative is to link families with resources that meet their needs and focus on the well being, safety, academic success and stability of the children in the communities in which it serves.

The Parma Area Family Collaborative is funded through a partnership with Cuyahoga County Government led by the County Executive's Office and the Division of children and Family Services with the support of the ParmaCitySchool District.

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All that truly matters in the end is that we loved.
Appreciate and enjoy today rather than dwell on yesterday and tomorrow.
Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all.
Children have no business having children. Check with those that have!
Don't compare yourself to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
Each person should have a formula that defines his or her limitations.
Envy is a waste of time. We already have all we need.
Feed our souls and we will never go hungry.
Forgive everyone everything.
Get rid of anything that is not useful, beautiful or joyful.
God loves us because of who God is, not because of what we are.
However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
If you don't ask, you don't get.
If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we would grab ours back.
In one minute, hour, day, month or year(s), will this matter?
Make the most of life now.
Most of us trip over the small stuff.
No one is in charge of our happiness except us.
Our children get only one childhood. Make it a good one.
Life is not fair, but it is still a very precious gift.
Life is too short to waste time hating.
Love is patient, kind, helpful, trusting, and persevering. Love is not boastful, arrogant, envious, hateful, or resentful.
Pay off your credit card(s) every month.
Sometimes people just want us to be there, listen and understand.
There is no real purpose to life without God; otherwise, it is all about "me."
There is nothing so inevitable as changes in our lives.
Unavoidable priorities are spiritual, family, neighbors, health, work, education, money and material comfort.
We are not only to receive God's grace for ourselves, but also we must dispense it to others.
We are more inclined to follow our own deeply cherished desires or long-entrenched attitudes than the word of God.
We can move a ton of bricks, a few at a time.
We must unlearn what we learned if it does not make sense now.
We need to focus on what we can do, not what we cannot do.
When in doubt, just take the next small step.
When in doubt, tell the truth.
When we are wrong, promptly admit it.
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?



Senator Brown talks with Veterans on the USS Cod where he made the announcement of the All American Flag Act.

As Independence Day Nears, Senator Brown Reintroduces All American Flag Act

by Nadhal Eadeh

On Friday, June 14th, In honor of Flag Day, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) joined veterans on board the USS COD to announce the reintroduction of the All-American Flag Act, legislation that would ensure that flags purchased by the Federal government are entirely made in America.

"American flags should be American-made," Brown said. "It is the right way to honor our veterans and it is the right way to support American workers and businesses. With Ohio companies proudly producing the American flag, taxpayer funds should not be used to purchase those made in other countries. The All-American Flag Act of 2013 would ensure that the government buys flags that are entirely produced with American-made materials."

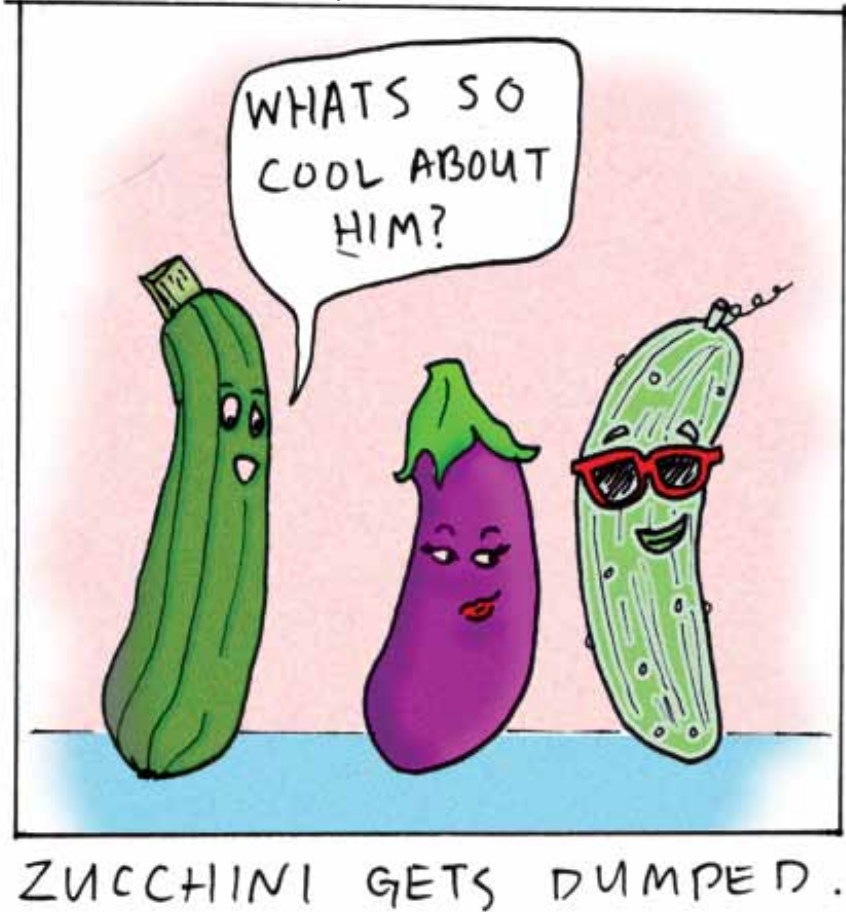
While children and families wave their American flags during the tradi-

tional 4th of July parade, many of those very flags are made in China. According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the value of American flags imported into the United States last year was \$3.8 million—including \$3.6 million from China. Brown, known as the leading proponent of manufacturing in America, argued that his legislation would help bolster the fortunes of many Ohio flag making companies including RS Sewing, a Canton company.

In 2011, Brown first introduced the All-American Flag Act, which the Senate passed unanimously. The Federal government is currently required to purchase flags made from 50 percent American-made materials; the legislation would require the government to buy flags that are entirely produced with American-made materials.

Now That's Funny?

by Julia Cindric



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Parma's City Beat

Worldstock's City Beat



by Wayne Mesker

Hopefully everyone has a safe & enjoyable 4th of July. Keeping it Short & Sweet this month. Attended a City Council meeting on June 3rd & the most excitement of the evening occurred when the Dog Park issue was broached again. It seems that, there are issues/concerns regarding location /staffing/funding/ liability & safety that will need to be rectified before this concept can gain support from the rest of City Council & the Mayor. Ward 1 Councilwoman Mary Galinas & Ward 8 Councilman Scott Tuma had a short, tense exchange when Mr. Tuma raised this point; Councilwoman Galinas pointed out that there was a petition signed by a large number of citizens in favor of this issue & Tuma quipped that petitions don't necessarily mean anything , bringing up the failed City Charter campaign. Galinas was offended by the comparison & eventually things calmed down & got back on track.

Council President Sean Brennan also had some concerns stemming from the failed attempt to create & operate an "unofficial" park on Snow Rd. that eventually had to be closed down. The Dog Park issue will continue to be a "Bone" of contention as proponents & opponents gather support & ammunition.The high point of the night came when local Girl Scouts were recognized & honored for their many contributions to the betterment of our community during their Year Of Service. In some brighter news, we also attended the Ribbon-Cutting ceremony for the Community Garden, located behind the former Hanna Elementary School on Snow Rd. which now is home to the Parma Area Family Collaborative. Channel 5 Weatherman Mark Johnson & volunteers from Newsnet 5 & also a camera crew were on hand to help & report on Channel 5's participation in the project. Plans are for Mark Johnson to occasionally do reports from the Channel 5 garden there. Finally, kudos are in order for all those that had a hand in making this year's version of the annual Rib & Rock a success! Despite a soggy start on Thursday, with a break in the weather attendance at this year's event was the 2nd highest ever. The Friends Of Parma Theater made many new "Friends" & raised awareness

among citizens of our mission & plan.

Join us here: Facebook.com/FriendsOfParmaheater

Thank you Dave Nedrich, Parma Chamber of Commerce,Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Parma Hospital, Phillips Edison & all the sponsors, volunteers, vendors, entertainers & organizations that were part of this success. Thanks to the Safety forces & CERT as well for making this another fun, safe year.



Made In Cleveland Marquee Photo (Photo by Gina Stem)

Parma Resident Produces Local Hit - Made In Cleveland

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

It is not every day that the world-premier of a locally made film sells out, but one long-time Parma resident and local film producer, Mark Pengryn, is looking to put the Greater Cleveland area on the map in a very big way. He, along with fellow film director and Lakewood resident, Eric Swinderman, well-acquainted with the making of various short films, head up the

locally based film production company known as 1031 Films, LLC and have been hard at work since 2011 putting together a new masterpiece featuring an incredible cast and crew with deep Cleveland-area roots. The masterpiece I'm talking about is called Made in Cleveland.

Made In Cleveland, starring Busy Philipps (Cougar Town) and Gillian Jacobs (Community) as well as local news celebrities Robin Swoboda and Leon Bibb, is a collaborative film project comprised of nine short films from 12 of the Cleveland area's most acclaimed writers and directors. It is also the first feature-length anthology film made by 1031 Films, LLC. The film features an eclectic mix of entertaining stories such as an old war hero defending the honor and mem-

continued on page 10

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Perspective

Scare Tactics On The ACA

by Lee Kamps

Recently an article in Forbes magazine stated that premiums for some individual health insurance policies through the exchanges that will be effective next year under the ACA will have premium increases of up to 88% from what health insurance premiums are right now. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/theapothecary/2013/06/10/ohio-dept-of-insurance-obamacare-to-increase-individual-market-health-premiums-by-88-percent/>

But, as Paul Harvey used to say, here is the “rest of the story”. Many individual health insurance policies that are on the market have limited benefits. In fact some I would call “junk” health insurance. For example one commonly sold individual policy has a lifetime cap on benefits of \$250,000 and an annual cap of \$50,000. That would leave that person on the hook for large medical expenses should a serious illness or injury happen. Another

commonly seen individual health insurance policy pays “100%” benefits. But that 100% is only up to their schedule of benefits. That schedule caps the hospital benefit for an overnight stay at \$200 per day and surgery at \$5000 for a heart bypass. Other surgical procedures have much smaller benefit limits. Other policies have deductibles as high as \$10,000. None of those types of policies are allowed to be offered through the exchanges.

Since health insurance is a complex subject, very few people actually understand health insurance. But many people do understand price and cost. Since health insurance companies have been cherry picking only the healthiest to insure, most people who purchase individual health insurance have no idea of what a serious illness or injury might cost. But those people are very familiar with a \$20 co-payment for a doctor’s office visit and understand monthly premiums.

Therefore many individual health insurance policies offered through the exchanges will be real health insurance that will offer much better coverage and benefits. Under the ACA, annual and lifetime caps on benefits are not allowed. In addition there will be no exclusions for pre-existing conditions and normal maternity benefits have to be covered. In more than 36 years in the health insurance business, I have never sold an individual health insurance policy with maternity benefits. The cost of adding normal maternity benefits is just too high to make it worthwhile.

Premiums for policies under the exchanges have to be unisex rated which means that men and women will pay the same rates. In addition there cannot be more than a three times spread between the rates for the youngest age group and the oldest age group for individual policies

in the exchanges. Therefore the younger will end up subsidizing the older.

Health insurance companies are forbidden from charging higher premiums because of a previous medical condition or treatment. The only thing that health insurance companies can charge a higher premium for is tobacco use. So I would expect that young tobacco users will see the heftiest premium increases. But all health insurance policies through the exchanges have to cover smoking cessation programs, so one can quit using tobacco and get a lower premium.

Another thing that is ignored in this article is that young adults who have to get health insurance through the exchanges are a small minority. Young adults can be covered on their parent’s health insurance through age 26 even if they are married. People who can get covered through their employment are exempt from having to get insured through the exchanges and so is anyone whose income is less than 138% of the federal poverty level. If Ohio accepts the Medicaid expansion under the ACA, those people will be eligible for Medicaid. If Ohio rejects the Medicaid expansion, those people will be exempt from the individual mandate and not have to pay a penalty if they remain uninsured.

While it is true that the young and healthy would be paying significantly more for health insurance through the exchanges, what is overlooked is that most young adults who would have to use the exchanges for health insurance may be eligible for a premium subsidy. That subsidy is available to anyone whose income is less than 400% of the federal poverty level (\$32,400 for a single individual). The subsidy would cap their premiums for a basic level “bronze” plan at no more than 8% of their adjusted gross income no matter what the actual premium may be for the health insurance.

This article is nothing but scare tactics designed to discredit the ACA. But scare tactics do not work. We will know in a few months exactly what the premiums for health insurance will be through the exchanges. No doubt some will be much higher than present individual health insurance policies. But the coverage will be much better and those whose income is lower will have some help with the cost.

Cuyahoga Land Bank Does It Again: Leads Nation In Use Of Stimulus Funding To Revitalize Neighborhoods

by Katherine Bulava

Wins \$41 Million in competitive grant from federal government; builds coalition to increase safety, quality of life and protect property values in Cuyahoga County

A coalition led by the Cuyahoga County Land Reutilization Corporation, commonly known as the Cuyahoga Land Bank, has completed the distribution of nearly \$41million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) funds - a federal stimulus-funded initiative to stabilize neighborhoods. The Cuyahoga Land Bank was the lead applicant and program manager for a consortium that included the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA).

In 2010, the consortium was awarded nearly \$41 million in HUD’s second round of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP2) funds to be used toward the stabilization of targeted communities in Cuyahoga County. The NSP2 grant awarded to the consortium was one of the largest per capita allocations in the country.

The consortium collaborated to

implement a series of programs and major developments and leveraged millions more in matching funds. Strategic investments in our community via rehabilitation, demolition and land reutilization combat the negative effects of the foreclosure crisis—such as decreases in safety and quality of life, as well as decreases in property values—that has resulted in a multitude of vacant and abandoned properties.

West Creek Opens In Parma


continued from page 1

a multipurpose room, 2 educational classrooms, a research laboratory, a Wi-Fi accessible community research room (called the Confluence Center) and my personal favorite, an interactive topographic map of the Westcreek watershed area that you simply must see to really appreciate!



They say good things are worth waiting for; we have waited a few years for this, and without a doubt it was well worth it. I am going to be so bold as to predict that when the rest of Northern Ohio, the rest of the state, and indeed people through-

out the country hear about this new Metroparks reservation here in Parma and what has been accomplished by way of their goals, people will not only be motivated to come and visit our facility, but they will also be inspired to create similar centers where they live, and this will lead to many positive changes in the way in which people view their natural resources in their communities, and ways that they can utilize in order to effectively preserve our planet for future generations to live in a healthy balance with nature that sustains us all.

Timothy J. ★★★★★
DeGeeter
Mayor of Parma






Happy 4th of July!

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Perspective

The Time Has Come For A Dog Park In Parma

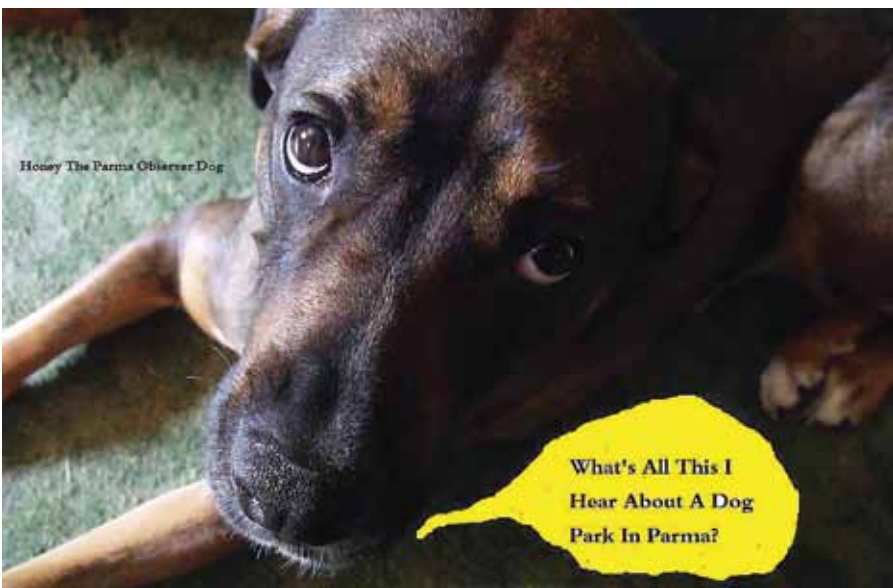
by *Melanie Clink*

The first day of Summer is also the Humane Societies "Take your dog to work day". Why don't we humans and guardians of "Man's best friend" here in Parma make every day "Take your dog to the dog park day"? Dogs loyally wait, standing/sitting at windows, in garages, backyards, basements, in kitchens, etc. to share with the most important thing on their little devoted minds- YOU, their companion and friend. They wait for you! Give them a night out with their buddies; it can also be a night out for you to share your day with other hard working dog owners like youself.

Parma, I believe, is just beginning to boom. Being the 7th. largest city in Ohio, we should take steps to show off how mature, intelligent, responsible and humane we are by clearing all of the hurdles and instituting the first dog park here. Let's do this to help make Parma a more personal and "down to earth"

city. I was walking in the Metroparks the other day, and I met a man walking his Boston Terrier. He suggested that the Metroparks start a dog park, possibly in the Snow Road Picnic area, near the pavillion. The Metroparks use our taxes to maintain a bridle path for just a few horses- why can't they find the funds to accommodate a much larger number of wound-up dogs and their equally stressed-out overworked owners?

An area by Tri-C West has been suggested as a site, but some feel, and I agree, that this is an area devoted to education, and besides, it is way off of the center of Parma. I also often walk past the closed James E. Hanna School, and I can't help noticing an enormous amount of wasted property there in a more centered area of Parma. There is enough space that a large and a small dog park could occupy it. Signs can be posted informing people that they enter "at their own risk", Owners can bring their own bags for waste, as they do in the Metroparks, along with water, treats, etc. Dogs in heat would not be allowed. The park could close at 9:00 p.m. Trees and bushes could be planted, giving the park a more environmentally friendly atmosphere and providing a barrier to nearby properties. There is already a community garden at James E Hanna School, so this could compliment their effort to attract more civic involvement and re-purpose the facility; I feel that more people will become involved once



What's all this I hear about a dog park in Parma?

they view it.

I know a lot of dog lovers, as do we all. Many people are unemployed. Volunteers would be plentiful. Dogs bring people together, I know- years ago I found that special dog. Virgil Caine was his name, and I found him in the middle of the Metroparks near Royal-

ton Road, where someone had dumped him, and he literally changed my life. I think a dog park would change life everywhere here in Parma; it's been a big success in Lakewood. It would be just like taking a child to the park. It is so very rewarding to see them play, and again, "let dogs be dogs".

Call To Artists!

by *Kathryn Mabin*

Old World Parma, also known as Polish Village has FLAMINGO FEVER. What is FLAMINGO FEVER you ask? FLAMINGO FEVER is a public art exhibition sponsored by Old World Parma/Polish Village. Artists as well as local citizens will have the opportunity to apply their talent and creativity to a simple flamingo sculpture to create an assortment of unique public art pieces.

Why FLAMINGOS? A number of years ago local TV personalities poked fun at Parma, with their gazing balls and pink flamingos adorning their manicured lawns. We say embrace the satire with arms wide open! So... Flamingos it is! Artists are asked to decorate the flamboyant feathered creatures that continue to decorate our lawns, turning them into the artistic beauties they so long to be.

Local businesses will be asked to participate by displaying the fantastically adorned lovelies. They will vie for the opportunity to choose the Pink Beauty of their choice to display prominently in their establishments. Flamingos will be on display at various locations throughout the city. A map will be created so visitors and residents alike will be able to ooh and ahh at the lovely, fantastically beautiful, flamboyant flamingos as an enticement to the culmination of the festivities at a FLAMINGO FEVER Auction/Banquet in the fall.

For more information, or to download your Artists Application head to www.polishvillageparma.com and search under Projects for FLAMINGO FEVER.

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Parma Observer

July Sparkles; August Sizzles!

by Ruth Revecky

July begins with the celebration of IndependenceDay on the 4th of the month.

We have been celebrating this event since 1776!

What do Americans do on the 4th of July? Why, They have family gatherings and cookouts.

Hot dogs and hamburgers brown on the grills.

Picnic tables are loaded with potato salad, Baked beans, pickles and relish and soft Sandwich buns; children munch on salty, crisp

Potato chips along with a glass of cool lemonade.

After feasting, everybody relaxes, only to gain

Strength for a day of games that usually include

Swimming and diving.

After dark, families drive to see the display of

Fireworks; then it's home to bed and a good Night's rest!

July 9th marks the first day of Ramadan.

The month of July can be hot, hot, hot; August usually sizzles, sizzles, sizzles! It's just the same old, same old, folks!

Even though August has no calendar Holidays, it's a busy month for everybody. Some folks drive to distant locations Throughout our nation, seeing many beautiful

Sights that are found in our fifty states; north,

South, east and west—beauty and wonders Surround us.

Mountains, grassy plains, forests, lakes And winding rivers appear before our eyes.

Not all families take vacations away from Home; much enjoyment can be found Not far away; national parks, state parks And metropolitan parks are nearby. Swimming pools checker the area. Families enjoy hiking, cheering at Baseball games and taking weekend trips. But when August 31st rolls around, so Do school bells sound!

Summer is almost over; autumn is just Around the corner—so, let's just go with The flow!

Parma Resident Produces Local Hit - Made In Cleveland

continuedfrom page 7

ory of a long-lost love (“Corned Beef and Mamie O’Rourke”), a desperate man employing his friends in a zany scheme to meet the girl of his dreams (“Wingmen”), and a young couple in a library who creatively use book titles to express their affection for one another (“Book of Love”).

Book of Love, in particular, is sure to be popular with audiences in this delightful collection of stories. It features a romantic lothario attempting to charm the girl of his dreams by dazzling her with his wit and creativity. “I love how the protagonist in this vignette attempts to express his love in a sweet, unconventional way,” says Pengryn. It has yet to be seen if any library can truly silence the expressions of love and affection as seen in this film.

If the sold out world premier of Made In Cleveland is any indicator, this film appears to have garnered some well-deserved buzz in various publica-

tions and is set to make waves in the indie filmmaking world. It also does much to showcase the amazing talent that Cleveland possesses at a time when numerous blockbuster films such as The Avengers, Captain America 2: The Winter Soldier, and Draft Day are being filmed in the Greater Cleveland area.

No doubt about it - this talented dynamic duo of Pengryn and Swinderman, along with the cast and crew they have employed, are taking Cleveland filmmaking to the next level with their latest high-quality offering – Made in Cleveland. Each new project they work on is better than the last and all indications suggest that this will continue to be the case into the foreseeable future. The limited theatrical release starts on Friday, June 21st at all North Eastern Ohio Atlas Cinemas.

To learn more about Made in Cleveland, check out the website madeinclevelandmovie.com. To follow the latest developments for Made In Cleveland, check out facebook.com/madeinclevelandmovie.



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Patent Pending

15 Million Dollar Upgrade Is Completed

by Jeff Kraus

Dan Schoewe has heard the question many times. “When can we recycle products Nos. 1 through 7?” The question regarding plastic recycling has been asked for years and now Schoewe, who has served as manager of Republic Services’ Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility since 2006, can happily report that plastics Nos. 1 through 7 can be recycled. The reason is because the Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility has recently completed a major expansion project designed to better serve Greater Cleveland and the State of Ohio. This recycling center expansion means Parma residents can now recycle additional plastic items beyond just Nos. 1 and 2. Plastics such as yogurt containers, disposal cups, vegetable oil bottles, packaging containers, food storage containers, plastic table wear, and large water bottles can now be included with recyclables.

The \$15 million upgrade of the 50,000 square foot material recovery facility in Oberlin, Ohio, was completed in spring 2013. This upgrade allows the facility to increase the volume processed to 150,000 tons per year, nearly triple the previous capacity. “Through expansion and redesign, our facility uses advanced sorting equipment to identify and separate materials, increasing efficiency and maximizing recycling efforts,” said Eric VanHouten, general manager of Republic’s Elyria Business

Unit. “The renovation shows Republic’s dedication to our local environmental efforts and has allowed us to enhance and grow the recycling efforts made by our customers.”

All technology in the facility has been updated. Custom-engineered conveyors, separation screens, magnets, optical sorters and balers have been designed to convey, separate and recover the residential material picked up in surrounding counties such as Cuyahoga County. In addition,



a 12,000 square foot expansion has added more warehouse space.

In addition to recycling plastics Nos. 1 through 7, the expanded facility now recycles food and beverage cartons. That means items such as milk cartons and juice cartons can now be recycled. Paper products (newspaper, junk mail, magazines), cardboard, glass, aluminum and steel are also accepted. The new system at the Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility produces less than 10 percent residual waste, keeping more waste out of the landfill.

The Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility ultimately produces separated products in five categories: paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal. Some of these products are sent to local manufacturers in Ohio and nearby Michigan. The Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility, which opened in 1992, receives and sorts commercial and residential materials from five counties in the Northeast Ohio region, with a large portion of customers in Cuyahoga County.

Parma Residents Can Visit

The Lorain County Resource Recovery Facility and Landfill are available for public tours. Over the years, many school and community groups have visited. To learn more about touring the facilities, contact Area Community Relations Manager Jeff Kraus at jkraus@republicservices.com or contact us today at 1-800-433-1309. To learn more about Republic, visit republicservices.com.

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*We’ve just opened our state-of-the-art, newly expanded Recycling Center in Oberlin (pictured to the right) that serves Parma and can now accept #1-7 plastics and food & beverage cartons.



*Bulk collection weeks are scheduled each month. Bulk items such as household furniture, appliances, and various unwanted household items can be placed at the curb on your regular collection day.

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