

“Politicians and diapers need to be changed often, and for the same reason”- Mark Twain

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# PARMA Observer

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## Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter Delivers State Of The City Address

by Jeannie Roberts

While admitting that balancing the 2015 city budget keeps him awake at night, Mayor Tim DeGeeter said on 2/23 that he is confident that Parma has a bright future because it is filled with residents who care enough to get involved. “Whether it’s working on projects ... or on city policies to move Parma forward – I know this to be true: We either go up or down together as a community,” he said in his annual State of

the City address. “It’s always a privilege to talk about Parma, the place we have chosen to live and raise our families. I appreciate your continued belief in our collective future.”

That, to a full house for the speech, given at OSG USA, Inc. on Plaza Drive, a business highlighted because it is growing and thriving in Parma. “This is a company that’s doing it right, right here in Parma,” DeGeeter said. “We’re proud to have OSG here. Quality is what

OSG is all about.”

OSG’s Parma plant is the largest thread-forming tool manufacturer in the United States. Founded in 1948 in Cleveland, the company moved to Parma in 2001 and to this location in 2011. Servicing such industries as auto, medical, mining, construction and aerospace, OSG is experiencing double-digit percentage growth in all areas of its production in the last two years. In fact, in 2014, the Fastener Products Division had its highest sales year since its inception in 1948.

“We definitely like the sound of that,” the Mayor said.

DeGeeter outlined the difficult state of the city’s budget, citing “millions in lost revenue for Parma” because of the State’s estimated four-hundred-and-thirteen-million dollars cut each year from



Mayor Tim DeGeeter spoke to a full house at his 2015 State of the City speech.

## Parma Area Chamber Of Commerce Going Strong After 60 Years



Parma Municipal Court Judge Deanna O'Donnell and Parma Hts. Councilman Robert Verdile, himself a past President of the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, enjoying themselves at the 2015 60th Anniversary Gala at the Astrodome Event Center in Parma on 2/21.

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On February 21 at the Astrodome Event Center in Parma, the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce held their 2015 Gala and celebrated their 60th Anniversary. Parma Municipal Court Judge Timothy Gilligan was the Master of Ceremonies, and the 35th annual Pride Award Presentation honored The Illuminating Company for the Business Category, the Parma ABLE Program for the Organization Category, and past President of the UH Parma Medical Center Terrence Deis in the Individual Category. As You Like It Catering and the Astrodome Event Center supplied dining that can only be described as wonderfully deli-

cious. The Chamber welcomes a new Chairman of the Board of Directors, Ken Burdzinski, who thanked the outgoing Chairman Barry Axelrod, as well as everyone else in the Chamber for their hard work and dedication. He has promised to dedicate himself to the role of increasing opportunities for business in the Parma Area to grow and be in the best position to profit in the future. This was a great celebration of 60 years of organizing and representing the interests of businesses in the 7th. largest city in Ohio, and the next 60 years will undoubtedly offer Chamber Members the same environment that has allowed business organizations to thrive here.

municipalities and villages.

“Unfortunately, this year, we will face the fullest effect of the state cuts despite everything we have done to overcome them,” he said.

The Mayor cited ways his administration is trying to do more with less – he mentioned

using regional collaboration where possible, the close examination of City Hall operations, not replacing retiring employees, cutting overtime and even doing something he said “we don’t want to do” – proposing to close the city’s pools this

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## STARS Act Reduces Red Tape For Small Businesses

by Jim Renacci

As I travel around Northeast Ohio, I continue to hear that small businesses are struggling to comply with the president’s health care law. That challenge is even greater for small, seasonal employers.

The president’s health care law requires that employers with 50 or more full-time employees, or full-time equivalents, offer health care coverage or pay a fine. Largely designed with traditional jobs in mind, the health care law’s employer provisions fail to account for the exceptional circumstances of employers with highly seasonal workforces. Though the Treasury Department attempted to remedy these issues through regulation, the resulting rules are confusing and create unnecessary obstacles to compliance for small, seasonal employers. Based on current law and regulation, a seasonal worker is not necessarily a seasonal employee.

David, who owns a small

business in Ohio, is experiencing first-hand the overly burdensome provisions within the health care law. He has several full-time employees and hires an additional 40 or more seasonal employees during his busy spring season. Once he hires seasonal employees, he runs the risk of being required to perform complex calculations to determine if his business qualifies as a large or small business in order to meet compliance. He told me he can’t afford to hire an employee to handle human resources and sort through all of the paperwork.

As a former small business owner myself, I know how difficult it is to navigate our convoluted tax code and the amount of time and money that’s associated with compliance. That is why I introduced the Simplifying Technical Aspects Regarding Seasonality (STARS) Act. This legislation replaces the complex, arbitrary seasonal worker exemption with one definition of seasonal

employment. This simplified standard is consistent across industries and will reduce the administrative burden for small businesses and help them to avoid hefty penalties under the president’s health care law.

The STARS Act is commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will bring much-needed clarity and flexibility to seasonal employers, allowing them to focus on growing their businesses and investing in their employees instead of devoting their limited resources to deciphering the president’s health care law.

If you need any additional information or need help with a federal agency, please visit my website at [renacci.house.gov](http://renacci.house.gov) or call my Washington office: (202) 225-3876, Wadsworth office: (330) 334-0040, or Parma office: (440) 882-6779. I also encourage you to subscribe to my Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube pages to get updates on my work in Washington and the 16th District.

## Community News

### The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan

Although the weather is cold now, the warmth of spring will soon be upon us. With the warmer weather will also come the call of peddlers and solicitors in our Parma neighborhoods. In my several years on City Council I have received an untold number of complaints from residents about these two types of door-to-door "funds seekers." Therefore, I, like my Council colleagues, was pleased to support the "do-not-knock" ordinance crafted by the Parma Law Department and its director Timothy Dobeck. Sponsored by Councilman Brian Day, the legislation was modeled after the "National Do-Not-Call Registry" and has been adopted by cities throughout Ohio. Further, it has become an effective deterrent for residents who do not wish to be interrupted by wraps on their door from



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

solicitors and peddlers.

A peddler is defined as an individual selling goods or services door to door for profit, like a door-to-door

salesperson or someone seeking to do odd jobs, while a solicitor one who is selling goods or services or soliciting donations for charitable, religious, non-profit or other causes, such as someone seeking a pledge of money for a charitable organization or selling cookies or magazine subscriptions for a non-profit organization.

Parma's "do-not-knock" ordinance gives you, the resident, the ability to sign up for one or both registries – peddlers and/or solicitors. Once you sign up, your address will be placed on the City's "do-not-knock" registry database. You will also be sent a "do-not-knock" decal to place on your door or window. Solicitors and peddlers are required by law to review the registry prior to knocking on a resident's door. Peddlers are required to register with the city and carry their license with them, while solicitors are not required to do so. The decal also places peddlers and solicitors on notice. Your address remains on the database for five years.

The City is not permitted to prohibit all who might wish to knock on your door. In fact, we are only able to prohibit those seeking funding, not those conducting surveys or polls, circulating petitions, engaging in political or religious speech or other such activities in which funds are not being sought. These activities are constitutionally protected due to various court decisions. However, like peddlers and solicitors, they are prohibited from going door-to-door between the hours of 9:00 pm and 8:00 am Monday through Saturday or before 12:00 pm or after 9:00 pm on Sunday. Cities are essentially prohibited from restricting the hours further. Further, the City may not prohibit canvassers who place flyers and other literature at doors.

Anyone not abiding by the ordinance faces a penalty of a fourth degree misdemeanor, while subsequent violations carry the penalty of a first degree misdemeanor. Residents are encouraged to call the Parma Police Department's non-emergency number at (440) 885-1234 to report those not abiding by the ordinance. You are also encouraged to call the non-emergency number if you observe suspicious behavior or 9-1-1 in cases of emergency.

### Polaris Westshore Career Fair

by Kathy Augustine

Cuyahoga Job and Family Services and Polaris Career Center will host the Eighth Annual Polaris/Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center Career Fair on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Polaris Career Center, located at 7285 Old Oak Blvd in Middleburg Hts, Ohio, 44130, will host this event.

Free and open to the public, the fair is designed to foster the development of a competitive and productive workforce, while providing vital links between employers, job seekers, community organizations, and government agencies. More than 100 companies will gather to meet the needs of an estimated 600 job seekers. Representatives from Polaris

Career Center and local community based organizations will be on-hand providing access to educational resources, job search assistance, and much more.

The Career Fair is a collaborative effort between Cuyahoga Job and Family Services, Polaris Career Center, Westshore Neighborhood Family Service Center (NFSC), Middleburg Hts. Chamber of Commerce, City of Middleburg Hts, Berea City School District, North Olmsted City School District, the City of Strongsville, WIRE-Net and Lakewood Family Collaborative.

For additional information visit [www.polaris.edu](http://www.polaris.edu).

Registration for employers: <http://www.cjfs.cuyahogacounty.us/>.

### "Taras Shevchenko: Painter, Poet, Voice Of The People"

by Wolodymyra Krasniansky

The Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 12 in Cleveland, Ohio will honor the bard of Ukraine, Taras Shevchenko, in the month celebrating his birth and commemorating his death. Discover the art and poetry of this gifted visionary poet, thinker, and accomplished painter. Born into serfdom, he experienced firsthand the neglect and brutality of the repressive regime under the Russian tsar. Despite being exiled and ostracized, his life came to symbolize a universal will for human freedom. Shevchenko's prophetic poetic images have direct relevance to the events occurring in territorial-occupied Ukraine today. His work resonates with the current national struggle of Ukrainians to sever themselves from the vestiges of Russian

imperial hegemony.

Drawing on the compelling imagery of Shevchenko's drawings and paintings, complemented by Shevchenko's lyrical verse, art historian and Emerita Professor Myroslava M. Mudrak of The Ohio State University—a specialist in Russian and Ukrainian avant-garde art of the 1910s and 1920s—will reveal aspects of Shevchenko's rich genius that are rarely explored through a presentation entitled:

"Taras Shevchenko: Painter, Poet, Voice of the People."

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If you would like to find out more about or register for the "do-not-knock" registry, you may do so online at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) or you may obtain a form by calling the Parma City Council office at (440) 885-8091. Your ward councilmember would be glad to forward you an application. Upon receipt of your application, a "do-not-knock" decal will be sent to you. Best wishes to you on St. Patrick's Day and as we move into spring and the warmth and green it brings.



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## Health/Culture



ElderCenter participant Mary Tench, 103, received a valentine from a child visiting from the neighboring Child Care Center at UH Parma Health Education Center. Intergenerational programs and daily activities keep participants, who range in age from 44 to 103, engaged.

## Lifelong Health: Keeping Older Adults Safe, Thriving

by CJ Sheppard

The full-service ElderCenter at University Hospital's Parma Medical Center gives meaning to each day for adults of all ages and abilities. With participants from ages 44 to 103, days are tailored to each individual's needs. Nurses with decades of experience administer medication, an activities coordinator organizes music, crafts and reminiscence sessions, and the manager is on a first-name basis with every participant and their family members.

Learn more about ElderCenter and its associated programs – including a Club for early-stage memory loss members, geriatric assessments and driver self-assessments – that are now part of UH's new Center for Lifelong Health, aimed at helping link senior citizens with the services they need. ElderCenter is celebrating its 25th anniversary with two upcoming programs:

Laughter Club and Memory Tips, Wednesday, March 18, 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Learn about the benefits of laughter and UH's continuum of care for older adults. Enjoy a good laugh and find out about program designed to support you and your family in the presentation by Lisa Profio, LPN, and Laura Matthews, Manager of ElderCenter.

Community Resources for Caregivers of Older Adults, Wednesday, March 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. – Learn about ElderCenter's medical and social model for adult day services, plus a driver self-assessment program and

cognitive training. Presented by ElderCenter Manager Laura Matthews.

"We encourage participants to be as independent as they possibly can be, and to give them as much autonomy and choice as possible, but we're right there to assist as needed," says Laura Matthews, who has managed ElderCenter for 25 years. "We want their days to be as meaningful as possible."

Caregivers appreciate the thoughtful extra services that make their lives easier, like transportation, extended hours, showers, a hair salon and 24-hour respite care.

"We know our families have to take care of themselves, too," says Matthews. "We provide showers each morning for participants who may live in a home with a second-floor bathroom or a caregiver unable to assist them. We offer a full-service salon to make those appointments easier to squeeze into the schedule. We also arrange 24-hour respite with a partnering nursing home, for caregivers who have to schedule a surgery or go out of town."

ElderCenter has also seen a growing interest in its Club, a separate program for those with early-stage memory loss that is believed to be one of only two of its kind in the state. Club members are actively involved in planning and implementing daily activities in the cheery room. Lisa Profio, LPN, a nurse of over 35 years who recently won a national award for facilitating

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## New Fitness Classes Start March 2 At UH Parma Health Education Center

by CJ Sheppard

As a part of its commitment to supporting a healthier community, UH Parma Medical Center's Health Education Center provides a variety of opportunities for total wellness. Classes are designed to improve and maintain physical, emotional and mental health and are for all ages and ability levels.

There's something for everyone in the family, from stress relief techniques, children's wellness classes, CPR certification programs, or simply achieving the tools needed to increase personal wellness. The Center is located at 7300 State Road in Parma.

Fitness class packages are available for those who want to exercise more than once a week and try different classes and instructors. The Center has daytime and evening classes and classes for all fitness levels. The popular unlimited fitness class package offers

one month of unlimited classes for \$48 or three months of unlimited classes for \$135. The new senior unlimited fitness package is \$40 for one month or \$115 for three months. Individual classes for one month are \$30. And at UH Parma's Health Education Center, there are no membership fees or contracts to sign. Monthly fitness packages start on March 2.

The Center also offers Mind/Body Fitness classes like Chair Yoga, Evening Yoga and Tai Chi. Support Groups for those suffering from Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease. Popular youth classes include Kindergarten Readiness, Toddler Preschool Gym, Preschool Dance and some school-age classes offered in March are Creative Dance and Babysitter's Training.

For more information about these classes or schedule of classes offered through June, call 440-743-4932.

## Local Low Income Seniors Get Free Groceries

by John Visnauskas

According to the US Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey, 14.6% of Parma residents lived in poverty in 2012, a 114% increase from 6.8%, in only 5 years, and nearly one in three residents aged 65 or older, more than 4,500 residents, qualified in 2012 for food assistance programs such as those offered by All Faiths Pantry.

All Faiths Pantry (AFP) delivers groceries each month to over 350 homes of low income seniors and others with limited mobility living in the Greater Parma area, at no charge to recipients. AFP also helps inspire and assist community partners in beginning programs to combat local food insecurity, such as Parma Baptist Church, the Parma Area Family Collaborative, All Saints Episcopal Church, Parma Heights Food Pantry and several more. AFP delivered over a third of a million pounds of food in the organizations first eight years, in over twenty thousand individual home deliveries. Last year alone however, another half a million pounds were delivered. Over 17,000 individuals received food thanks to AFP in 2014.

With the proven efficiency and effectiveness of AFP's programs well established, diverse supporters continue to step forward. Parma



City Council President Sean Brennan directs partial proceeds from his annual Parma Run/Walk for the Pierogies to AFP and his Parma Peanut Butter Drive just raised over \$3,600 in cash and over 600 pounds of PB for AFP in December. Local business, church and civic groups regularly raise funds to support the mission of All Faiths Pantry.

Over a hundred volunteers are coordinated through AFP to leverage a modest cash budget and enormous in-kind donations received as a well

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# Education

**Show Kids You Care: Learn What They Have to Teach.**

## Asset Corner #63

by Gene Lovasy

**SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE**

**March's Asset Category:** Social Competencies Learning social skills is a lot like learning to play the piano in that you need to learn some basic competencies and you need someone to teach you those skills. You need time to practice, guidance as you gain experience, and feedback along the way. Social competencies are the skills and life perspectives young people need to develop into healthy, competent adults. These skills are important daily, but they're even more crucial when young people encounter the tough times in life.

**Social Competency Assets Include:**

- #32 **Planning & Decision Making** – Young person knows how to plan ahead & make choices. (29%\*)
- #33 **Interpersonal Competence** – Young person has empathy, sensitivity & friendship skills. (45%\*)
- #34 **Cultural Competence** –

Young person has knowledge of & comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds. (43%\*)

#35 **Resistance Skills** – Young person can resist negative peer pressure & dangerous situations. (41%\*)

#36 **Peaceful Conflict Resolution** – Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently. (40%\*)

(\* 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 #36 – Peaceful Conflict Resolution**

**Working it Out**  
Whether it's a spat between sisters over who should take out the trash or an argument between nations over natural resources, disagreements are a part of being human. But no matter how small or

large, every dispute can be resolved peacefully if both sides are willing to listen and compromise. Encourage young people to talk it out—and truly listen to one another. Speaking and listening respectfully are key.

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people who resolve conflicts peacefully do better in school, have higher self-esteem, and are less likely to use alcohol and other substances. About 40 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they seek to resolve conflicts nonviolently, according to Search Institute surveys. It's normal for anyone to feel mad every now and then, but learning to keep cool helps people express anger more effectively.

**Tips for building this asset**

When you notice two young people arguing, ask them to stop and take a deep breath. Once they're calmer, ask them to think about why they are mad before they start talking. Being calm helps to focus on the problem at hand and not on attacking the other person. Suggest they talk about problems before the problems get too big. This can help keep everyone from blowing things out of proportion.

**Also try this**

**In your home and family:** Talk with your child about a conflict you had as a young person. Discuss how you handled the situation then and

how you might approach it now.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Model peaceful conflict resolution in your own life. Remember, when you argue in public, whether it's in a grocery store or on a bus, there's a good chance young people are listening. What do you want them to hear?

**In your school or youth program:** When a conflict arises between two young people in your school or program, help them through the following steps: Have each person 1. State what he or she wants without blaming others; 2. Listen and try to understand each other; 3. Stay focused on the conflict at hand—don't bring up other conflicts; 4. Emphasize creative problem-solving and new solutions; and 5. Negotiate a win-win result.

**ASSET RELATED NEWS**

The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, March 12th. This plus a host of other programs/services are always in need of help. If you're interested in volunteering, give the Collab a call at 440.887.4873.

Our MyCom folks will be working again this year w/Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) to find summer employment for our area's youth. Interested teenagers, ages 14 - 18 can register at youthop-

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## Inspiration

# Rock Against Dementia

by Wayne Mesker

I was blessed in March of 2014 to attend a screening/panel discussion of Michael Rossato Bennett's multi-award winning documentary *Alive Inside* at the Cleveland International Film Festival. What began as a one day adventure for Michael, following Dan Cohen's interaction with Alzheimer's/ Dementia victims via the vehicle of an I-Pod Shuffle loaded with "Personal" music that had meaning to them as an individual and a pair of headphones for listening turned into a 3 year long labor of love, a journey

of discovery, enlightenment and hope that ultimately resulted in a divine mission for both Dan and Michael. Firstly they are committed to providing PMD's (Personal Music Devices) uploaded with personalized playlists and headphones to everyone suffering from these deadly, identity-stealing diseases. Secondly, their ultimate hope is to see that the government allows those devices to be made available by prescription with the costs being reimbursed by either Medicare/Medicaid or other insurance providers.

By the time the final credits



rolled on the screen my heart had been touched, my eyes opened, my mind made up and my path made clear. Michael's brother Itaal Shur, who wrote the soundtrack was part of the panel, and I offered to launch the Rock Against Dementia Project to assist them in any way possible by reaching out to my network of Music/Entertainment industry, business, Creative Arts and political contacts. Progress has been slow but steady and on February 11 I was able to arrange a meeting between a Bi-Partisan political group including Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown's Deputy Director Beth Thames, Republican Congressman Jim Renacci's Aide Joe Benny and John Saulitis from the Ohio Long Term Care Ombudsman's office to discuss that and what has become the third and equally important focal point of the mission, advocating for the *Alive Inside* "Music Before Drugs" Protocol. Sadly many victims of Alzheimer's/ Dementia are unable to communicate their needs, wants or feelings like most of us and often times their expression takes the form of agitation, disruption, inappropriate or even violent behavior which usually results in the use of anti-psychotic drugs to sedate them. Music at the very least acts as a calming influence and at best (see the "Henry" trailer for *Alive Inside*) can miraculously reconnect these people to reality

and the present moment. Research has proven that Anti-Psychotics at the worst can prove fatal and at best are only an expensive temporary fix, doing nothing to enhance or improve the individual's quality of Life. Music provides an inexpensive, cost-saving, life enhancing, ethical, effective and humane alternative.

The Ohio Department of Aging with the help of our friend Ohio Long Term Care Ombudsperson Beverley Laubert just received \$400,000 from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services (CMS), the Federal agency which controls all Medicare/Medicaid related spending to begin the process of certifying facilities in the State of Ohio and helping implement Dan Cohen's Music & Memory program. I recently attended a networking event at Public Hall and convinced Rock & Roll Hall of Fame C.E.O. Greg Harris to watch *Alive Inside*. As a result of my Rock Against Dementia efforts I was honored to be appointed Global Outreach Ambassador for the Purple Angel Dementia Awareness Campaign which began in the United Kingdom and has expanded around the world including the U.S. with Knoxville, Tennessee being the first member of the Purple Cities Alliance. Last but not least a series of Rock Against Dementia Concerts will be taking place on Saturday March 21st including one here at the Local Tavern.

*Alive Inside* "Henry" Trailer Link  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1m0Qd4mP-I>  
 Bi-Partisan Meeting Link  
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=816413091759608>

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

Although I may not walk with kings, let me be big in little things.

Be wisely world, not worldly wise.

Blessed are all that put their trust in God.

Christianity is not a religion but a relationship of love expressed toward God and people.

Complete the most important things first; it is usually the best course of action.

Do a good deed every day if you can; peace and joy will come if we accept God's plan.

Do not evaluate each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

Every ass loves to hear himself bray.

Every vice has its excuse ready.

Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone.

Faith is a matter of trusting God's promises.

Few people are modest enough to be content to be estimated at their true value.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

It is your point of view that decides what you see.

Jesus paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay.

No life is pleasing to God that is not useful and beneficial to people.

No work, however humble, dishonors a person.

Nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give.

Reputation is what people think of us; character is what God knows of us.

Sin cannot be undone, only forgiven.

Spiritual hunger is never satisfied with material food.

Success comes in cans. Failure comes in can'ts.

Talkers are no good doers.

The soul, like the body, lives by what it feeds on.

The way to be self-controlled is to be God-controlled.

To be wronged is an unending problem if we continue to remember it.

Truth is what stands the test of experience.

We must be strong and carry on

Will the road you are on get you to my place? —God.

Worldly pleasures of our choosing can crowd God out of our lives.

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

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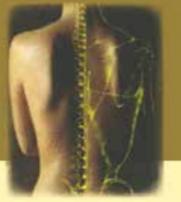
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# Our Local History

## The Other Froehlich House

by Irene D Toth

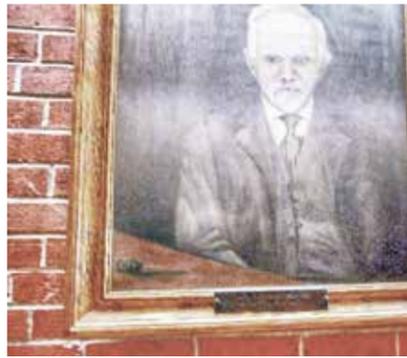
Jacob J. Froehlich came from Germany sometime between 1837 and 1839 and settled in Independence Township in the area now know as Seven Hills. He was not yet twenty years old. After working on the construction of the canal, he was able to bring his parents to the area from Germany. His father was also named Jacob.

Jacob and his wife Sophie built a home at 7049 Broadview Road, and although the Jacob Froehlich and John Froehlich families were neighbors and shared the same last name, there is no evidence they were related. Jacob Froehlich donated the land that became the Froehlich cemetery and both families are buried there.

During the Civil War, the Jacob Froehlich home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. The previous stop was the Tavern at Richfield.

Jacob and Sophie had a son, Henry, who was born on March 10, 1848. When Henry was only 14, he enlisted as a musician in the Union Army during the Civil War. He became the youngest soldier in the 107th Ohio Volunteer Infantry when he was made a private. He served under General Karl Schurz in the Army of the Potomac and he fought in the Battle of Gettysburg.

After the war Henry moved to Independence, Missouri, where he conducted his own music classes. He was also the leader of a band.



Henry Froehlich's Portrait in Seven Hills City Hall.

The band performed throughout the state, even though fearful encounters with unfriendly Indians were common during the two years he traveled with the band.

Henry returned to Cuyahoga County in 1870. He established the Froehlich General Store, where he sold hardware and general necessities. You could also send and receive mail or arrange for a funeral. He married Eliza Huhn, the daughter of Charles Huhn, his partner in the hardware and funeral business. The Froehlich General Store was at the corner of Pearl Road and

Krath Avenue in Old Brooklyn. Later it moved to the corner that became the site of the Broadview Theater.

Henry became active in civic affairs, serving as the first postmaster of South Brooklyn. He was a member of the Village Council and President of the South Brooklyn Board of Education.

Independence Township was divided into Garfield Heights, Valley View, and the Village of Independence, leaving only the farthest western portion as a township. Independence placed a levy on the ballot that was supported by the residents of the township. Henry Froehlich had represented the Broadview residents and had worked for the passage of the levy. When most of the money generated by the levy was used to improve the public square in Independence, Henry and the residents along Broadview Road started the movement to break away from Independence. The Cuyahoga County Commissioners granted the request on September 1, 1926 and Seven Hills became a village on February 26, 1927.

Henry Froehlich was the first

mayor of Seven Hills. Although he served as mayor only eight months in 1927 and 1928, his administration laid the groundwork for Seven Hills government and its management.

When Henry's wife Eliza died, he married her sister Barbara. He lived in the home his father had built on Broadview Road until his death on March 21, 1930. He is buried along with his wives in Brookmere Cemetery located near Pearl and Broadview Road.

This information was found in OLD BROOKLYN An Historic Narrative, Kathryn Gasior Wilmer, Historian and Editor, Commercial Press, Kent, Ohio 1979 and SEVEN HILLS PAST AND PRESENT, prepared by the students and staff of Hillside Junior High School, 1980, and an update of the Froehlich family history by Karen Froehlich Arman.

West Creek Conservancy is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. For more information about West Creek Conservancy and its projects, call 216-749-3720 or check online at [www.westcreek.org](http://www.westcreek.org).

## Memories Of Forestvue Park In Parma Heights

by Bob Stilwell

The current Ridgewood Drive in Parma Heights was called Bean Road. It got its name from the many bean farms in the area. This was when

Parma Heights was part of the Parma Township and some of the farmers in the area felt that they were not getting fair legal representation when it came to theft of their bean crops. It was shortly after Parma Heights became a village in 1911, that Louis Kilmer was appointed as the town Marshall and later elected the very first Police Chief of Parma Heights. Louis Kilmer's parents owned several large tracts of land and Louis developed a large area on Ridgewood for a picnic grove and named it Forestvue.

It was at 9377 Ridgewood that encompassed several acres of land. Louis had a large house with an adjoining dance hall built, along with a huge Baseball Diamond. Most of the land was rented for private



picnics. Many of the picnics were for large companies that rented the property for employee picnics. There were also circus acts that performed at some of the outings. There was a large neon sign on Ridgewood drive that said Forestvue Park.

Some of the more senior residents may recall some of these memories.

## Parma Heights Patriotism

by Bob Stilwell

I am a member of an internet group called "Find-A-Grave". I have discovered that there are 577 people buried in the Parma Heights Cemetery on Pearl Road, next to the Reservoir. Of these people there are 53 that served in all of the wars going back to the Revolutionary War. Two of these people were women.

Lucinda Whitney was a Nurse in the Civil War from 1862-1865. She had 2 sons from previous marriages that were also Civil War Veterans and are also buried at the same cemetery, Eli Meacham Jr., and Oscar Nicholas, who later became the Toll Collector for the Wooster Pike, Pearl Road and Old York Road.

Also is June Kilgore who was a PFC in the Marine Corps during the 2nd, World War. What a devout, dedicated group of individuals. This represents almost 10% of all the people buried here and have served their Country and community. We are very proud of them and all our Service men and women.

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## Perspective

# Public School Ratings Over Rated

by Lee Kamps

This month students in Ohio's public and private schools will be taking the state proficiency tests (now part of Common Core) to measure their academic achievement. Those test scores are then used to measure the effectiveness of the individual school those students attend as well as the public school district as a whole. The results of the public school effectiveness rankings will be published in the Plain Dealer sometime this spring showing how well the public school districts in the northeastern Ohio region fared as far as academic achievement.

As predictable as rain in April, the same public school districts will be ranked at the top and the same ones will be scraping the bottom with those in the middle remaining in the middle.

No doubt the top performing public school districts will be Beachwood, Bay Village, Rocky River, Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Hudson, Solon, Chagrin Falls and Orange. No doubt those public school districts that will be scraping the bottom will be Cleveland, East Cleveland, Lorain, Maple Heights and Akron. Parma schools will be ranked somewhere in the middle.

So what do the top performing public school districts have in common? All are affluent outer ring suburbs with high property values and a well educated population. What do those at the bottom have in common? Most have a higher percentage of minority students as well as a higher percentage of students living in poverty.

In one consistently high performing school district (Bay Village), I have

a close friend who was on the faculty at Bay High School for a long time before retiring a few years ago. She provided me with some insights into that community and perhaps why their public schools are consistently ranked so high in academic performance. In Bay Village, more than 90% of the adults in the city have a college degree and almost half have a post graduate or professional degree as well. More than 95% of the graduates of Bay High School go on to college with most graduating. According to census figures, the per capita household income in Bay Village is among the highest in Cuyahoga County, if not the state of Ohio.

Contrast that with the city of Cleveland where more than 80% of the student population is minority and more than 70% of their students are living in poverty. Fewer than 50% of

eighth graders will graduate from high school within five years and fewer than 20% will go on to college.

With those statistics on the community, then is it any wonder why a school district like Bay Village is consistently ranked near the top while Cleveland is consistently scraping the bottom?

But those performance rankings have very little on how one's own child does in school. What is much more important with a public school district than performance rankings is whether the school offers the kinds of programs so a child can learn a marketable skill or be prepared to succeed in college.

Instead of placing such an importance on public school performance rankings, we should be asking whether the public school district offers a wide range of vocational programs so students not going to college can learn a marketable trade or skill. No matter how advanced our society becomes; there will always be a need for electricians, plumbers, carpenters and truck drivers. A construction worker without a college degree but a good skill such as an ironworker can make a good living.

Other questions that should be asked is whether the public school district offers technical programs so that one who has no desire to go to college can learn skills to work in the many technical jobs that are opening up. One doesn't need a four year degree to be a radiologic technician, but a two year associate program is sufficient as well as some education in high school.

For those students who are motivated to go on to college, does the public school district offer programs for the gifted and talented? Do they offer higher math and science courses for those who want to pursue college studies in science and math? What about a good arts program so those with talent can learn skills needed as performers as well as artists?

How everyone else performs is irrelevant to how your son or daughter performs in school. I was educated in the Parma Public Schools and graduated from Valley Forge High School. I went on to college and received a Bachelor's degree and then took some post graduate courses since then. I got a great education in the Parma Public Schools. When I got to college, I coasted through my freshman courses while students ranked higher in their classes from a smaller school struggled because they did not have the opportunity to take such college level courses in high school as I did.

So rather than look at the rankings for overall performance of a public school district; look closer at what the school has to offer your son or daughter. What is most important is not how everyone else performs, but how well your own child does. Rather than rank public schools on how well they perform on standardized tests overall, it makes more sense to look at what courses and programs those public schools offer the students so they have the opportunity to succeed.

## Tacky Or Cool? Pink Plastic Flamingos

by Kathryn Mabin

After a long hard winter, with mounds of snow, brutal cold, and slippery walks and drives, as mailboxes begin to fill with colorful garden catalogs, we long for the warmth of the sun, chirping of birds, lush green grass, the multicolors of a floral garden and lawn ornaments. My favorite lawn ornament is the pink plastic flamingo. I spent an afternoon researching these flamboyant friends, and here is what I discovered.

Don Featherstone, a sculptor, was hired at Union Products, in Massachusetts in 1956, to redesign their popular two-dimensional plastic lawn ornaments, into three-dimensional pieces. His flamingo became the most famous.

Using photographs as a guide, he sculpted a flamingo out of clay, which then was made into a plaster cast, and the first flamingo was born in 1957. The 1950's was a time when families increased traveling by car, and people began migrating to the suburbs. Appliances were pink, and so were automobiles, like the pink Cadillac, and suburban manicured lawns used the pink plastic flamingo to infuse a bright pop of color against the lush green foliage. Initial cost for a pair of pink flamingos was \$2.76.

The 1960's was an era of rebellion. The movement to get back to nature had arrived, and hippies rallied against the plastic industry. The pink plastic queen of the lawn had lost favor. It is interesting to note that if you search Parma Ohio on Wikipedia, it mentions that during the 1960's and 1970's, Parma was the target of "light-hearted" jabs by local TV hosts, Ghoulardi, Big Chuck & John, and The Ghoul which focused on Parma's love of white socks, pink flamingos, chrome balls, kielbasi, pierogi and the polka. Many Parma residents were outraged by what they felt were outright slurs about their community. Others thought it was all in fun.

In 1979 the slope of Bascom Hill at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was covered with 1008 pink plastic flamingos on the first day of classes, for a prank by the Pail and Shovel Party. In 2009 the Madison City Council named the plastic pink flamingo as the official city bird.

By the mid 1980's, the TV show, Miami Vice was in full swing, and sales of flamingos had outsold Union Plastics ducks. A new business was created, lawn greeting, where in the dead



Queen of the Lawn

of night hoards of flamingos would be set up on lawns to greet the dawn celebrating memorable occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries, thus coining the phrase "You've been flocked". Flamingos became popular in clothing and home-goods. Flamingos became mascots in bars, restaurants, casinos and hotels. Parma's own Ridgewood Inn is one of them.

Don Featherstone won the Ig Nobel Prize for Art in 1996. The Ig (ignoble) Nobel Prize is a parody of the Nobel Prize awarded to celebrate the unusual and honor the imaginative in various fields. Featherstone holds the honor of being the first winner to appear in person to accept the award.

Locally, Flamingo Fever was born in Parma's Polish Village in 2013. It is the first ever public art event in Parma. Creative individuals use the plastic flamingo as a base to transform them into imaginative characters for use as table top sculptures. They are prominently displayed in businesses over the summer and auctioned off in the fall, for the benefit of Polish Village CDC.

The pink plastic flamingo will be celebrating her 48th birthday this year. Like most of us, she's certainly had her ups and downs. I think she is the queen of the lawn, and has a lot of life left yet. Long Live The Queen!

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## Spilled Ink

# Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter Delivers State Of The City Address

continued from page 1

summer to save \$200,000.

The somber tone of budget talk, though, was balanced by talk of new development at The Shoppes at Parma, which will see grand openings this spring and summer at a variety of venues – Panera, Mattress Firm, Sport Clips, Jimmy John's and Fast Eddie's. The Mayor brought up his Town Center Task Force and its report on how to fully implement a Town Center approach to development around the mall area.

DeGeeter said he is using the success of the redevelopment of the former Parmatown Mall as a guide for what can happen at the former GrafTech property on Snow Road.

"I'm sure most of you have heard that GrafTech decided to move its corporate headquarters out of Parma – a major loss for our city," he said. "The progress at The Shoppes at Parma is another reason I'm hopeful – despite reasons for pessimism – that we can overcome GrafTech's decision to leave its corporate campus. Much like we did when the mall was in receivership, we will work with GrafTech to aggressively market the property and use everything in our economic toolbox to

court potential buyers.

"We can – and we must – make that campus come alive again in the future."

DeGeeter said that UH Parma Medical Center has "strengthened a community touch point that is critical as an economic engine and to our quality of life." He spoke of upgrades taking place there that include facilities improvements and the addition of up to 50 jobs.

New investment in Parma includes PITT-Ohio and Rush Trucking, whose new complex on Snow Road will bring 45 new jobs and a \$2-million payroll into Parma. PITT-Ohio's payroll is expected to be \$8 million.

Quality of life, the Mayor said, is improved by strengthening of neighborhoods. He cited neighborhood safety and unprecedented narcotics enforcement achieved this year by Parma Police. And his administration's Good Neighborhoods Initiative is continuing to show progress, he said.

"As part of this program, we are able to recognize homeowners who do a great job of beautifying and caring for their homes," he said. "We publicly recognize them with signs indicating they are Good Neighbor Pride Award-winners."

## Asset Corner #62

continued from page 5

opportunities.org. Local businesses are also encouraged to support the program by registering at the aforementioned web site. For additional detail call Kathy Hall, our MyCom Project Coordinator at 440.842.7043.

Recently recognized by Parma City Council, the young ladies of St Charles Girl Scout Troop 70443 have been working together for a number of years developing projects focused on the church and our community. Their current, well organized and researched initiative embraces good planning, promotion and encourages collaboration to work towards a goal of collecting socks for the homeless. From now until Easter collection bins for preferably new, or clean gently used socks will be available at City Hall & a number of businesses around the area. Monetary dona-

tions which will be used to purchase new socks are, of course, accepted. If you have any questions on how you can get involved or would like to make a donation call Jennifer Bisesi at 440.263.6523 or email at gs.70443@gamil.com.

**Share your asset building ideas and/or thoughts about the developmental asset concept by visiting the "asset corner" facebook page. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.**

Visit [www.parmacityschools.org/character](http://www.parmacityschools.org/character), [www.search-institute.org/assets](http://www.search-institute.org/assets) for more information about the 40 Developmental Assets and ideas for helping young people build them. Or go here <http://www.parentfurther.com/> for great asset-based parenting tips, tricks, activities and ideas.

He announced that the "North Coast Mission Connection" – a program that was a major success in Parma two years ago – is returning to Parma this summer. The program saw nearly 400 teen-agers perform free home repairs for elderly, low-income, and disabled home owners. Repairs and construction included porches, steps, and wheelchair ramps, weatherization and interior and exterior painting. Fifty-six homes were repaired and the total investment in our city amounts to more than \$290,000 when looking at what the labor and capital improvements would have been without this project.

That week-long project was coordinated by The Ridgewood United Methodist Church and headed by Chuck and Renita Nohejl. And the youths – from all across the country – were housed for the week at Parma Senior High School. The group is returning this summer to help more home owners.

Programs like this, the Mayor told the assembled listeners, "are examples of what really makes me optimistic about our future, and what truly makes Parma strong. It's the people – like you – who want to improve this community."

## Perspective

### County Government

by Leo Lampeter

After years of arguing with the County about property taxes being over evaluated and losing the battles, the dawn has come to me. There would be statements that your property is evaluated properly. If you could show where your property had just cause to get a lower valuation submit reasons and consideration would be taken. After that step in which the powers that be would consider your evaluation again a judgment would be done. Isn't it convenient that the department that judges your evaluation, judges whether or not the valuation of your property is correct and should be adjusted? If there is further concern about your evaluation one process is to find, as I was told, 10 houses in your neighborhood that sold for less within the past three years, then adjustments could be made. Well indeed there were numerous houses sold that were well below assigned property value. When notified of the addresses, all of which were not only in the neighborhood but on one street, these properties were brought to the attention of the County via telephone. One reason after another was given as to why these houses were exceptions to the valuations. These "reasons" varied from; foreclosed to divorce to abandoned etc. to what was perceived as no reason is viable to reduce the evaluation of your property, or you can have an outside building inspector evaluate the structure at your expense and this may not be accepted.

The light became apparent. It doesn't matter what the true value of the property, what matters is the income needed to operate the government. No matter the valuation, it is not based on the selling value of the prop-

erty but what the County believes they can get from the property owner to have enough to maintain employment and salary levels. Unless the people stand up and let these political forces know that we are tired of the Frank Russos and Jimmy DiMoras, and DiMora himself said he did nothing anyone else wasn't doing, so one must assume, if Dimora was truthful in that statement, that similar individuals still occupy government positions, these entities will continue to abuse the offices that they hold along with the people in their political areas. When someone accepts an influential gratuity from anyone interested in say a construction project, the low bid is generally guaranteed and then returned to the contractor with the so called compensation for cost overruns, which if looked at, are higher than most of the rejected bids. Guess who pays for these public constructions and the overruns. That is how both entities enjoy economic gain and the public says that is the cost of the project. No, actually that is the excessive cost of government projects. Arrogance seems to follow many in a position of authority. What they fail to realize is that they are our employees not our employers. Where is Carl Monday when you need him?

Articles such as this can be written on a regular basis and they will prove of no benefit. What will make a difference is if you get up off of your soft couch and let the politicians realize you mean to take action. Until you take action, nothing will be done. What can one person do? The answer is plenty. If the forces that be feel in jeopardy they will take corrective action. Think for a second; for evil to succeed all it takes is for good people to do nothing



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# Observers' Viewpoints



## Statewide Tornado Drill March 4 2015

by Larissa Paschyn

While tornadoes can occur at any time, late spring and summer are the prime tornado season in Ohio. To remind and prepare residents for the danger of tornadoes, the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management is encouraging all communities to participate in the Statewide Tornado Drill at 9:50 am on Wednesday, March 4, 2015.

Additional safety information for residents can be found at our website, <http://ready.cuyahogacounty.us>.

In addition, we are happy to support your public safety outreach programs with a speaker, representatives to answer questions, or with emergency management materials.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have questions, please contact us at 216-443-5700 or at [ema@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:ema@cuyahogacounty.us)

## Lifelong Health: Keeping Older Adults Safe, Thriving

continued from page 4

Beyond Driving with Dignity driver self-assessments, coordinates the Club.

“People are more aware of seeking help earlier to retain their cognitive abilities,” Matthews said. “Staying active socially and physically, and

engaging in new and different activities that stimulate the brain, helping them stave off the symptoms of Alzheimer’s longer. These folks are starting to experience losses, and we replace those losses with meaningful activities.”

To register for either program, call 440-743-4900.

## Ridgewood Garden Club Of Parma 2015 Spring Program Schedule

by Kathy Cancasci

You're cordially invited to attend any of the following club programs for this year:

**February 17 (Tuesday) Program "Butterflies, The Jewels of the Garden"**

Time: 1:00 pm , Location: Parma Snow Library, Speaker: Joyce Roth

**March 16 (Monday) Anniversary Luncheon (Honoring Past Presidents)**

Time: 12:00 pm Location: Anthony's Restaurant, 10703 West Pleasant Valley Road (Reservations required)

**April 20 (Monday) Program "Metro Health Garden Therapy/NODA"**

Time: 1:00 pm Location: Parma Snow Library  
Speaker: Bob Glover, Master Gardener

**May 19 (Tuesday) Bus Trip: Kingwood Gardens Mansfield** (Reservations required)

Meeting at: St. John Bosco Leaving: 8:00 am Return 8:00 pm  
Tour Guide: Rita Drago

**May 30 (Saturday) Annual Plant Sale**

Location: Parma Family Collab Center (Former Hanna Elem. School/ 11212 Snow Road) Time: 10 am - 2:00 pm

The Ridgewood Garden Club of Parma offers a variety of exciting programs and activities. There are learning opportunities that promote enrichment of members' knowledge in gardening. The club is also involved in numerous community involvement projects (plantings at the Veteran's Memorial Park and around 19 park signs, Herb Garden at Hollywood Park, Butterfly Garden at the Parma Animal shelter, tree boxes along State Road, volunteering at Stearns Farm) As affiliate member of the Cleveland Botanical Garden, the club participates in the Hershey Children Garden summer projects, the holiday "Glow" event and other activities. We are members of the National Garden Club, Inc., Central Atlantic Region and Garden Club of Ohio, Inc., Cleveland District. If interested in attending, please call 440-842-4313.

## Cancer Survivors Honored At March 6 Hockey Game

by CJ Sheppard

To honor cancer survivors and encourage women to get mammograms, University Hospitals Parma Medical Center is sponsoring Think Pink Night at the March 6 Lake Erie Monsters hockey game at Quicken Loans Arena. Survivors and their physicians and nurses will be saluted, participating in a ceremonial puck drop at the start of the 7:30 p.m. game and a post-game skate with Monsters' players.

Survivors and their families and caregivers can receive two complimentary tickets to the Friday night game, and additional tickets for just \$5 each. The first 1,000 visitors to the UH Parma Medical Center table who post Get a mammogram @UHParma #WomanUpCLE to a social media site like Facebook or Twitter – and show the staff at the table – will receive a complimentary stadium blanket. Teresa Goebel, DO, a medical oncologist at the UH Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma Medical Center, will be on hand to greet guests and answer questions.

Plus, the first 5,000 fans to arrive will receive a special pink silicon bracelet. After the game, survivors can rent skates for free for a post-game skate with some of the hockey players. Family members are encouraged to bring their own skates to join the survivors. During the game, all fans can enjoy \$1 hot dogs and \$1 soft drinks.

Game tickets, and \$8 discounted parking, are available at: <http://groups.thequarena.com/fightcancer> with the promotional code: thinkpink Discounted parking is available for \$8.

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# The Parma Art Scene

## Artist Of The Month Renate Nacinovic

by Kathryn Mabin

Parma is home to a great many talented individuals, artists and craftsmen, both professional and amateur, who specialize in variety of mediums. This article is the ninth in a series which will showcase a Parma area artist and introduce you to many of your talented neighbors.

### Renate Nacinovic

Renate and her husband, Ivan, have lived in Parma since 1976. She was born and raised in the picturesque mountain region of Southern Bavaria in Germany. As a child she loved drawing and painting flowers, landscapes, pastoral scenes and the mountains of her homeland. She came to the states in 1961.

She graduated from Cleveland State University with a major in Art and Psychology. Cleveland State is where she discovered her love of pottery. She designs and creates ceramic pottery in many sizes and shapes. Some pieces are hand-built and others are created on a pottery wheel. Once the piece is made, it is covered with a white glaze and fired in a kiln. Renate then does a pencil drawing



of a design over the white glaze. Colored glazes are painted onto the piece and it is fired again. A clear glaze follows with an additional firing in the kiln. Her pieces are bold, unique, exciting, and vibrant in color and often include flowers, birds, and animals in her original designs.

In addition to the beautiful decorative bowls and platters she also creates tiles, with scenes of flower gardens, landscapes, seascapes, and caricatures of people. Sometimes she uses the tiles to create small tables, trays or wall hangings. After attending the Cleveland Institute of Art, where she studied Scull and Facial Reconstruction in Forensics, she was inspired to create



her "little character people". These fun table top sculptures are whimsical caricatures of people with various facial expressions. She also does masks.

In the past she worked as a floral designer, and spent 35 years as a realtor.

Renate and Ivan, spend lots of volunteer hours at German Central, where Renate serves as the Dinner/Dance Coordinator. German Central is located on York Road, in Parma, and is a meeting place for many ethnic groups. It is open to the public and maintained solely by a group of dedicated volunteers. It offers fish fries during Lent, the Oktoberfest in September, and other events throughout the year. Renate and Ivan recently received recognition for

their volunteer services.

Renate is currently displaying a small selection of her work in the lobby of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. Her beautiful pottery has been shown at several locations throughout the area, and she normally does about three or four shows annually. She also welcomes custom pottery orders and operates out of her home. If you are interested in a custom piece she can be reached at (440)888-6018.

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](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net).

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