

"I must follow the people. Am I not their leader?" - Benjamin Disraeli

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Friends Of Parma Theater Continue Their Effort

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Shortly after the Parma Theater closed the doors in 2012, at a meeting in Ward 2 we formed our group, Friends of Parma Theater. Our immediate goal was to meet the challenge of saving the building that housed this Parma institution, but we soon came to the conclusion that this sad event actually presented a significant opportunity. What we realized is that while Parma

is a wonderful city that we all love and cherish, there are a few things that if Parma only had, would represent an outstanding improvement. One of these is an Arts District, and we unanimously came to the conclusion that the Parma Theater, if it were to be re-purposed as a multi-use facility serving diverse community needs, would indeed function as an ideal hub in a wheel of an artistic development initiative

in Polish Village, one of the most walkable neighborhoods in Parma.

Our reason for feeling that the addition of an Arts District in Parma is a good idea was based on what we have seen as we looked around the Greater Cleveland Area at other communities and neighborhoods that have embraced Arts and Entertainment and are experiencing the cultural and economic benefits that occurred as a result. Another fact which we have discovered is that there are a great many artists living in Parma, but since the city is so very large at more than 20 square miles, the opportunity for them to gather in a centralized area where artists and the purveyors of art can congregate and share their ideas and work simply does not exist.

Since the formation of the Friends of Parma Theater, we have been contacted by a vast number of individuals who, at one time or another, have lived in this community and called Parma home, but no longer dwell here, or for that matter, anywhere near the state of Ohio. Some even live in other countries. We call these Parma residents who have moved on but still love Parma the "Global Parma Community." There is a saying that absence makes the heart grow fonder and this seems to be the case with these folks; almost always they express their fondest memories of living and often growing up here. They consistently urge us to continue our effort to preserve Parma's heritage in a way that honors the past and carries us into the future at the same time. They all agree that the idea of pre-

serving and re-purposing the Parma Theater makes perfect sense and many say that they only wish they were here now to help us personally achieve that goal.

Many current Parma residents feel that while having an Arts District would be a good thing for Parma, using tax dollars to support it is not necessarily worth it. To these good people I often point out that we already do just that. In

2006, Cuyahoga County voters decided to levy a 30 cent per pack tax on cigarettes to be used for arts funding. Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the county agency responsible for collecting and distributing the money from this tax, estimates that between 15-20 million dollars per year is generated. We don't have accurate figures on just how much

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UH Parma's Home Health Named To Nation's HomeCare Elite™

by CJ Sheppard

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center's Home Care has been named a Top Agency of the 2014 HomeCare Elite™, a recognition of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. Now in its ninth year, the HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25 percent of Medicare-certified agencies and highlights the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall.

Winners are ranked by an analysis of publicly available performance measures in quality outcomes, best practice (process measure) implementation, patient experience (Home Health CAHPS®), quality improvement and consistency, and financial performance. In order to be considered, an agency must be Medicare-certified and have data for at least one outcome in Home Health Compare. Out of 9,994 agencies considered, 2,501 are elite.

"The 2014 HomeCare Elite winners demonstrate a commitment to providing high quality care in their home health communities and we recognize them for their remarkable achievements," said Mary Oakes, Senior Vice President of Post-Acute at National Research. "We congratulate UH Parma Medical Center's Home Health Services on being recognized as a top home care agency."

Patricia Macatangay, manager of UH Parma Medical Center's Home Care, said the personalized patient experience patients come to expect while in the hospital at UH

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Parma Holiday Lights Contest Is On Again This Year



Last year's winner at 10700 Sharon Drive.

by Jeannie Roberts

The City of Parma will conduct its Holiday Lights contest again this year. Hundreds of residents voted last year, and the contest continues to grow. This year rules (see below) have changed slightly. The entire process – nominating and voting – is left up to residents. The process, from nominations to announcing the winners, will take the entire month of December. Winners are

expected to be announced on Dec. 31.

Last year's winner was 10700 Sharon Drive in Ward One.

Here's how to participate this year:

City of Parma Holiday Lights Contest – Official Rules

1. Beginning Dec. 1, until Dec. 15, any home in the Parma City limits can be nominated by any person. Nominations can be sent by e-mail to HolidayLights@cityofparma-oh.gov, by U.S. mail to Holiday Lights Contest, 6611 Ridge Road, Parma, OH, 44129 or dropped into a ballot box at City Hall.

2. On Dec. 17, the top two vote-getters in each of Parma's nine wards, plus the next 12-highest nominated properties regardless of Ward

The award is sponsored by OCS HomeCare by National

Parma Mayor Names Citizen, Business Of The Month



Coletta Sedor is surrounded by family as she accepts the honor of being named Citizen of the Month. Go to page 7 to read the story and see more!

continued on page 2



Community News

The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

Recently, I was contacted by Kelly Cooper to give a talk about local government at Valley Forge High School to students enrolled in the Parma City Schools' Adult Basic and Literacy Education (A.B.L.E.) program. This empowering program includes Ohio GED® Preparation, Basic Skills Enrichment, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Because I was so moved by my involvement in the program, I want to laud it to the community in this month's column in hopes that it may inspire you to make others aware of the program and/or to get involved yourself.

Truth be told, this was my second time speaking to the A.B.L.E. students. The last time was about four years ago. I found both of my experiences very moving. I am so proud of the students involved in the G.E.D. program. For instance, after speaking to one single mother of five, I came to understand how difficult seeking an education under circumstances like hers can be. I applauded her for her courage and determination. She reminded me of



*Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President*

my mom who struggled to raise two kids on her own. She explained how much she appreciated her teachers and is proud of the fact that she has gone "from two-plus-two to doing algebra in only six weeks, thanks to them." She is clearly on her way to gainful employment and a better life for her family.

At the same time, I was so honored to speak to folks from North and South America, Asia, Europe, and Africa – most of whom live in Parma – enrolled in the ESOL program. It really brought home for me how our immigrant population is growing in our community. The students came from a multitude of countries, including Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Burkina Faso, China, South Korea, Vietnam, India, etc. They are all seeking not only better English skills, but also the hope of achieving the American dream.

I was impressed with the knowledge base of many of those in the audience. Few of my questions about American government at every level went unanswered by the crowd. After my talk came their questions. Needless to say, it was a nice challenge, as their questions



Sean Brennan with Kelly Cooper and students in the A.B.L.E. GED and ESOL program.

UH Parma's Home Health Named To Nation's HomeCare Elite™

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Parma extends to their Home Care experience.

"We also have a very experienced nursing staff, many of whom spent years in inpatient care, and they educate our patients at home to ensure maximum healing and safety so they can continue living independently," Macatangay says.

Decision Health says this recognition is particularly important in today's healthcare ecosystem.

"HomeCare Elite recognition is a significant acknowledgement. In

today's healthcare ecosystem, it is imperative that our seniors have access to quality home healthcare in order to ensure better patient outcomes and improve overall cost, and therefore, home healthcare continues to remain an integral part of the care continuum.

were like a grilling from the media and included topics like recreation centers, the deer issue, economic development, and the future of Parma, among others.

The one question that a student asked which I continue to contemplate is, "What is the importance of the A.B.L.E. program to the community?" I explained that an educated public is the key to a successful community. Northeast Ohio, until recently, was suffering from a brain drain. This has clearly had a negative impact on our region. Educated residents open businesses and attract and keep other businesses here. This translates into higher incomes, the ability to own and maintain a home and pay taxes, which translates into stable neighborhoods and property values, excellent city services, etc. Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This is so true on both a macro and micro level. By providing important skills to those in need, the GED and ESOL programs are certainly doing their part to help individuals, our community, our region, and beyond.

I tip my hat to Ms. Cooper, Stephanie Schab, Debbie Holley, Cass Bean, Mathew Peters, and Luba Mudri for their dedication to the GED and ESOL classes. Thank you for all that you do to assist your students in gaining the skills they need to achieve their dreams, including better jobs and a better quality of life.

I am hopeful that this column will encourage everyone who reads it to help spread the word about the A.B.L.E. program. No doubt, there are many who could benefit in the community and may not be aware of these free services. Please check out and share their website at www.parmacityschools.org/adulted. More information can also be obtained by phone at (440) 885-8797. The website includes information about the upcoming winter 2015 GED and ESOL classes beginning in January. Please Like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/parmaadulted.

facebook.com/parmaadulted and Follow them on Twitter @ParmaAdultEd

Prior to leaving Valley Forge High, my message to the group was that we are a nation of immigrants, including my own family, and that immigrants are what have made and continue to make America strong. I want to thank all of the students for listening to my talk, as well as for the teachers of the courses for asking me to come. I am hopeful that my time with them helped them all in at least some small way. Keep up the great work! God bless America!



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Health/Culture

UH Neurological Institute Expands To Parma

by CJ Sheppard

Patients in the southwest and central suburbs of Cuyahoga County now have access not only to the Joint Commission-certified Primary Stroke Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, but the extensive services of the University Hospitals Neurological Institute – ranked among the best neurology/neurosurgery programs in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

The UH Neurological Institute's multidisciplinary team of neurosurgeons and neurological specialists provides a full spectrum of services to promote, protect and restore brain health for a wide variety of diagnoses, including brain tumors, epilepsy, stroke and other cerebrovascular disorders, spine and pain disorders, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and more. As Northeast Ohio's first Joint Commission-certified Comprehensive Stroke Center, the UH Neurological Institute gives Parma-area patients access to nationally renowned and experienced stroke specialists.

"Having the resources of the UH Neurological Institute at Parma is a real plus for our patients," says John Andrefsky, MD, Medical Director of Neurology at UH Parma Medical



UH Parma Medical Center's team approach to stroke care begins in the field. Stroke Medical Director John Andrefsky, MD, has met personally with area emergency medical responders throughout the region to inform them of the medical center's enhanced stroke protocols.

Center. "This association allows the expertise of the UH Neurological Institute to be brought locally to Parma."

Access to the region's leading stroke specialists is critical for area residents when every second counts. Strokes are the main cause of serious, long-term disability in the nation. Over the summer, Dr. Andrefsky held 19 meetings with emergency medical

responders throughout the region to inform them of UH Parma Medical Center's enhanced stroke protocols. The team approach begins in the community, when EMS responds to 9-1-1 calls and alerts the hospital of an incoming stroke patient, expediting lab and radiology testing. This heightened response, and UH Parma Medical Center's ability to administer clot-busting

tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) in the Emergency Department, has resulted in more stroke patients receiving treatment locally.

Earlier this year, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association recognized UH Parma Medical Center with its Get with the Guidelines – Stroke Gold-Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award salutes UH Parma Medical Center for its rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke, public education about risk factors, and frequent community stroke screenings and forums.

"Our patients will benefit from the advanced neurological expertise afforded by the arrival of the UH Neurological Institute at UH Parma Medical," said Nancy Tinsley, RN, MBA, FACHE, President of UH Parma Medical Center and former Vice President of the UH Neurological Institute. "In addition to care for acute stroke, the UH Neurological Institute has expertise with seizure disorders, headache care, sleep disorders, and many other complex neurological diagnoses. We are pleased that our patients are seeing tangible ways that the integration with UH has improved their lives."

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Asset Corner #60

by Gene Lovasy

December's Asset Category: CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF TIME

Help kids find activities that make **CONSTRUCTIVE USE OF their TIME**. All kids need access to quality programs and activities that enrich their lives, develop their talents and interests, and help them develop healthy relationships. These can include: music, drama and other arts, sports and hobbies, and involvement in a church, synagogue, temple, or other religious community. It's also important that they spend time at home.

Constructive Use of Time Assets include:

#17 Creative Activites – Kids spend 3 or more hours/week in lessons or practice in music, theater or other arts. (21%*)

#18 Youth Programs – Kids spend 3 or more hours/week in sports, clubs or organizations at school and/or in the community. (57%*)

#19 Religious Community – Kids spend one or more hours/week in activities in a religious institution. (58%*)

#20 Time at Home – Kids are out w/friends "with nothing special to do" 2 or fewer nights per 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.)

This column's focus will be on... Asset #19 – Religious Community

Meeting the needs of the spirit

Young people involved in a faith community benefit in at least three ways: 1. They are more likely to have positive values; 2. They have strong bonds with people of different ages and interests; and 3. They spend less time experimenting with risky behaviors than those not involved in such a community.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who spend at least one hour a week involved in activities within a faith-based organization are more likely to: provide service to others, enjoy youth programs, follow and

provide positive peer influence, and exercise restraint when it comes to risky behaviors. About 58 percent of young people, ages 11–18, spend one or more hours a week in activities in a religious institution, according to Search Institute surveys. Providing a place for spiritual growth and exploration could help reduce violence, alcohol and other drug use, and sexual activity among young people.

Tips for building this asset

Faith-based organizations strongly emphasize their ideas of positive values. It's important for parents to choose carefully. When you find a faith community that supports your family's values, your kids are more likely to internalize these values and make responsible decisions. Visit various faith-based organizations and include your children in decisions about how and where to be involved. If you're already part of a faith community, welcome new parents and young people into your organization.

Also try this

In your home and family: Include faith and spirituality into your family's daily life. Choose ways that best fit with your values, traditions, and culture.

In your neighborhood and community: Become an active member of a faith community and help promote the well-being of young people in your community.

In your school or youth program: Avoid scheduling events that conflict with families' spiritual or cultural commitments. Use a community calendar of events to help with your planning. If your community doesn't have such a calendar, consider creating one.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

The Collab's monthly Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, December 11th. Also, call the Collab at (440) 887-4873 by Dec 9th to get in on adopting a family for the holidays. Community response has been great but there are still over 50 kids that you can help by participating in this program.

Find out more about how you can volunteer and/or become more engaged in the education of our kids

by calling the office of Family and Community Engagement at (440) 842-7022. Opportunities abound and your time, talent, and ideas would be appreciated.

- If you have a child attending a district elementary or middle school then chances are that school's business partner hosted a Sunday Bar this past month at which a good percentage of students were recognized for their 1st quarter academic achievements. Thank you to those participating businesses/organizations and congratulations to all those kids so recognized. If you'd like to get involved and/or learn more about this unique program, call the district's main number: (440) 842-5300 and ask for Kristen Plageman or Erin Gadd, CBS Co-facilitators.

- A really great "feel-good," community-wide volunteer opportunity for anyone 16 years of age or older is being planned for June 22–26, 2015. For a hint about this project benefiting our special needs kids visit www.icanshine.org and watch for more information coming soon.

- The Fourth Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive on behalf of All Faith Pantry will begin December 1st and will run until the end of the year. Contact Sean Brennan, President of Parma Council for more details. Council office is (440) 885-8091. Drop off locations will be the Hospital, Parma Libraries, City Hall the Chamber office. Call first to make sure the office is staffed – (440) 843-1700.

- The enrollment period for coverage effective 2015 is now open, but will end on February 15, 2015. If your group is looking to host an enrollment event or if you or if you know of anyone having questions re: the federal health insurance program (Obamacare) or about Ohio Medicaid, visit Parma Health Ministry's web site at www.parmahealthministry.org or phone: (440) 843-8087. Their Health Care Navigator should be able to help.

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.

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Act the way you want to be and soon you will be the way you act.

Big mouthfuls often choke the swallower.

Bring your best to the moment.

Conscience is the compass of the soul.

Convert challenging situations into learning opportunities.

Do not wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Freedom without moral commitment is aimless and promptly self-destructive.

Generally, we praise only to be praised.

Get rich quick: count your blessings.

Hatred causes destruction; love causes construction.

I grumbled because I had no shoes until I met a person who had no feet.

If people do their best, no more is required.

If you wait until you are really sure, you will never take off the training wheels.

It is not the person who has little that is poor; it is he who desires more.

Let a man behave in his own house as a guest.

Let go of those expectations created by what society demands.

Live, almost, like you were dying. Everyone actually is.

Many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are.

Men—their rights and nothing more; women—their rights and nothing less.

Most people wish to serve God, but only in an advisory capacity.

Negative feelings “stuffed” alive never die.

None knows the weight of another's burden.

Sincerity is the highest compliment one can pay.

The harder it is for us to forgive, the further we are from true love.

The more “stuff” we have in our life, the less room there is for God's influence.

There are two kinds of complainers: men and women.

There is not one life flavor that suits every taste.

They that fall in love with themselves will have no rivals.

Those that know and know that they know are wise. Follow them.

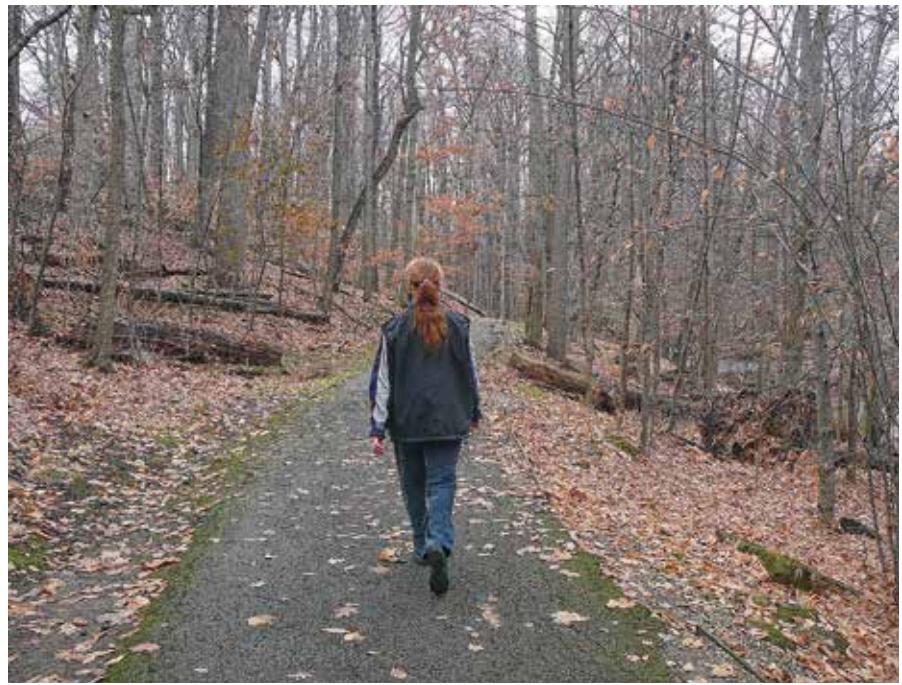
Those who cannot endure the bad will not live to see the good.

Those who deserve love the least need it the most.

Vanquish an angry person by gentleness.

What cannot be altered must be borne, not blamed.

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?



I walk.

I Walk

by Melanie Clink

When it seem I've
been cruel, phony or cold
My mind replays
conversations of yesterdays kind
When it seems no love
is to be found on the Earth.
And it matters too much
if I'm noticed or not
When I care about someone
but hide it away
It seems like my friends
don't want me to stay
When i had all this love to share
but, there is no one around
My thoughts are one big mess
in my mind
The days never end
'cause the nights just blend in
And I realize I haven't
been sleeping at all

Prayer seems to be
a helpless plea between thoughts
I begin to think my identity
is somehow lost
When I think too much about
the way things should be
My brothers and sisters
they all disagree
and we just can't be one
and at peace with each other
Time slipped away
things don't piece together
And I don't know where I stand
with the people I love
So I go into silence
and lose a few friends
I don't feel strong enough to
hold a stare in defense
when it all runs together
and, I can't seem to feel...
I walk.

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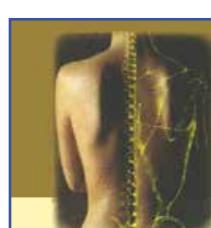
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Our Neighborhoods

Parma Mayor Names Citizen, Business Of The Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Coletta Sedor, 88 years young, was honored as the Mayor's Citizen of the Month for November. Coletta was honored for "her faithful service and dedication to her family, neighborhood, and her legacy in all things Parma." She has been married to Henry, 93, for 58 years. She and Henry raised five daughters: Virginia, Cynthia, Karen, Sandra, and Kelly, all of whom attended Parma City Schools. Henry and Coletta are the proud grandparents of twelve and great-grandparents of five. Coletta worked at Parma Community General Hospital for many years in the old grill and snack bar. She was born, raised, and continues to live in the same house in Parma - a house that is known for its immaculate yard and lush gardens. Coletta was well-supported at a recent City Council meeting, bringing 13 family members with her.

The Mayor's Business of the Month for November was particularly popular as well. The Wendy's at 6970 Ridge Road, managed by Sue Donnellan, was nominated by seven different people. The restaurant was repeatedly called out for its superior customer service, for being kept very clean, and for being very accommodating and helpful. Several seniors and mothers of



Sue Donnellan, who manages the Wendy's at 6970 Ridge Road, accepts the Mayor's Business of the Month award on behalf of the restaurant's behalf.

small children commented about how this restaurant's staff went above and beyond to be helpful. This Wendy's has also been particularly supportive of Parma schools and charitable causes. Manager Donnellan came to a recent City Council to receive the honor on behalf of the business.

If you'd like to nominate a Citizen or Business of the Month, please visit www.CityofParma-oh.gov and click on the nomination forms in the Community Highlights box.

Robert Oravec Receives The Order Of Towman Award

by Laura Oravec

At the 26th annual American Towman Exposition in Baltimore, Maryland, Robert Oravec received the Order of Towman Award the night of November 22nd. The Order of Towman is awarded to tow truck drivers for their professionalism and dedication to the towing trade and the community they serve. The Police Chief of Parma Heights, Daniel Teel, nominated Robert Oravec in writing for showing "extreme dedication to the towing trade and the community." By Robert accepting The Order, he joined an elite legion of dedicated towing and recovery professionals from around the nation.

The award to Robert meant that he is one of the few, elite towman who have been recognized by the community for their hard work. The award is an honor for him and he is proud that Police Chief Daniel Teel honored him with such kind words and saw his dedication to the trade. He will continue to serve his community with the same dedication that he has for his whole towing career.

Robert is the towing manager at Sirl's Automotive and has worked there for 37 years. This year, the company celebrated its 100th anniversary and is the second oldest towing company in the United States. The company is proud that one of its crew was awarded



Robert Oravec after receiving the Order of Towman Award.

with such a high honor and is now among one of the select few to have been awarded The Order.

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Perspective

Government Bureaucrats Making Health Care Decisions

by Lee Kamps

Twenty years ago, in 1994, when the Clinton health care reform plan was being debated among Americans, opponents of the Clinton plan campaigned that should that reform plan pass, we could have government bureaucrats making health care decisions instead of the individual. Now, twenty years later, that is what will be happening in Ohio beginning in January.

Three years ago, someone proposed a "demonstration project" in managed care for a segment of the population that qualified for both Medicare and Medicaid. This is a rather small segment of the population, often referred to as "dual eligible." These people are either over age 65 or have been on social security disability for two years or longer and have income low enough to qualify for Medicaid.

Dual eligibles are generally among the most vulnerable people in society. Not only are those who are dual eligible elderly or disabled; they are also poor. Many have serious mental problems whether it is severe mental illness or retardation or autism. Most people who fall into this category are poorly educated and barely literate.

For more than seven years, I have been working as a representative serving this dual eligible population. As a licensed insurance agent, I must complete 24 hours of continuing education

every two years to maintain my insurance license. In addition, in order for me to offer health insurance plans to this population, I must be certified annually by CMS (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services), the government agency that administers Medicare and Medicaid. I must also be certified with all the companies and plans that I intend to offer to the public. I must also adhere to a strict code of ethical practice as well as a host of regulations governing my marketing activities.

I have been marketing "special needs" plans offered by insurance companies that coordinate Medicare and Medicaid for the individual who is dual eligible. These plans offer a host of benefits, including transportation to medical appointments, over the counter health care products as well as other services such as case management of chronic illnesses and care coordination between the doctors, pharmacists, and other medical providers serving the patient. These plans are also organized as HMOs and require that the person enrolled in the plan to use only medical providers who are participating with the plan. If one enrolled in a special needs plan goes to a doctor who is not participating with the plan, they are responsible for the entire bill. Enrollment in such plans is completely voluntary and the enrollment period is continuous all year.

When I enroll someone in a special needs plan, I am careful to make sure that the doctors that person is seeing are participating in the plan. I am also careful to make sure that their pharmacy also participates and that their drugs and medications are covered as well. When I present a plan to a proposed client, I also make sure that the person understands how the plan works. If that person has an authorized representative who makes health care decisions for them, I must talk to that person as well.

Despite my best efforts, I am not perfect. But over the seven years I have been working with dual eligibles, more than 95% of those who I have enrolled in those plans have remained in those plans.

This demonstration project, called MyCare Ohio got off the ground in selected Ohio counties beginning last spring. Cuyahoga County is one of those counties. When this program was rolled out last spring, agents were frozen out of the program entirely. The MyCare plan requires those who are dual eligible to select one of three approved plans in Cuyahoga County unless they voluntarily opt out of the program. If those who are eligible for this MyCare program do not opt out by December 31, then on January 1, they will be assigned to one of those three plans.

Even if those who are already enrolled in a special needs plan that has worked fine for them and includes all their doctors, they will be forced into another plan. The people in charge of performing this "passive enrollment" on January 1, 2015 are employees of the Department of Job and Family Services; government bureaucrats who are unlicensed, untrained, and uncertified in the plans involved. What determines which plan someone will be assigned will be computer algorithms. Seriously, a computer along with a bureaucrat who does not understand these plans and has never met the individuals affected will be making their health care choices.

Yet, beginning in January, government bureaucrats who are not required to be licensed or certified will be facilitating enrollments in this MyCare plan that may not have the doctors the individuals use nor will cover their drugs. They will not be able to explain the plan or deal with authorized representatives either. When similar projects have been attempted in other states, the results have been very bad. In California, it was so bad that so many people wanted out of the plan that the entire system crashed.

This is another example of a government program designed with all good intentions, yet fails miserably in execution. It is only a matter of time before this MyCare Ohio program collapses. It can be prevented if those in charge come to their senses and end this passive enrollment where government bureaucrats are making health care decisions for people who do not understand what is being done.

Friends Of Parma Theater Continue Their Effort

continued from page 1

money is contributed from Parma alone which makes up the 15-20 million, but I'm sure that it is no small amount. We are fairly certain about the amount of money from this fund which flows back to Parma through the arts oriented institutions in our city; as far as we know, that number is zero. Because Parma presently is by and large devoid of entities that can or do apply for grants and funding from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, we seem to be engaging in a sort of voluntary taxation without representation here. We intend to change that situation in a big way and we remain convinced that a restored, re-purposed Parma Theater in one

of the most walkable neighborhoods of Parma will be a major step in that direction.

A vibrant Arts District with all of the ancillary benefits associated with it will serve as an ideal magnet that attracts artists and patrons of the arts, as well as people from all over our region seeking a wide range of entertainment which the theater will host on a regular basis. We also feel that as this project grows in stature, it will spur additional investment in our city, which in turn will add much needed revenue to our treasury, and convince prospective home buyers that Parma is indeed an ideal place to buy a home and enjoy life while perhaps raising a family. Parma is the seventh largest city in

Ohio, yet seems to have no private art galleries to speak of. Some may suggest that this reflects a general lack of interest in the arts; we feel, however, that rather than rejecting art, Parma is actually starving for it. If you feel the same way, then by all means, please don't hesitate to join us and add your voices and efforts to help make this a reality, one exciting step at a time.



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Perspective

The Pit Bull Educator: Lesson One - A Dog Is A Dog Is A Dog

by A.J. Blackstone

While trying to decide what to write about in my first lesson, I came across some interesting and chilling statistics. First, there have been 25 more dogs bites reported this year than last year. Second, according to the CDC (Center of Disease Control), nearly 4.5 Million Americans are bitten each year. Half of these are children with 1 in 5 requiring medical attention. It is in learning this that I decided I need to start with teaching people how to be safe around dogs.

Parma City Council seems to think that banning certain breeds they consider dangerous will make us safer. This is a wakeup call. There is an average of seven dog bites reported every month. SEVEN, and not one of them is from a Pit Bull. How are we safer? We are not! The truth is in the statistics. Parma City Council is once again hiding behind its costly, useless, and non-enforceable Breed Specific Legislation. There is discrimination yet again in Parma. But it is not my goal to attack Council or the city. This is not

about them.

My goal is to EDUCATE the residents. Parma is a great city. We, the tax payers of the city, should have the right to choose what breed of dog we are going to love and raise. City council should not be dictating to us what dogs to have or not to have.

This being said, my first lesson is about dog safety. Here are a few basic tips to keep our children safe.

Do not approach unfamiliar dogs.

Do not run around or from a dog and don't scream. Dogs love a good chase.

Be like a tree - no sounds and stand still. You will be boring to a dog.

Do not play with dog unless supervised by a competent adult.

Do not stare at a dog.

Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, or taking care of her puppies.

Do not lean over a dog and pet its head or approach it from the side and pet it under the chin until after allowing it to sniff you first.

If knocked over by a dog, be like

a bug. Curl into a ball and, once again, don't move and make no sounds.

In lesson two, we will discuss what Pit Bulls are and what BSL is. It is my hope that with these lessons I am helping the residents of Parma. City Council, after all, can't really keep you safe against dogs. It is up to each and

every dog owner to be responsible for our dogs and for all residents to know and teach our children how to act around dogs. Yes, accidents do happen - dogs are dogs and they can all bite. Feel free to follow, like, and become a friend of The Pit Bull Educator, A.J. Blackstone, on Facebook.

4th Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive

by John Visnauskas

All Faiths Pantry and Parma City Council President Sean Brennan are happy to announce the 4th Annual Parma Peanut Butter Drive! December 2014 will again hold an opportunity for Parma to unite as a community in support of All Faiths Pantry (AFP) by collecting jars of peanut butter for the home deliveries of groceries that AFP makes 12 months of every year, for 60+ seniors and others with limited mobility living in the Greater Parma area.



This year, the drive will launch at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, December 1st, in Parma City Council Chambers at Parma City Hall, 6611 Ridge Rd. 44129. Peanut butter can be brought to the Council offices throughout December. Checks made payable to AFP can be mailed to Council President Brennan at City Hall. AFP can source peanut butter from the Cleveland Food Bank, at only \$10 for 18 pounds! The launch event will be before the regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Community partners participating this year, where peanut butter will be dropped throughout December, include:

University Hospitals Parma Medical Center

7007 Powers Blvd. 44129

Branches of Cuyahoga County Public Library

6996 Powers Blvd. 44129 and 2121

Snow Rd. 44134

Parma Area Chamber of Commerce inside The Shoppes at Parma 7908 Day Dr. 44129

During the 2nd week of December (7th-13th) these churches will also collect peanut butter this year:

Bethel Temple

12901 W. Pleasant Valley 44130

Parma Park Church of God

12000 Huffman Rd. 44130

Ridgewood United Methodist Church

6330 Ridge Rd. 44129

Trinity Baptist Church SBC

2707 Grantwood Dr. 44134

For info call AFP at (216) 496-4329 or email afpnow@gmail.com

Look for the Parma Peanut Butter Drive page on Facebook!

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PSO Holiday Concert December

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will present a Holiday concert on Sunday, December 7, 2014, at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights.

Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will present: Alexander Wasserman performing, Franz Liszt Piano Concerto #2 in A Major and A Collection of Traditional Holiday Music

The orchestra, in its 46th season consists of 75 members of all walks of life from all over the entire Greater Cleveland area. They meet weekly for rehearsals and present at least four concerts annually.

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

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information, it can be found on Facebook, website www.parmasymphony.org, or by calling Business Manager Joe Germana at (440) 882-2012.

Hailed as a "sensitive and sophis-

ticated artist," pianist Alexander Wasserman is rapidly establishing himself as one of the most engaging performers of his generation. A recent prize winner of the Bauru/Atlanta piano competition, Dr. Wasserman maintains an active concert schedule, with recent recital performances in the cities of Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, La Jolla, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Santa Barbara, and Washington, D.C. His performances are frequently broadcast on television and classical radio stations throughout the country.

As a concerto soloist, Dr. Wasserman has appeared with the Thousand Oaks Philharmonic (CA), the New Valley Symphony (CA), the Suburban Symphony (OH), The Santa Barbara Choral Society and Orchestra (CA), and the Parma Symphony (OH) in concertos by Beethoven, Liszt, Grieg, Rachmaninov, and Tchaikovsky. This season includes performances of Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major with the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra (GA), and the Parma Symphony. As an orchestra pianist, Dr. Wasserman appeared as a member of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music Orchestra under the direction of Marin Alsop in the summer of 2014. As a cham-

ber musician, he frequently collaborates with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared as guest pianist with the Atlanta Chamber Players. A recent performance of Schubert's "Trout" quintet with the Atlanta Chamber Players resulted in immediate re-engagement for the Brahms Piano Trio in C Major. As a guest artist for the Atlanta Symphony's "pre-concert chamber series," Dr. Wasserman was featured on stage at Atlanta Symphony Hall in a performance of Loeffler's "Two Rhapsodies" for Viola, Oboe, and Piano with Atlanta Symphony Principal Oboist, Elizabeth Koch-Tiscione, and Violist, Jessica Oudin. He has since been invited back to perform on the 2014-15 Atlanta Symphony pre-concert chamber music series.

Equally dedicated to the education of emerging talent, Dr. Wasserman is the recently appointed Artist-in-Residence at Reinhardt University (GA). He also served as Professor of Piano at Youngstown State University (OH) shortly before his move to Atlanta. He has given master classes at University of St. Thomas (MN), Westmont College (CA), Cleveland Music School Settlement (OH), Youngstown State University (OH), Kennesaw State University (GA), and Reinhardt University



(GA). Alexander Wasserman, a native of Los Angeles, began formal piano studies with Suzanne Julian. He went on to receive degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music (BM), the Cleveland Institute of Music (MM), and the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University (GPD). Most recently, he completed the prestigious Doctor of Musical Arts program in Piano Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. His primary teachers include Antonio Pompa-Baldi, Yong-Hi Moon, Daniel Shapiro, and Antoinette Perry. Additional study with Paul Schenly and Sergei Babayan has also been of primary influence. Dr. Wasserman currently resides in Atlanta, GA with his wife, Jessica Oudin, a member of the Atlanta Symphony viola section.

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The Parma Art Scene

Artist Of The Month Jane Zampedro

by Kathryn Mabin

Jane Zampedro grew up on a farm in Colorado. Besides the many chores, caring for horses, sheep, geese, and garden duties, she belonged to the 4-H Club, took dance and piano lessons, and learned to sew. Her aunt encouraged her artistic abilities by providing her with her first Prang Watercolor set of paints. While attending Colorado State University, she met and married her husband Leo. Jane tells me she even created her own wedding gown.

Jane and Leo moved to Parma in 1969 when Leo became the PGA Golf Pro for Ridgewood Golf Course. They settled in Parma and raised their family, Tony, Dominic, and Carla. Jane said Parma is a wonderful community to raise a family.

Jane has been a member of Parma Area Fine Arts Council, or PAFAC, for 40 years. PAFAC is an all volunteer organization that has served the community for over 50 years. Jane has held positions on the executive board in all the various capacities at one time or another, and



Woodcarving by Jane Zampedro.

currently is the Vice President. She is a multi-talented artist, working in many mediums, and has won many awards and ribbons for her work. She also was a watercolor instructor for 17 years and volunteered along with her children and grandchildren, participating in just about every show and event. Jane said she really enjoyed the fact that PAFAC has played a predominant role in her life. She spoke about how her grandchildren loved participating in the children's classes, and especially looked forward to the annual side walk chalk event. Through PAFAC she has met a large number of very talented artists and took painting instruction from Betty Clark, Windsor Chen, Fred Leach, Niki Lanzi,



Watercolor by Jane Zampedro.

James Seward, Ann Fassinger, Emery Bogardy, and Michelle Baran to name a few. She has also studied under Master Woodcarver Stan Starry Jr., jewelry maker and designer Debra Newell, and Free Form Clay Artist Terese Stadel.

Jane is also a woodcarver. Her love and appreciation of woodcarving began while she was manning the desk for PAFAC's affiliate organization, Great Lakes Wood Carvers open carve night. She gave carving a try and really enjoyed it along with the company of the people involved. "The carvers are friendly and always willing to assist you," she said. They meet on Tuesday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for an open carve night. The group also has monthly meetings the evening of the 4th Thursday of the month, with a program and project. All are at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center.

In addition to drawing, painting, and woodcarving, she also loves to sew. High On Dolls is another affiliate organization to PAFAC and Jane is a member. They meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for a sew-along and pot luck dinner at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. They also have monthly meetings, held the 1st Thursday of the month, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Quilters Square at 6683 State Road. They have challenge dolls, service projects, and field trips that keep them busy. Most of the dolls created are not your traditional dolls, but very artistic, unique, individual creations, more like sculptures.

Jane, her daughter, and three grandchildren entered creations in Polish Village's Flamingo Fever. They hold the title for the most family members participating in the event. They enjoyed working together and facing the challenge of working with the plastic lawn ornament as the base to their

most she said, "PAFAC has added so much pleasure and companionship for the 40 years of my involvement that I encourage everyone to give them a try."

PAFAC offers classes, on an ongoing basis, in watercolor, acrylics and mixed media, pen and ink, calligraphy, and children's classes for ages 7 to 18. They also offer workshops in various other mediums. Jane said it is the best bargain in town as the board has kept the classes affordable - \$8 to \$10 for a two hour class. "The classes are fun, friendly, and relaxing, even for a beginner," she said.

Although this article began as Jane Zampedro's story, it soon became evident that she is a number one fan of PAFAC and their affiliate organizations.

For more information on Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC), visit their web site www.parmafinearts.org, follow them on Facebook, or call (440) 888-4514. Parma Fine Arts Council's office is located in the Donna Smallwood Activity Center at 7001 W. Ridgewood Drive. Stop in and visit, you'll certainly meet Jane there.

If you are an amateur or professional artist, living in the Parma area, or know of someone who is, and would like to be featured as an artist of the month, please contact me by email at kathrynmabin@att.net.

table top creations.

Jane said PAFAC and their affiliate organizations have played a big role in her life. You will see Jane at nearly every class, participating at every art show and event. She believes the arts enrich our lives, bring families closer together, and create a stronger community. In addition to the entertainment and recreational value the arts bring us, it is an area where no matter what your age you can actively participate. When I asked her what she enjoyed the



Watercolor by Jane Zampedro.

Now That's Funny? by Julia Cindric



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A photograph of a man and a woman standing in front of a house, smiling. A yellow sign in the foreground says "Howard Hanna Real Estate". A QR code is also visible.



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