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Seven Hills Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila

## Delivers Seven Hills State Of The City Address

by Kathy Holland

In his second State of the City Address, March 27, 2014, Mayor Richard Dell'Aquila highlighted the fact that Seven Hills is strong and getting stronger every day. Seven Hills has survived the national recession and the City's finances are improving through a program of smart, sensible government. As a result, in just two years, the General Fund balance increased almost 150%, from about \$1.5 million to \$3.7 million. Today, the City has fewer employees, streamlined operations and maintains and even expanded City services, for example re-instituting a full City leaf pick-up program. The annual operating expenses have been reduced by about 20% from \$9.3 million, when Mayor Dell'Aquila took office, to about \$7.5 million in 2013.

One of the biggest factors in reaching these results over the past two years has been the practical elimination of Rec-

reation Center losses of about \$400,000 in 2011 to around \$20,000 in 2013. With the coming University Hospitals Parma Medical Center Physical Therapy Program at the Recreation Center, it will be profitable for the first time in its history. Later this year, the new Biltmore Nursing Home will break ground on Rockside Road, a project which will generate a \$3.5 million annual payroll on just three acres of land. Over 400 new jobs have been added to the City in just the past two years, with Sedgewick Claims moving its operations center to Seven Hills and the addition of Proficio Mortgage to the business community.

Because of the hard work and sacrifices that have been made, expenses are now more in line with revenues. As a result, Seven Hills is now able to reinvest into long neglected priorities. These strategic investments will truly be transformational as the City

positions itself to remain competitive for future commercial investment and tomorrow's home buyers. Part of that effort involves the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan; planning for future improvements and how to pay for them.

Repairing City infrastructure and streets is making a real difference throughout the City. In the past few years, Broadview Road, Rockside Road, Pleasant Valley, Hillside, and Cherry Lane have been resurfaced. In 2014, there will be almost \$2 million in road repairs to Crossview and Ridgewood through outside funding. Seven Hills is partnering with its Broadview Heights neighbors to resurface Sprague Road and plans are being completed for another \$1 million in resurfacing some of the City's collector streets, like Dartmoor and Donna Rae. The Biltmore Nursing Home Project will generate another \$750,000 to improve

the area around Pinnacle Park and Rockside, including a new traffic signal there.

It is vital to the economic future of Seven Hills and to the future of its children that educational offerings are retained and improved for Seven Hills' students. The most important issue for Seven Hills is to keep Normandy High School open. Mayor Dell'Aquila is looking forward to continuing his positive relationship with the Parma City Schools for the benefit of the City's children and the economic stability of

its residents.

Demographically, Seven Hills is one of the oldest communities in the area. As a result, most of the City's General Fund tax revenues, about 82% of the total, come from Income Taxes. Property Taxes are only about 15% of the total. Tax revenue is distributed with about 64% going to the schools, about 24% going to the County and other agencies and only about 12% going to the City of Seven Hills.

Community Spirit is continued on page 11

## Parma To Participate In WEWS Building Better Neighborhoods Initiative

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma has been chosen to participate in a WEWS Channel 5 program called "Building Better Neighborhoods" aimed at encouraging residents to better communicate with each other and to help instill a sense of community among residents who may not know each other.

The program will encompass 25 cities, selecting five communities in five different counties throughout Northeast Ohio. Then during the program, Channel 5 will broadcast from the 25 communities in 25 days. The four other communities in Cuyahoga County that were chosen are Bay Village, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights, and Chagrin Falls. Other participating counties are Lorain, Lake, Summit and Medina.

"Parma is well-suited for this program because we feel like we've got a family friendly,

up-and-coming, vibrant community here," Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "We are looking forward to showing Channel 5 viewers what's going on around Parma."

Here's how the program will work: before the end of April, Channel 5 reporters will broadcast from all 25 streets involved, including five in Parma. The broadcasts will occur during the LIVE ON 5 show (weekdays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and on NewsChannel 5 at 6 p.m. The stories will showcase why these communities are a great place to live and inform residents which streets or neighborhoods are selected to participate in the community safety forum. The whole community will then get to vote on newsnet5.com for which neighborhood will become a NewsChannel 5 featured neighborhood.

The five Parma streets/neighborhoods that will par-

ticipate in the program are: Brookview Blvd. between State and Broadview, Polish Village, Ukrainian Village, Dogwood Estates and Wooster Blvd. Those residents will be invited to a safety meeting during April, at which residential and neighborhood safety tips will be discussed. The use of a smartphone app called "Nextdoor" will also be discussed.

Channel 5's goal is to "empower residents to become more involved in their communities and enable neighbors to get to know each other." That's where the Nextdoor app, a private social network just for neighborhoods, comes in. The goal of Nextdoor is to bring back that sense of community by utilizing social media.

Anyone who wishes to help show off any particular neighborhood with photos or information about neighbor-

continued on page 9



## Spring Has Sprung... And The Flamingos Are Returning To Parma!

by Kathryn Mabin

Yes, spring has sprung, although an unseasonably cold one, but it has arrived. The Parma Flock of Flamingos are packing and preparing for their return flight to Parma for the summer. Flamingo Fever! generated so much fun for Parma in 2013, it's coming back, bigger and better. Last year, some of the fan faves were: Be Polish Eat Pierogi, Hang Ten, Dr. P. Flamingo, WereMingo, Parma Metal, Stan's Bowling Night, Flamingo Ex Machina, Flamingo Carousel, Skylanders Whirlwind, Proud as a Peacock, Don Drapebird, Bird of Beauty, O'Flamingo, Phantas-

tic Phoenicopteridae, and, of course, Cleveland Browns and Chief Flamingo.

Flamingo Fever! is a public art exhibition sponsored by Old World Parma, a Polish Village CDC. It provides an opportunity to apply talent and creativity to a pink plastic flamingo lawn ornament. The completed flamingos will be placed on display at various local businesses over the summer. The fun festivities culminate with a banquet/auction in the fall. Proceeds benefit community development in Polish Village. More fun and surprises are planned continued on page 2

# Community News

## The President's Corner

by Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

This month I will conclude a series of columns that are meant to inform you about the committee structure of Parma City Council. Council committee meetings are very instrumental in the legislative process, as this is normally where most of the discussion about bills takes place. Thus, they serve a very educational function for members of the public, as well as providing them the opportunity for their voices to be heard by becoming actively involved.

The Governmental Operations Committee is led by Chairman Brian Brochetti who represents the Seventh Ward. Newly elected Ward Nine Councilman Jeff Crossman serves as Vice Chairman. This is the committee that handles all matters relating to the Civil Service Commission, Civil Service, employees, officers and officials, all wage matters, compensation and conditions of city employment, creation of positions, the Parma Municipal Court, rates of public utilities, transportation, initiative and referendum petitions, insurance matters, redistricting, annexation, merger and consolidation, intergovernmental relations with any County, State or Federal Government



Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President  
agencies and the Rules of Council.

Ward Five Councilman Allan Divis Chairs the Planning Committee of Council, while Ward Eight Councilman Scott Tuma serves as Vice Chair. This body discusses subjects relating to city planning, recommendations of the City Planning Commission, the Planning and Building Codes, amendments to the Zoning Map, the location of public buildings, the purchase of real property for public purposes and the maintenance and repair of public buildings and real properties. Much of

the work regarding the redevelopment of the Shoppes at Parma (formerly Parmatown) have been and continue to be heard in this committee, for instance.

It is the Appointment Scanning Committee, headed by Ward Three Councilman Mark Casselberry and Vice Chair Allan Divis that is charged with all matters relating to the approval or disapproval of appointments to the various boards and commissions serving the City of Parma. That is, this committee scans or reviews the Mayor's nominees for appointment and decides whether or not they are qualified for their respective positions.

Finally, the Public Housing Committee is traditionally chaired by the Ward One representative on Council, therefore, Councilman Vito Dipierro does so. Ward Two Councilwoman Debbie Lime is the current Vice Chair. This committee deals with all matters relating to the Parma Public Housing Agency, its operations, employees, grants and maintenance, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, and low income housing within the City and County.

It is my hope that you will consider attending at least one City Council Committee meeting in 2014. Our city leaders can truly benefit from the expertise that our nearly 90,000 residents possess. Committee meetings generally take place on the first Mon-

day of each month at 6:00 p.m. and the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in these informative meetings, which take place at Parma City Hall in City Council Chambers. To enter Council Chambers, simply park behind City Hall and enter through the back doors. Meeting dates and times are posted on the City's website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) or you may simply call the Council office for information at (440) 885-8091. Have a wonderful Easter Season!



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## Call 811 Before You Dig

by Doug Turner

April is National Call Before You Dig month and is recognized in Ohio. By law, everyone must contact

the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) before digging. The Ohio Revised Code states you are responsible for calling OUPS at least 48 hours,

but no more than 10 days (excluding weekends and holidays) before beginning any project that requires digging so underground utilities can be marked on your property. The Ohio Revised Code further defines excavator as "the person or persons responsible for making the actual excavation."

By calling 811, Ohioans are connected to OUPS, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of the intent to dig. Locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags or spray paint. Once lines have been accurately marked, digging can begin around marked lines.

Striking a line may cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. If you do strike a line, stop and move away from the area and call the proper utility company and 911 if it's a gas line. Do not use your cell phone or anything else that may cause a spark near the leak. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, necessitates a call to 811, 1-800-362-2764 or online at [www.oups.org](http://www.oups.org) including but not limited to the following

- Landscaping
- Installing a retaining wall
- Digging holes for fence posts or a mailbox
- Anchoring supports for decks and swings sets
- Planting trees or removing tree roots
- Driving landscaping stakes into the ground

## Call For Artists

by Kathryn Mabin

The Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) will host the annual Medley of Arts Show, Saturday, May 17, 2014 at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center located at 7001 W Ridgewood Drive, in Parma, Ohio. PAFAC is a nonprofit organization that has served the community for over 50 years, bringing the arts and art education to the tri-city community.

PAFAC extends an invitation to all artists to participate. There are no age or residency restrictions. Artists interested in participating can obtain an application online at [www.parmafinearts.org](http://www.parmafinearts.org) or by calling (440) 888-4514. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message and a volunteer will return your call as soon as possible. Details on size and medium limitations are also on the website or by calling. Cash prizes will be awarded in five categories, as well as Best In Show and People's Choice. This show is a family-oriented event with entry to the exhibit free and open to the public.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Spring Has Sprung...And The Flamingos Are Returning To Parma!

continued from page 1  
for this year.

Artists and craftspeople, professional and amateur, put on your thinking caps, be creative, and let's make the newest flock outshine the

last. For those who wish to participate, completed applications, a rendering of the design, and an artist statement must be received by May 1, 2014. This year's event will be by juried selection. Those chosen will submit their completed sculptures by the deadline of June 15, 2014. The table top sculptures will be on display at local businesses throughout the summer.

For more information, or to download your application head to [PolishVillageParma.com](http://PolishVillageParma.com), or contact Kathryn Mabin by phone at (440) 843-6474, or by email at [kathrynmabin@att.net](mailto:kathrynmabin@att.net), or Terri Snider at [sniderta@mcosm.net](mailto:sniderta@mcosm.net). Join us in the fun!

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# Health/Culture

## Spring Class Schedule Out

by CJ Sheppard

A delicious, five-session series on plant-based eating and an early intervention weight loss program for children are two of the latest spring offerings at the Health Education Center. Registration is underway for spring classes at the Health Education Center of University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, which continues to offer a wide range of free physician screenings, fitness and wellness classes and program for all ages.

Upcoming screenings include a free foot screening with podiatrist Stacie

Anderson, DPM on April 17 and bone density and cholesterol screenings on multiple dates in April and May. Classes in complementary therapies cover gluten in the diet on April 22 and the medicinal power of tea on May 6. Early April youth classes include Babysitter Training and Life on a Movie Set. Seniors can enjoy Senior Fit, Zumba Gold and Chair Yoga, among other classes.

For a full schedule, go to at [www.parmahospital.org/classes](http://www.parmahospital.org/classes) or call (440) 743-4900 to have a schedule mailed to your home.

## Best Foot Forward: Diabetic Wound Care

by CJ Sheppard

Foot ulcers are the most common cause for hospitalization among diabetic patients. On Wednesday, April 9 from 6-8 p.m. the Wound Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center hosts an informational program and screening to teach patients about prevention, risk factors and treatment of diabetic wounds. Free foot assessments will be performed. A light dinner will be served. Register early at 440-743-4774. The first 20 people who register will receive free diabetic socks.

## Current Events With A Catholic Twist-Group Discussion

by Ronald Czarnecki

You are invited to a topic discussion on "Rich and The Poor" Thursday, April 24th at 7:00 p.m. at St Antony of Padua's hospitality room.

This month's question is, "Should those who have more wealth do more for those who are poor or is there opportunity and help for those who choose to pursue prosperity?"

The group will look at a different topic every month with a specific question to answer, our topic in June will be "Creation Literalism Versus The Theory of Evolution." Everyone shares a viewpoint of their understanding, then we listen to what the Catholic twist would be to that current event issue.

You might be surprised what the Catholic church would teach on an issue that is not always represented in the news. Example from wiki (Catholic Church and Evolution) Bishop

Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond says, "Catholic schools should continue teaching evolution as a scientific theory...also receiving appropriate catechesis at home and in the parish on God as Creator".

So which is it? Come hear the discussion with Father Bob Lorkowski on today's Current Event with a Catholic Twist.

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For Information and Questions:  
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Staff at the Seidman Cancer Center at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center used the striking visual of an inflatable colon to draw attention to the importance of early detection of cancer. Pictured, from left, are: Anmarie Haynes, oncology social worker; Debbie D'Ambrosia, RN; Shirley Sheehan, patient care assistant; Chris Maykut, RN; and Tracy Koehl, RN.

## Get Your Rear In Gear Calls For Catching Colon Cancer Early

by CJ Sheppard

A huge inflatable walk-through colon on display at University Hospitals (UH) Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma Medical Center was a visual reminder during Colon Cancer Awareness Month in March that it may be time to schedule a screening.

Early diagnosis is the key to prevention for the third most common cancer diagnosed in both men and women in the United States. As many as 90 percent of colon cancer cases are curable when diagnosed in early stages. A colon screening, by either a stool test or an imaging procedure, is recommended for men and women over age 50.

While one in 20 Americans will develop colon cancer, the death rate has dropped in recent years due to the rise in early screening. Most patients survive colon cancer if it is discovered early and removed. The larger-than-life display at the Seidman Cancer Center at UH Parma Medical Center, and later in the lobby of the main hospital, illustrated the difference between benign polyps, the fleshy growths in the lining of the colon, and advanced cancer.

Colon cancer is one of the top five cancers treated at the Seidman

Cancer Center at UH Parma Medical Center, according to Manager Diana O'Donnell, RN.

"Colon cancer is not a cancer that typically shows outward, abnormal signs in the early stages," O'Donnell says. "This is why a routine colonoscopy is so important: it is the best way to detect early cancer. Persistent, abnormal GI symptoms (rectal bleeding, unresolved constipation) can be serious and should not be ignored."

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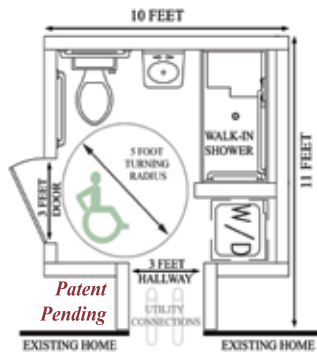
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Parma Education

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### THE PARMA AREA YOUTH INITIATIVE

## PCSD

PARMA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Asset Corner #52

by Gene Lovasy

**April's Asset Category: EMPOWERMENT** Young people are empowered when they feel valued, valuable and safe. They need to believe that adults like and respect them. Finally, they need plenty of opportunities to contribute to their communities through volunteering, working in paid jobs and sharing their ideas, knowledge and creativity. One of these days, the young people in your home, school, neighborhood and workplace will be in charge – in charge of their own lives and in charge of the world. You can help young people get ready for their future role by empowering them now.

EMPOWERMENT

Assets

Include:

- # 7 Community Values Youth - Kids perceive that adults in the community value youth. (22%\*)
- # 8 Youth as Resources – Young people are given useful roles in the community. (26%\*)
- # 9 Service to Others – Young person serves in the community one hour or more a week. (48%\*)
- #10 Safety – Kids feel safe at home, school & in the neighborhood situations. (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 #8 – Youth as Resources**  
**Give young people meaningful roles**

“Having a voice” means more than making a sound when you sing or shout. The ways people express ideas, energy, and insights make each person unique. Helping young people find their voices is one of the best ways to help them be a positive force in their families, schools, clubs, teams, or neighborhoods. This is good for them—and for your community. Young people have a lot more to contribute when their opinions are respected and their talents are tapped. Listen closely to the opinions of young people around you, and you'll all benefit.

**Here are the facts**  
Research shows when young people have useful roles in their community they feel good about themselves and their future, do better in school, and get into less trouble. Everyone deserves to have their voice heard and appreciated. Only 26 percent of young people, ages 11–18, report that they've been given useful roles in their community, according to Search Institute surveys. Allow all young people to have a voice in issues and decisions at home, school, and in the community.

**Tips for building this asset**  
Building this asset means valuing young people's talents, skills, interests, and opinions. It means setting aside the belief that adults know more than the younger generation. When you see children and youth as valuable resources, they feel more empowered to contribute to the community, and at school, and home in meaningful, thoughtful ways.

**Also try this**  
**In your home and family:** Invite your child to help you plan a party or other event. Ask for her or his opinions about the theme, menu, and guests.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Choose a community issue important to you and gather the opinions of both young people and adults. When the time for action arrives, enlist the help of those who share your passion.

**In your school or youth program:** Ask students and participants to find newspaper stories or images that grab their attention. In groups, talk about the topics they identified. Brainstorm ways for them to get involved and use their voices in positive ways, such as writing or e-mailing a letter to the editor, calling a legislator, attending a meeting, or forming a group.

**ASSET RELATED NEWS**  
*If you're not aware it's getting to be Sundae Bar time again.* That's when a local business or organization serves ice cream sundaes to students of their partner school who have reached

a certain level of academic achievement. Kiwanis recognizes the students at RidgeBrook Elementary, UH/Parma Medical Center does so for students at Shiloh M.S. to name just a two. Contact Erin Gadd (gadde@parmacityschools.org, ph:440-885.2307) or Kristen Plageman (plagemank@parmacityschools.org, ph: 440.885.8317), Community/Business/School (CBS) Partnership Co-facilitators, if this initiative might be something you'd like to get try.

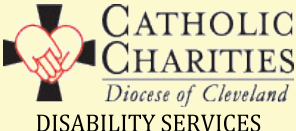
**Recently launched by Community Ambassadors, STOP THE WAIT,** is a grass-roots initiative dedicated to the general cause of connecting local forever families with local waiting orphans in Cuyahoga County. Their objective, through collaboration and partnership with the Parma Area Family Collaborative, foster and adoption agencies, churches, pastors and others is to raise awareness among our community and help recruit families for those waiting for their forever family. Go to [www.stopthewait.com](http://www.stopthewait.com) for details.

**Coordinated out of the Collab by our MyCom initiative, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.)** offers summer employment opportunities for Parma area students. Interested students have only until April 4th to register; employers interested in tapping into this program can register up to April 15th. Contact Kathy Hall at the Collab (hallk@parmacityschools.org ph: 842. 7043) or visit <http://www.youthopportunities.org/programs> for details

*Do you know of a young lady looking for a new prom outfit?* Do you have a new or like-new prom, bridesmaid or special occasion dress, shoes, accessories (necklaces, bracelets, purses, shawl) and/or make-up (NEW, UNUSED only,

please!) that you'd be willing to donate? Consider contacting the BELLE OF THE BALL BOUTIQUE, a new program sponsored by the Parma Area Family Collaborative. With your help and donations of outfits and/or money their goal of providing a dress, shoes and accessories to as many girls as possible can be realized. Contact Megan Drozda (440-842-7026) or Kristi Trunzo (440-842-7040) at the Collab for details or additional information.

*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

# REJECT: The Film

by Kathryn Mabin

In 2013 the Cleveland International Film Festival screened the documentary titled REJECT. It is the story of two students that traveled very different paths. Eric Mohat, a 17-year-old Mentor, Ohio student, has been bullied in school. His story is told by his parents, Jan and Bill Mohat, and friend Brandon. They piece together the events leading up to Eric's suicide.

Justin is a 5-year-old son of Mexican immigrants living in Oklahoma. At age 5, he is already labeled a troublemaker at school. Eventually he lands in a classroom where a teacher recognizes the cause of his behavior and finds a solution for Justin. There is commentary throughout the film by experts in the fields of psychology, education, medicine, neuroscience and juvenile justice, as they examine the causes and consequences of bullying, violent behavior and rejection and offers solutions.

REJECT has now been shown throughout the United States at schools, conferences, film festivals and universities, such as The Citadel Military College, Purdue, Butler, Okla-

homa State, Indiana U., and Alliant in San Diego. It has also been shown internationally at Brighton in England and is slated for viewing in Paris, France this month.

WEAREPROUDTOANNOUNCE: REJECT is coming to Parma Ohio!

On Saturday, May 3, 2014, 1:00pm to 4:30pm a special screening of this highly acclaimed film will be shown at the Parma High Auditorium. Following the screening a community forum will commence. Ruth Thomas-Suh, producer/director, and Jan Mohat, mother of Eric, as well as other distinguished panelists will be on hand to answer questions from the audience.

Many thanks to the individuals, nonprofits, and civic minded community organizations who jumped on-board and made it possible to bring this to you free of charge. If you or your organization are interested in assisting to make this event possible, contact me at kathrynabin@att.net. To learn more about REJECT, go to rejectfilm.com, read the reviews, preview the screening, or check the schedule.

All are welcome! Come and join us!

life's trials. Godly faith and trust promise us many blessings, not the least of which is peace.

Sometimes we are called upon to speak the truth in love; however, we should do it with a spirit of gentleness, kindness and humility.

The fruit [blessings] of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The more children know about their family history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives and the higher their self-esteem.

The reason many parents no longer lead their children in the right direction is because they are not going that way themselves.

Unique gifts (talents, abilities, treasures) have been given to each of us to be used for God's purpose of making the world a better place for everyone.

We can only see the tip of the iceberg when viewing a person; only God can see and know the complete person—heart, mind and soul.

When "the faith" is passed on, God's blessings endure from generation to generation. The opposite is also true.

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?



## Olympic Goalie Visits Holy Family School

by Tom Brownfield

Brianne McLaughlin-Bittle, one of the three goaltenders on the 2010 and 2014 United States Women's Olympic Hockey Team, bought her two silver medals to Holy Family School on Monday, March 10, 2014 and spoke to the students about the importance of working hard to attain goals both athletically and academically. Mrs. McLaughlin-Bittle spoke of her hockey experiences which began prior to entering kindergarten. Inspired by her brother, she wished to "play hockey with the boys" rather than learn figure skating. It was not until her college years at Robert Morris University that she began playing on an all-women's team. Students listened to Mrs. McLaughlin-Bittle's

journey to become a member of the 2010 and 2014 Women's Team as well as her experiences in Sochi, Russia and Vancouver, Canada. They also were able to hold her two silver medals.

Mrs. McLaughlin-Bittle ended her talk to the students by stressing the importance of doing well academically. "I would never have gone to the Olympics if I did not go to Robert Morris," she stated, "and I would not have gotten into the university if I had low scores on my college entrance tests. It's important that you do well in school now and always do your best." The Holy Family students thanked her for coming to the school and sharing her experiences with them by enthusiastically cheering "U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!"

# I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

According to the U.S. Surgeon General, nearly ninety percent of smokers start by age eighteen. The smoking habit guarantees serious physical harm to everyone, not to mention the expense over a lifetime.

All who drink from the wells of the world will thirst again, but just a single drink from the springs of living water of which Christ spoke eliminates spiritual thirst forever.

At times our behavior will be appreciated, and at other times it will not. Our call is to trust God's word, not society's acceptance or rejection.

Culture emphasizes external (physical) beauty, which is destined to decrease; the Bible emphasizes internal (mental) beauty, which is destined to increase.

Even though we are sinful, Jesus' mercy, forgiveness, and love are there to heal us, save us, and send us out with the "good news."

God's word directs us to choose love over hate, forgiveness over score-keeping, and mercy over judgment.

It is more important to congratulate your partner when things go right than to console when things go wrong.

Moral values must be an active force in our way of life. We cannot prevent fires by simply buying more fire trucks.

Most people find it difficult not to be anxious, fearful and worried about

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Parma Area

# Stearns Homestead Schedule For 2014

by Debbie Sillett

The Parma Area Historical Society is looking forward to seeing many of you at Parma's only historic working farm! Plan your summer around these fun and family events! We start the season on Sunday, May 18th, with events to be announced. June 14th will be the Sunset at the Farm and Flag retirement ceremony. Saturday, June 21st, will be Opening Day for the Farmers' Market, which will be open every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. until October 4th with lots of music, fun, and fresh produce.

Our annual Antiques and Collectables event will be on Saturday and Sunday July 12 - 13th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cow Pie Bingo will be plopped out in our pastures on July 27th from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The Rummage Sale will be held in the Cabin the weekend of August 16 - 17th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The weekend of September 13 - 14th brings us the Cuyahoga County Farm Bureau's Farm-City Days event.



There's no better way to see the wonderful sights and sounds.



People enjoying our "Green Island in a Suburban Ocean."

Come and see how agriculture is involved in everyone's life. Plus, there will be hayrides and other family fun. October 4th will be the last day of the Farmers' Market. And the Fall Harvest Festival will provide visitors with a yummy opportunity to stock up on apples, cider, honey, and other fall favorites! There will also be games, food, and hayrides!

Our annual Christmas on the Farm, December 6 - 7th, will close our season with pictures with Santa, mulled cider, and hot chocolate to warm you up.

All the animals will be looking forward to your visits with them soon. And you can buy them a treat at the feed table. Here at Stearns Homestead, you can also enjoy a beautiful green space to have a picnic with your family, go back in time with a stroll through our two museums, and take home a treat from the country store. Every weekend promises enjoyment, relaxation, and rejuvenation for our visitors.



Maggie's Place Ohio Supporters Alain and Cynthia Harfouche with Amita and Andrew Frawley enjoying "Wine & Dine"

## Wine & Dine Benefit Raises \$11K For The Zechariah House

by Tricia Kuivinen

Guests and supporters of Maggie's Place Ohio showered The Zechariah House with \$11K in operating support at the 2nd Annual Maggie's Place Ohio "Wine & Dine" benefit held February 13. More than 70 guests enjoyed delicious food and wine samplings from Mia Bella Restaurant in Little Italy while bidding on unique Valentine-themed auction packages. One of the residents assisted by The Zechariah House was also on hand for the benefit to share what the home has meant to her and her son.

Maggie's Place is a community of homes in two states designed to provide safe housing, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, parenting preparation, employment and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be

alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted and may stay up to six months after their child's birth. Since 2000, Maggie's Place has helped over 700 vulnerable young mothers find safety and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Funds raised from guests attending the "Wine & Dine" benefit will support the continued operations of The Zechariah House, located in Parma. Each mother in residence at the house benefits from a close "contact person" or mentor and also receives professional counseling during her stay. Many Maggie's Place mothers go on to complete their GED, receive additional job training or attend col-

**continued on page 9**

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Perspective

# Many Parallels Between The Social Security Act And The ACA

by Lee Kamps

Last summer I visited the FDR house and museum in Hyde Park NY. It was fascinating. In the museum there is an entire exhibit devoted to the Social Security Act of 1935, perhaps FDR's significant domestic achievement. Some of the history of that act; following the 1934 midterm elections that gave the Democratic party more than a 60% majority in both houses of congress, FDR introduced the Social Security Act. That act included more than what we now knows as Social

Security. It also included unemployment compensation to workers laid off through no fault of their own and direct cash assistance to those in the most need: widows, orphans, the blind, the aged, and families with dependent children. Those programs became the basis of our system of public welfare that exists to this day.

Almost immediately the Republicans labeled the Social Security Act as socialism and worse. Some said that passage of that act would destroy the very foundation of the United States. But

the act passed handily with no Republican votes. The GOP made repealing the Social Security Act a corner stone of their 1936 presidential campaign and believed that there existed a "silent majority" of voters out there who would see the light against "creeping socialism" coming from FDR.

Of course we all know the result of the 1936 presidential election. FDR won in a historic landslide and the Democratic Party increased their membership in congress nearing a 2/3 majority. The next hope of the oppo-

nents of the Social Security Act was that the Supreme Court would see the light and declare the act unconstitutional. In 1937 the Supreme Court was dominated by Republican appointed conservative justices and the court had already thrown out some of FDR's New Deal legislation. FDR really feared that this conservative Supreme Court would declare the Social Security Act as unconstitutional.

Thus FDR thought he could "pack the court" by appointing new justices for each justice over 70 years old. Of course this "court packing" scheme backfired and handed FDR a stinging defeat. But some justices read the message and retired. That allowed FDR to appoint new justices that would look more favorably on the Social Security Act. The court upheld the Social Security Act as constitutional pretty much on the same grounds as the Supreme Court upheld the ACA seventy five years later.

While I was reading that, it was eerily familiar. Substitute the PPACA or "Obamacare" for the Social Security Act and 2012 for 1936 (with a different outcome) and it reads like today's news.

Of course now Social Security is perhaps the most popular government program and any elected official who proposes any cuts to social security is surely headed for defeat in their next election. Witness the recent battle over using the "chained CPI" to determine annual cost of living increases in social security benefits. A large outcry from seniors forced the president to back off that proposal and many in congress to do likewise. Now it seems that the "chained CPI" is dead in the water like GWB's "private investment accounts" from 2005.

I believe that within twenty years or more, the PPACA or "Obamacare" will be looked upon in a similar light as we now regard the Social Security Act of 1935. Like social security, the ACA will have several revisions, but its basic structure will remain intact and become a fixture of American society just as Social Security has become.

Granted that the FDR museum sheds the life and times of FDR in a more favorable light, but one would be wrong to believe that it is all sunshine and light on FDR. There are items about his mistress and the strained marriage with Eleanor. There are also segments showing what the opponents of FDR said during his time as president. In fact, looking back on some of those comments made against the Social Security Act of 1935, they sound eerily similar to those against the ACA. Many were very mean spirited and demeaning toward those who would benefit from the Social Security Act. Many actually look ridiculous when seen in today's light. Those who oppose the ACA should be careful of what they are saying. No doubt, come 2034 or 2064, those comments would also look very mean spirited and demeaning as well as ridiculous to the people in 2034 and 2064.

# Pros And Cons Of New Parma Library Branch

by Leo Lampeter

For those who haven't seen the new Parma library on Powers Blvd., you should visit your investment. On its own, it is a striking building. Windows fill walls. You can observe some of the sights without leaving your chair. The inside is expansive with much room to wander in. There are also fireplaces to decorate several of the interior walls of the building.

In general, the building is divided into three sections; children's, teen's and adult's. The children's is beautifully decorated with rhymes that span the wide support beams. The immediate, eye-catching feature is the wonderful mural on the western wall. There are also storage creations that are quite imaginative. Among other appointments are such diversions as a heat sensitive end cap that, if you place a hand on it, your body heat will duplicate your hand print. It also has a number of computers for parents and children.

The teen section is walled off by a glass partition. It contains a Playstation video game system that is usually available, as I have noticed. Also, in the room

are a number of computers. It is decorated with stuffed furniture. The room is spacious and seems comfortable.

In the adult section, the ceilings must be at least twenty-five feet high - apparently for observing the sky and letting sunlight in. Part of this section contains a tech lab that has a glass wall which also allows natural light to brighten the room. There are approximately forty computers for the public to use.

Along the windows, the sun glare certainly is distracting. This occurs most notably at certain banks of computers. There is much space that is not used (wasted?) and the height of the ceilings is such that in winter the heat goes readily to the top. The impression was that this library system would have energy efficient buildings.

The deficiency in the children's section is that there is no sound barrier between the children's and adult sections. Thus, after the children enjoy what is in many respects a time at the playground, some get upset and make their displeasure known to all. Did the engineer or administration not

consider this? Did the administration listen to the individual workers familiar with the activities of the various branches? There could have also been some foresight into having an exit in the children's section, eliminating the issue of having an upset (usually boisterous) child go through much of the library to exit with parent.

There are also issues when parents use the computers with children in tow. There have been instances where a parent goes to the adult section to work on the computer and her child is disorderly and asking for some video game. Doesn't it seem logical to guide these parents to the children's section? The staff responds that the sections are open to all. True, but to all who act appropriately. They should be permitted to direct disruptive individuals or groups to an appropriate area.

Though most persons with cell phones are generally considerate, shouldn't the phone be on vibrate? Speaking in the appropriate area would help also. Having conversations while others are attempting to conduct their business is something that the library should address without patrons drawing it to their attention.

Let's go to staffing issues. I have viewed lines of people waiting to get served in various sections of the library with no one there to assist them. Staffing is minimal. Maybe economically wise, but from a patron aspect somewhat frustrating. Perhaps if the Director and her assistant didn't have a taxpayer provided SUV that is fully loaded, these funds could provide more service for patrons and less for the Director, who could get from branch to branch just as well with a lesser vehicle.

Snow removal between the Senior Center and the Library would help Seniors avoid an ugly incident. The Senior Center removes their snow quite nicely.

Now turning to the disabled. The spacing of the computers won't allow a disabled person to travel freely among the DVD section. Incidents occurred where a wheel chair trying to maneuver just knocked entire sections down. There are spacing issues for the non-handicapped trying to get by in the computer sections. If patrons occupy full sections, trying to pass is an issue.

Perhaps the corrections should start with the Director and Branch Manager.

# Parmadale As Orphanage May Be Best Use Of Existing Facilities

by Maura Prentiss

There are too many babies and children in the United States who need our help. "Unwanted" babies and children need more support than from the foster system we have and many children "fall between the cracks" of humanity. The obvious solution is to bring back state-run orphanages.

Each year, almost a million children come in contact with the foster care system. Over \$25 billion a year – or \$60,000 a child – is spent on foster care programs. That is a conservative approximation.

According to ABC News, experts estimate that most foster care placements can be traced to substance abuse. Also, most kids are placed in the system temporarily due to parental abuse or neglect.

**There are also stunning facts regarding foster care in America:**

- About 50,000 infants are placed in foster care every year.
- 150,000 kids are currently available for adoption.
- Some kids stay in the system for

about three years before re-joining their families or adopted.

- Moving in and out of different homes can be unsettling for children.
- Most kids have been separated from their brothers and sisters as well as their parents.
- When kids "age out" of the system there are not a lot of options for them and many end up homeless.
- Many case workers "burn out" due to the number of cases assigned to them... well over the recommended number.
- Many stories regarding horrible treatment from foster parents illuminates the fact that foster families are not well screened or policed.

America cannot ignore the problem anymore. We must be honest and shine a light on the problems and, more important, the solution.

With all the advancements in technology, child development and drug addiction, it's a wonder that America hasn't re-opened the idea of state-run orphanages. In the past, there were hor-

**continued on page 9**



Perspective

# Polish Village Paczki Day Sees Record Turnout

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk

No doubt about it, for the Greater Cleveland area with its large Polish population, Paczki Day (pronounced poonch-key), also known as Fat Tuesday, has always been a popular pre-Lenten event. But in Parma's Polish Village, it has exploded! This bustling, walkable, commercial district, featuring nearly 100 small businesses, has seemingly become the number one paczki destination in Ohio. Here in Parma's Polish Village, four family-owned businesses – Colozza's Bakery, Krakow Deli, Little Polish Diner, and Rudy's Strudel and Bakery – have enthusiastically embraced the paczki craze that continues to sweep through Polish communities wherever

they may be. But what exactly are paczki? Are they donuts or something else entirely? They have been described by some as "super-rich, filled, sometimes double-fried, pastries that had their origins in Poland, where they were the ultimate, and last, sweet treat that Lent observers would allow themselves before Lent began." Lidia Trempe, owner of Rudy's Strudel and Bakery, agrees. "It is not a donut. It's not even a little bit like a donut. This has more eggs, this has more butter, this has quadruple the filling," she said. Indeed, on Paczki Day, these delicious pastries seem to possess a special quality unlike any other. Rudy's, featuring DJ Kishka,

Cleveland's premier polka disc jockey, came close to selling an unbelievable, mind-boggling 50,000 paczki on just that one day and garnered the attention of nearly every local news station including WKYC 3, WEWS 5, FOX 8, and WOIO 19.

All four Polish Village businesses offered an incredible variety of decadent paczki to satisfy the sweet tooth of their many customers and were largely sold out of paczki by noon. Traditional flavors were available at each of the businesses with Colozza's and Rudy's going above and beyond by offering some unique flavors not typically found at most bakeries. Rudy's, by far, offered the largest variety with

more than 25 flavors and a new delicious assortment of savory paczki that include mouth-watering options such as The Clevelander (sauerkraut and kielbasa) and The Parma (potato and cheese) – a first for the Cleveland area and quite possibly the world. As Lidia of Rudy's will tell you, try just one of these savory paczki and it is going to change your life! Believe it!

Be sure to visit PolishVillageParma.com, Facebook.com/PolishVillage, and Twitter.com/PolishVillage to keep up with the latest news in Parma's Polish Village.



Paczki Time at Colozza's Bakery in Parma's Polish Village.  
Photo © 2014 Stefan P. Stefaniuk

## Parmadale As Orphanage May Be Best Use Of Existing Facilities

continued from page 8

ror stories of how children were abused in such places. Not all, but the bad does overshadow the good. Now, rather than spend millions of dollars throwing money at the problem with no good outcome, we can build orphanages and help kids with a positive future.

Parmadale, in Parma, Ohio, was an orphanage for families who couldn't afford to raise their kids because of the depression or other reasons. Catholic Charities ran it and there were nuns and priests who tended to the children. It wasn't perfect, but a few of the gentlemen who were raised there and went off to become doctors and lawyers said it was a "wonderful" experience.

Everyone had a bed, hot meals, an education, structure and discipline, friends, and the opportunity to play sports. And a future. Of course, it wasn't all perfect back then. But the idea was good.

Parmadale today may be closing down. The people who work there are overwhelmed with the struggles of caring for problem children. They don't have the requirements or the financial support to run Parmadale correctly.

Today, with technology, there is an opportunity for a checks and balances system to make sure there is no abuse or bullying from the kids or the people

put in charge of them. Not only would every room be monitored, but also the background checks of the people that work there would be severe. There would be strict rules to follow, both for workers and children living there.

The grounds themselves are available immediately. There are so many buildings, hospitals, apartments, etc. that are sitting collecting dust. The state or federal government could utilize these places and update them for use as orphanages.

The people who work at these places could be the same folks who enjoy being foster parents. But they would need the education and background checks necessary for their work. Or they could donate their time in numerous ways.

There would also be child "experts" and psychologists to help with the number of psychological problems these children could come in with. There would be doctors and nurses to help as well as educators and advisors.

The foster program is failing miserably in this country. There are not enough checks and balances to follow up with every child or every family in need. Orphanages can be monitored, maintained, and cost-efficient while helping at-risk and unwanted kids get a better education, upbringing, and future.

## Benefit Raises \$11K

continued from page 7

lege classes with the help of Maggie's Place scholarships, positioning them for better job opportunities. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 8% and the child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place is playing an important role in supporting vulnerable new parents.

To learn more about Maggie's Place Ohio, visit [www.maggiesplace.org](http://www.maggiesplace.org), follow us on Facebook or Twitter, or call 440.866.2620 to arrange for a personal tour of The Zechariah House.

## Better Neighborhoods

continued from page 1

hood happenings can e-mail [BBN@newsnet5.com](mailto:BBN@newsnet5.com). Residents can send pictures and information about community projects, meetings, and other exciting things happening in their neighborhood.

Other projects that NewsNet5 has undertaken with its Building Better Neighborhoods include helping Habitat for Humanity renovate homes, cleaning up Northeast Ohio neighborhoods and helping demolish vacant and condemned properties.

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Citizen Viewpoint



Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter with 4-year-old George Hartwig Jr., who last year won the right to throw out the first pitch. Also with the Mayor are his children, Jack and Molly.

Parma Night At Monsters, Indians Coming Up

by Jeannie Roberts

Two upcoming sports events will feature tributes to Parma. Tickets are still available for both. Parma residents shouldn't wait too long, though, to purchase tickets to either – the Parma Night at the Lake Erie Monsters game is coming up quickly on April 19 and Parma Night at Progressive Field is against the New York Yankees, which could be retiring shortstop Derek Jeter's last appearance in Cleveland.

The Monsters game is against the Grand Rapids Griffins at Quicken Loans Arena. Tickets for that game must be purchased directly through the Monsters at <http://groups.thequickenloans.com/cityofparma>. Tickets for the Indians game, which is July 10 at 7:05 p.m., can be purchased through the Parma Recreation Department for \$12 (bleacher seats). Also that night, Parma Recreation teams will participate in a pre-game parade around the field. Plus,

it's scheduled to be a Dollar Dog Night at the ballpark.

Perhaps one of the biggest reasons, though, to purchase tickets through Parma Recreation is that Parma residents who purchase tickets that way can enter a contest to win the opportunity for a child 17 or under to throw out the first pitch at the game. Mayor Tim DeGeeter gave up this opportunity so that a Parma child can have it.

But hurry - even though the game is in July, there are only 600 Parma Night tickets available through the Recreation Department. "Parma Night at Progressive Field is popular with our residents, and it's neat to see a kid enjoy the experience of the first pitch," Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. "So let's see how we do with another sport. Parma is an ice hockey town for a lot of age groups. And we are always looking for family friendly events for our residents."

Now That's Funny? by Julia Cindric



## First Time Homebuyer Seminar

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# Reflections

## Enjoy A "Taste" Of Seven Hills 2014

by Kathy Holland

The City of Seven Hills will host its 4th Annual "Taste of Seven Hills" on Saturday, April 12, 2014, from 6 until 9 p.m. at the Seven Hills Community Recreation Center, 7777 Summitview Drive in Seven Hills. Tickets are \$30 per person, which includes tasting samples from over 20 area restaurants and caterers, plus beer, wine, nonalcoholic beverages, and entertainment by guitarist Victor Samalot. Purchase a table of 8 before March 14th for \$200, a savings of \$40!

Tasting samples will be available from: Bonefish Grill, Catering by Wal-Tam's, Danny Boys, Edible

Arrangements, Francesco's Bakery & Deli, Fresh Butcher Deli Café, George's Deli, Giant Eagle, Greek Corner Ouzeri, Hibachi Japanese Steakhouse, Jimmy Johns, La Bakery Boutique, Lemonberry Frozen Yogurt, Mom's Pierogies, Oak Barrel Brasserie & Tap-house, Pazzo's Grand Ballroom, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Stancato's Italian Restaurant, Swenson's Drive-In, Wing Warehouse, and Zoup!

For tickets, call Kathy Holland at (216) 525-6227 by Tuesday April 1st. Tickets may also be purchased at the Seven Hills Community Recreation Center, 7777 Summitview Drive, Seven Hills, Ohio.

## New Course Manager Hired At Ridgewood

by Jeannie Roberts

David Chuba has been named the Golf Course Manager at Ridgewood Municipal Golf Course. His employment began on March 24. Chuba has previously been the manager at three other courses – Walnut Run Golf Course in Cortland, OH, The Links at Firestone Farms in Columbiana, OH and Fowler's Mill Golf Course on Cleveland's east side.

He is a PGA member with 17 years' experience in managing golf operations at these various courses and is also a teaching pro. Parks & Recreation Department Director Mickey Vittardi said he feels lucky to have landed a can-

didate with Chuba's skills. "When you look at what he's been able to do in the past, you can see the tremendous possibilities of having a guy like him at Ridgewood," Vittardi said.

Chuba's past includes what he calls "the ability to think outside the box and the capability to work on a tight budget." "Those things are going to come in handy here," said Mayor Tim DeGeeter.

"I am looking forward to seeing how Ridgewood grows under Dave's leadership," DeGeeter said. "And maybe he can teach some of us a thing or two about our golf game."

## Seven Hills State Of The City Address

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important to maintain. Seven Hills will need to promote a sense of shared responsibility and shared benefits in all the work and sacrifice that it takes to make Seven Hills such a great place to live, raise a family and retire. Seven Hills continues to support, at some expense to the City, all of the various functions like Home Days, Taste of Seven Hills, Fall Fest, the Chili Cook-off, Baseball Opening Day, the Memorial Day parade, and VFW Christmas Party.

This past month, the City also began a phone app for its residents to obtain real time updates on city business.

As part of the new relationship between Parma Hospital and University Hospitals, the City of Seven Hills will receive a sum of money to be used for health and wellness purposes. Mayor Dell'Aquila has proposed using that money to begin a shuttle service for the seniors and others who cannot get around on their own for doctors' appointments, the Recreation Center, the library, or just to shop on their own. The Mayor proposes using the rest of the funds to construct an ADA compliant playground at the Recreation Center.

Every day, the City is seeking more investment, jobs and talent to

locate here in Seven Hills. In our modern times, young people move to find jobs. Young professionals and business investors move to the type of city they want to live in and then build their lives and raise their families.

The priorities Mayor Dell'Aquila wants to set for the coming year are challenging but not impossible. They include:

- Doing more to stabilize the City's financial situation.
- Continuing to develop a "business friendly" atmosphere in Seven Hills.
- Reintegrating Seven Hills with neighboring communities.
- Upgrading the City's housing stock to attract young families and income earning young professionals.
- Infrastructure repairs and upgrades.

In the second half of his first term as Mayor, Richard Dell'Aquila will be working hard to forge a positive relationship with Council to make more real progress for the City, working to formulate a city-wide plan that doesn't benefit one group of residents over another or that divides neighbors into opposing interest groups. In a small town like Seven Hills, there is a unique good will that is optimistic for what tomorrow will bring. Seven Hills is filled with great people and many exciting opportunities.





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