

“If something isn’t impossible, there must be a way of doing it”- Nicholas Winton

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# PARMA Observer

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## Congressman Renacci And Parma Reps Tour The Shoppes At Parma

by Stefan P. Stefaniuk  
It’s not every day that one is provided an up-close opportunity to see the demolition and redevelopment taking place at The Shoppes at Parma, but that’s exactly what happened on the morning of Wednesday, April 23rd when U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci (OH-16) visited Parma. Renacci, who also recently visited Reserves Network in Fairview Park, Moen in North Olmsted, and Hyland Software in Westlake as he traveled to various destinations during his Route 71 Tour, made sure to visit The Shoppes at Parma where economic development is once again taking root.

Here at The Shoppes at Parma, Renacci had a chance to witness first-hand the

ongoing transformation of Parmatown’s retail legacy. Roy Williams, the Senior Vice President at Phillips Edison & Co., the Cincinnati-based company that recently purchased the Parmatown property, gave a short presentation of what Parmatown Mall had once been to the local community and what residents could soon expect to see as a result of the incredible \$70 million investment that is turning this retail destination into The Shoppes at Parma. Although he could not yet disclose the soon-to-be retail tenants that the redeveloped mall would feature, he did reveal that Chipotle would soon occupy one of the six new outbuildings. Other new announcements regarding new tenants are expected to be



US Congressman Jim Renacci with Phillips Edison & Company Vice President Roy Williams during walking hard hat tour of the Shoppes at Parma site on 4/23.

made by mid-May.  
Parma City Councilmen Scott Tuma, Brian Brochetti, Mark Casselberry, and Vito Dipierro also joined Renacci

during the hard hat tour of The Shoppes at Parma as he discussed the ongoing redevelopment of the retail site with Williams while cameramen and photographers followed. Touring the site, it was startling to see what had become of the interior of the mall as large heaps of metal debris, broken glass, and a variety of soon-to-be recycled materials lined the area where the Macy’s building once began. The location where Macy’s once stood is now a large pit where a number of workers in their construc-

tion vehicles busily work to prepare the site for its upcoming transformation.

Williams, peppered with questions during the tour about The Shoppes at Parma redevelopment and the future of retail, responded that research conducted by Phillips Edison revealed that the local market demographics could support The Shoppes at Parma. Considering that recent census data reveals, of the twenty largest cities in Ohio, Parma, seventh largest, has the highest median household income and lowest poverty rate, it seems reasonable to expect that the local area can support current and upcoming shopping and dining options to be featured at The Shoppes at Parma.

As the tour came to an end at Antonio’s Restaurant, there was an unmistakable feeling of anticipation and excitement in the air of things to come. The ongoing redevelopment of The Shoppes at Parma is undoubtedly helping to pave a brighter future for Parma and surrounding cities - a future that seems to be growing brighter with each passing day.

## Public Input Forum On Town Center Set For May 13

by Jeannie Roberts  
Back in January, Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter announced the creation of a task force intended to take a big step toward making the words “Town Center” more than just a concept. Since then, the Parma Mayor’s Town Center Task Force has been busy exchanging and researching ideas, working toward the

Town Center concept that DeGeeter has envisioned since being elected.  
The Mayor charged the task force with presenting him and the City Council with a viable, fundable strategic plan. Members of the task force are nearly ready to do that. But they have a few very important steps to go, among them asking you what you think.

To that end, the Public Input Forum was created. The Mayor’s Town Center Task Force wants to know your ideas, what you think of their ideas, how you think the Town Center concept can become reality. The forum is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Parma Branch Library on Powers Boulevard.

The geographic area of the Town Center would include The Shoppes at Parma, Stearns Homestead, the Day Drive corridor, Parma City Hall, the Parma Library, Byers Field and the University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

The Town Center Task Force has been chaired by Cuyahoga County Planning Commission Executive Director Glenn Coyne, who was volunteered by Cuyahoga County’s Loaned Executive Program. Coyne is well-versed in community development and planning. The 15-member task force includes representative of many Parma stakeholders that fall within the geographic region of the proposed Town Center. These include the Parma

## Biltmore Nursing Home In Seven Hills



by Daniel P. McCarthy  
On April 1, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Biltmore Nursing Home in Seven Hills, at the corner of Rockside Road and Pinnacle Park Drive. The rain stopped just in time and a small crowd trudged up the small embankment to the spot where the project will begin. The ceremony was officiated by Seven Hills Mayor Richard Dell’Aquila and there were several city officials there, as well as owner Tom Bartlebaugh and Parma Area chamber of Commerce President David Nedrich. The planned \$9 million project will be 50,000 square feet, have 80 beds, offer short and long term care, physical therapy and home care, and will create 80-100 jobs for the community.

## Arbor Day Foundation Names Seven Hills Tree City USA

by Kathy Holland  
Seven Hills, Ohio was named a 2013 Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation in honor of its commitment to effective urban forest management. Seven Hills achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

The TreeCity USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. “Everyone benefits when



elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Seven Hills make smart investments in urban forests,” said John Rosenow, founder and chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along

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# Community News

## The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,

Most who know me know that I love to run. I find few things more enjoyable than jogging through the many beautiful Cleveland Metroparks trails or on the towpath in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. We are so blessed to have so many beautiful walking and running paths both in and so close to Parma. My love of running and of all things Parma led me four years ago to create the Parma Run/Walk for Pierogies. Thanks to the help and support of several close friends, many generous Parma businesses and the running and walking community, the event has become a Parma staple with well over 500 participants taking part each year.

The Fourth Annual Parma Run/Walk for Pierogies, sponsored by University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, will take place at Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus, 11000 West Pleasant Valley Road, on Saturday, July 5 at 8:30 am. Participants in the 5K run/walk or 1 mile walk will receive a t-shirt, stuffed goodie bag, drinks and snacks, including pierogies courtesy of Parma’s own Little Polish Diner and Krakow Deli. The top male and female will each receive a prize package, as well as the exclusive Golden Pierogie Award. The top three males and females in several



Sean Brennan, Parma City Council President age groupings will win golden pierogie awards. Many door prizes, including packages of pierogies from St.Vladimir’s Ukrainian Orthodox Church, will be awarded, as well.

Pre-registration is \$20 (\$10 for children 11 and under), while race day registration will be \$25. New this year is our “family plan.” This plan allows you to register three or more individuals from the same address for \$50 (restrictions apply). Registration can be completed online at [www.hermescleveland.com](http://www.hermescleveland.com) or call me at (440) 884-0489 or e-mail me at [councilmanbrennan@](mailto:councilmanbrennan@)



Pictured from left to right are 2013 Parma Run for Pierogies 5K winner Aaron Apathy, race director and Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, female winner Jamie Adams, and co-director Gary Uveges.

[sbcglobal.net](http://sbcglobal.net) for a registration form and/or with questions. If your business would like to become a sponsor, you are encouraged to contact me, as well.

Visit and like us on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Parma-RunWalk-for-Pierogies/510203692378698>.

This year we will be dividing the proceeds from the race between some fine local charities, including the American Cancer Society Parma Area Relay for Life, All-Faiths Pantry, All Kids Playground, and the Parma Police Auxiliary Unit.



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## Volunteers Needed To Clean Up Big Creek Watershed

by Sean Brennan

The 16th Annual Big Creek Watershed Cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 31st from 9:00 am until noon. All residents are invited to volunteer. The event will take place at the Cleveland Metroparks Snow Road Picnic Area along Big

Creek Parkway on the Parma-Parma Heights border. Volunteers are asked to dress for the weather and wear long sleeves and pants. Boots and work shoes are suggested. Bags and work gloves will be provided. Children under 18 must have adult supervision. Refreshments will be provided.

Sponsors include Friends of Big Creek, Parma City Council President Sean Brennan, Parma Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro, Parma Heights Councilman Jim McCall, and many others. For more information call Bob Gardin at 216-269-6472.

## Pleasant Lake Villa's Annual Breakfast With The Easter Bunny



Guests enjoying their delicious breakfast as the Easter Bunny meets and greets.

by Deb Frank-Rickards

Pleasant Lake Villa Hosted its annual Easter Bunny Breakfast Saturday April 12th. The kids enjoyed strolling along the bunny trail and finding treats along the way to the Bunny's lap for a photo. Parma City Councilman Allan Divis from Ward 5 also joined us. The event also included a music singing duo and buffet breakfast. This event brings so much joy to the kids and their parents. We love to have the community come visit!

## Watershed Volunteers Perform Storm Water Street Tree Maintenance In Seven Hills

by Kathy Holland

Tuesday April 8, 2014 the Watershed Volunteer Program at Cleveland Metroparks and West Creek Conservancy in conjunction with the City of Seven Hills performed street tree maintenance, including cleaning and cultivating of the bioretention cells, along Civic Drive and Broadview Road from the intersection of Hillside Road to East Pleasant Valley Road. Bioretention calls help purify storm water runoff, including removal of road salt.



From left to right are Patricia Sikora, Terry Greathouse, Elizabeth Reeder, Ellen Brown-Armstrong, Drew Robinson, Jonny Molnar, Leila Jackson. Also present, but not in the photo, was Ebony Hood.

## Public Input Forum On Town Center

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City School District, Parma Hospital, Proud of Parma, the Parma Area Chamber of Commerce, and the West Creek Conservancy. Polish and Ukrainian Villages are also represented. The Shoppes at Parma mall manager will represent mall developer Phillips Edison & Co. Most of the members of the task force are also Parma residents. For example, Katherine Holmok, who is a member of the Parma Planning Commission, is a landscape architect. There is only one elected official on the panel,

Parma City Councilman Scott Tuma, in whose ward the Town Center falls.

“We have long been excited about this town center concept and the synergy it could create around this area,” DeGeeter said. “The task force has been just one step in this process, but a very important one. It is also of critical importance to get feedback and input from our residents. Already we have seen new growth and reinvestment in this area this past year. It’s exciting to consider what can happen when this area comes alive.”

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Health/Culture

Free Stroke Awareness Program From Award-Winning Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Consistent, high-quality care of stroke patients earned University Hospitals (UH) Parma Medical Center the Gold from the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. And its community presence – including a free May 27 presentation to educate the public on signs, symptoms,

and treatment of stroke – is among the reasons UH Parma Medical Center received this award. Collaboration between EMS, the Emergency Department, and the multidisciplinary Stroke Team results in prompt diagnosis and effective treatment of stroke patients. UH Parma Medical Center received the Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke

Gold-Plus Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. “We take a lot of pride in our continued dedication to the community and the excellent care we can provide,” said Austin Wellock, MD, Medical Director of the Emergency Department and Director of the Stroke Program.

Get With The Guidelines – Stroke helps hospital teams provide the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. UH Parma Medical Center earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include aggressive use of medications and risk-reduction therapies aimed at reducing death and disability and improving the lives of stroke patients. “This award underscores UH Parma Medical Center’s commitment to our patients, to administer the highest possible level of care right here in the community,” said Noreen Chase, RN, Stroke Program Coordinator, who is required to conduct two community education programs per year and presents more than 10. “With this award, our hospital demonstrates our commitment to ensure that our patients receive care based on internationally-respected clinical guidelines.”

Get With The Guidelines – Stroke also helps UH Parma Medical Center’s staff implement prevention measures, which include educating stroke patients to manage their risk factors, to be aware of warning signs for stroke, and ensuring they take their medications properly. Hospitals can make customized patient education materials available upon discharge, based on the patients’ individual risk profiles.

On Tuesday, May 27, during Stroke Awareness Month, Chase conducts a

free Stroke Awareness presentation covering signs, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of the leading cause of disability among Americans. The program will be held from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the UH Parma Medical Center’s Health Education Center, 7300 State Road. Call 440-743-4900 to register.

“We are pleased to recognize UH Parma Medical Center for their commitment and dedication to stroke care,” said Deepak L. Bhatt, M.D., M.P.H., national chairman of the Get With The Guidelines steering committee and Executive Director of Interventional Cardiovascular Programs at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. “Studies have shown that hospitals that consistently follow Get With The Guidelines quality improvement measures can reduce patients’ length of stays and 30-day readmission rates and reduce disparity gaps in care.”

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the number four cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds; someone dies of a stroke every four minutes; and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

Bariatric Surgery: A Lasting Weight Loss Solution

by CJ Sheppard

Bariatric surgery can be the optimal weight loss solution for individuals who have tried many other means without success. Learn more about an option that can minimize or even resolve comorbidities like sleep apnea, elevated cholesterol, and hypertension at a free session with a University Hospitals (UH) Parma Medical Center bariatric surgeon. Michael Nowak, MD, said reducing the impact of diabetes is among his greatest rewards as a surgeon who performs these life-changing surgeries.

The latest surgical options will be presented on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the UH Parma Medical Center Auditorium. Upcoming dates are May 20, June 17, July 15 and August 19. Call 440-743-2900 to register.

Parma Recreation Dept Has New Home At Former Parma-South Branch Library

by Jeannie Roberts

Recreation Director Mickey Vittardi has had plenty of offices in his nearly 30 years in the Department. Maybe he’ll stay in this one a good long while. Vittardi and his staff recently moved from the former Parmatown Mall to the former Parma-South Branch Library at 7335 Ridge Road. The Recreation Department is sharing the building with some University Hospitals Parma Medical Center employees and the staff of Congressman Jim Renacci. The move comes just in time to provide the City with some much-needed savings - now that the Recreation Department is in a city-

owned building, it does not have to pay rent. “We’ve been looking to get the City out of the rent-paying business,” Mayor Tim DeGeeter said. “This arrangement is perfect, a win-win for everybody.”

Even though about 40-percent of those signing up for recreation programs now use online registration, some residents prefer signing up in person. Now, there’s plenty of space to sit down and relax while completing registration. The department also has plenty of room for storage of equipment. The Recreation Department is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.



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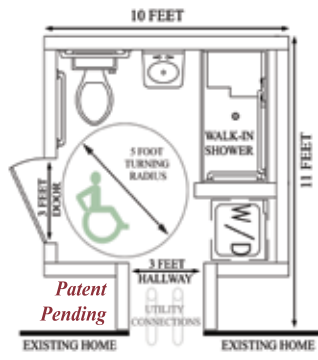





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Parma Education

# ASSET CORNER

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

## Asset Corner #53

by Gene Lovasy

May’s Asset Category: COMMITMENT TO LEARNING. These five assets have dual power: they are crucial in the long run for vocational success and engaged citizenship and they also play a prevention role, inhibiting some forms of health-compromising behavior. Commitment to learning has a number of sources in the journey through childhood and adolescence. Parental attitudes, encouragements, involvement and modeling are all important. The quality of schooling – through its formal and informal curricula - also matters. Norms that encourage high attention to educational tasks, on the part of peer group and community, are also instrumental and important.

- Assets Include:**
- #21 Achievement Motivation** – Young person is motivated to do well in school. (65%\*)
  - #22 School Engagement** – Young person is actively engaged in learning. (55%\*)
  - #23 Homework** – Young person reports doing at least 1 hour of homework every school day. (47%\*)
  - #24 Bonding To School** – Young person cares about his or her school. (52%\*)
  - #25 Reading For Pleasure** – Young person reads for pleasure 3 or more hours per week. (22%\*)
- (\* 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 #22 – School Engagement**

Academics are important, but there’s more to an education. Each day is a new beginning, a new day to learn. For some young people, this prospect is exciting and exhilarating. For others, it’s scary. Sometimes learning is difficult, but it doesn’t have to be scary. Help young people understand that academics are just part of the education they must complete to successfully attain goals. Find creative ways to show young people learning means more than studying for or worrying about tests. Opportunities for learning are everywhere and they’re fun!

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who are actively engaged in learning exhibit more positive than negative behaviors. About 55 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they are actively involved in their learning. It’s time to help even more young people discover—and achieve—personal success in and out of the classroom.

**Tips for building this asset**

The best way to keep young people engaged in school is to focus on their individual interests and goals. Listen to young people and pay attention to the activities they most enjoy. Once you’re aware of what they want (or need), help them tie their interests and goals to what they learn in and out of school. Since learning doesn’t just happen within the four walls of the school, look for—or design—additional learning activities that complement school curricula. Acknowledge and celebrate school successes. Help young people address any challenges they may face.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Help your child stay interested and involved at school by ensuring he or she is getting enough sleep, eating well, and managing difficulties. Show your child that learning is more than just the classes they take at school. Talk to your child about things he or she is interested in, and help your child find new ways of experiencing and learning about those interests—outside the classroom.

In your neighborhood and community: Look for ways to address the curiosity of young people through books, plays, artwork, or hobbies. At the local library or community center, post notices about fun community events or activities, such as author signings, school debates, or museum classes.

In your school or youth program: Help young people focus on their personal ideas of success. Have them create goals that encompass academ-

ics, hobbies and values. After several weeks, evaluate students and participants based on their goals. Celebrate successes and talk about steps to take to improve where needed.

**ASSET RELATED NEWS**

- If you haven’t lately, visit the District’s web site at [www.parmacityschools.org](http://www.parmacityschools.org) to find out what’s new in our schools. While there, click on the COMMUNITY tab and visit the Community/Business/Schools Partnership page, where, among other things, you can see the “List of Needs” & join the CBS LinkedIn group.
- Don’t forget about the Collab’s monthly Mobile Food Pantry taking place on Thursday, May 8th. Volunteers are needed to assist w/distribution from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, but more importantly, they really need folks in the morning from about 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or so to help unload the semi & set up. If you’re able, there’s no need to call, just show up.... Hanna Elementary at Snow & Chevrolet Blvd. Other programs/activities hosted there include, among others: MyCom Youth Group, ages 12 - 18, Thursdays, 3:30 p.m - 6:00 p.m. and the Clothing Center, Thursdays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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.

## Parma Auto Dealer Offers Safe Driving Tips During Distracted Driving Awareness Month

by Bob Gillingham

Distracted driving is a huge issue for Ohio. In 2012, Ohio law enforcement agencies reported 13,501 crashes attributed specifically to distracted driving and observational surveys show that more than 100,000 drivers are texting at any given moment during the day. April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. As an active citizen of the Parma community and a local Ford dealer, it's important to me that our area drivers are staying safe while on the road. A few tips we should always keep in mind while driving is to

- Not text and drive** - text messaging makes a crash 23 times more likely
- Listen to an engaging radio station**

or audio book, so you stay entertained and

**Keep your phone out of reach while driving** - this makes you less inclined to pick it up and text or search the web. Believe me, the person texting and your friend's new Facebook post will still be there once you park.

Automakers are always coming up with new technologies to keep drivers safe. If you are looking for a new car, make sure to ask about the available safety features. For example, Ford's MyKey technology allows parents to limit their teenage drivers top speed levels, radio levels, and route incoming calls directly to voicemail.

## Arbor Day Foundation Names Seven Hills Tree City USA

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with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits.”

Cleaner air, improved storm water management, energy savings, increased property values and commercial activity are among the benefits enjoyed by Tree City USA communities.

More information on the program

is available at [arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

About the Arbor Day Foundation: The Arbor Day Foundation is a million member nonprofit conservation and education organization with the mission to inspire people to plant, nurture, and celebrate trees. More information is available at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).

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Inspiration

# Does Helping Others Help You?

by Peggy Rossi

There are a number of articles and books written about the personal fulfillment one receives when helping others. Many rewards await those who discover the meaning of giving back. The same is true for those who enjoy helping others, but also might have a need for support. Just ask the bereavement group at Holy Family Hospice. While on their own journey of grief recovery, they find that participating in various activities helps lighten their path and move them toward hope and acceptance. Their most recent project on April 11 involved preparing and packaging peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for individuals at the St. Augustine Hunger Center.

This “sweet” project brought with it a greater sense of connection for the group and community awareness for those in need. For a few hours, they shared, laughed, labored, and delighted in their completed task—enclosed with cookies and a sticker that read, “Made for Someone Special,” and telling recipients to “Have a Blessed Day.”

According to Erin Hout and Amanda Lehner, grief counselors for Holy Family Hospice and coordinators of this project, “During the grief process sometimes it helps people to be physical and active. It reminds them that they’re not alone and makes them focus on those who are less fortunate than they are.” Marti Fuller, one of the group members, confirmed that. “It was fun,” she said. “And at the same time it helped get our minds off of ourselves and got us thinking about helping those who are having a harder time than we are.”

The original goal for this project was to make 125 sandwiches from the 10 loaves of bread, 5 jars of peanut butter and 5 jars of jelly that were requested. Like the miracle of the loaves and fishes, that number multiplied as more and more supplies showed up. “Our group members went above and beyond,” said Erin. “With their support, we were able to make 266 sandwiches for the homeless.”

This project just validated what Erin and Amanda already knew—that this is really an incredible group of people. Each of them has experienced a difficult loss and some are in the early stages of their grief journey. Yet they found an outlet for expressing compassion for others. Henry Wheeler, one of the group members, said, “I got a lot out of this project—being able to do for someone else who is in need, who is less fortunate than me. This was in memory of my mother who always helped others. I know this is what she would have wanted me to do.”

When you do something for others, it just makes you feel good, especially when working with others who have had very rough sledding. According to an article in Live Your Life Well from Mental Health America, “[helping others] might remind you that you’re relatively lucky, make you feel connected to others, help you feel needed and effective, take your mind off your own worries for awhile, make you feel generous, and add a sense of purpose and meaning to your life.”

The Bereavement team at Holy Family Hospice tempers feelings of loss with ongoing special programs and projects to ease the burden of those who are grieving. This particular project was definitely a lesson that helping others does help you.

If you or a loved one have experienced a loss and would like to learn more about the individual or group support offered at Holy Family Hospice, please call (440) 545-7032.

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Constantin and Ana Serban, with their sons David and Daniel and employee Simona Stamateanu, receive congratulations from Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Councilman Mark Casselberry.

## Parma Mayor's First Business Of The Month: Perla Homemade Delights

by Jeannie Roberts

Mayor Tim DeGeeter decided to create a Business of the Month program, just as he honors Citizens of the Month. He was inspired by the kindness of the Serban family, owners of Perla Homemade Delights. The Serbans – Constantin, Ana, Daniel, and David – decided together to pay \$101 of their own money to overnight a \$15 package of pierogies to New Mexico to

satisfy a dying man’s last wish: Perla pierogies. Jess Hays, formerly of Akron, was dying of pancreatic cancer when his wife called to place the order. The Serban family decided not to take the chance that he wouldn’t receive them in time. Hays did get the package and had Perla pierogies as his last meal. He died within the week at the age of 62. If you would like to nominate a Business of the Month, please visit [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov).

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

- Now and then, it is good to distinguish between our needs and our wants. Needs are food, water, shelter, and clothing.
- Once we realize we do not have to make ourselves wrong to deliver an apology, we will experience a new power.
- Parents who do not allow their children to experience failure or sadness give them a false view of the world and do not prepare them for the harsh realities of the adult life.
- Relationships have a good chance of improving when both partners are willing to look at themselves and make some adjustments or changes.
- The frailty and brevity of human life can be represented by the twin metaphors of withering grass and fading flowers, but the Word of God stands forever.
- The Godly have so many true riches to enjoy: glory, goodness, grace, knowledge, mercy, and wisdom. It is so sad when so many try so desperately to acquire the uncertain riches of this world.
- The less people know, the more they think they know; the more people know, the less they think they know.
- The prevailing spirit of today’s society includes self-indulgence, lust, greed, materialism, excess, cheating, and pride. All are sinful and transgress God’s law.
- We must not be swayed by the perverse reasoning of the “politically correct world.” We must allow God’s Word to guide us.
- Youngsters and the inexperienced (ignorant) would do well to seek the advice of older people; chances are they have been there.
- 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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Parma Neighborhoods

The Magic Of Parmatown

by Maura Prentiss

Parmatown Mall, now the Shoppes at Parma, is a big part of the regeneration of a great city. I'm happy to see things being built and updated, especially since the only things that draw folks to Parmatown today is Walmart and Chipotle. There's a few scattered stores here and there now, but ask anyone... it's like a ghost town.

I grew up in Parma, during the beginning and heyday of Parmatown. They broke ground in 1959 for the May Company, which was also the year I was born. At the bottom of the escalators in the May Company you could get a pretzel or a small chocolate malt in a Styrofoam cup. That was one of the first things we did as kids when we went to "The Mall."

Kresge was in the mall, too. A store that has gone by the wayside, but was one of the last "dime stores" in America. They had ducks in their window and made the best grilled cheese sandwiches.

In the mall there were also the giant concrete seals. If you are from Parma and over 40 years old you remember the seals. That's a given.

I've heard that the Shoppes at Parma is supposed to be a cross between an outdoor mall like Crocker Park and a mall like Southpark. (Or is Southpark called Westfield? I'm not from Strongsville so I don't really care.) Crocker Park is considered more "yuppie" than Southpark, because they have a Trader Joe's,

but Southpark is where the kids can "hang."

I'm not crazy about malls in general. Too many people, too much noise and not enough character. Malls are just a bunch of stores trying to entice the young and old to come in and spend money.

Parmatown had character. There was a feeling of community when you told your neighbors you were going to The Mall. There was always parking available. You didn't have to drive around for 15 minutes just to get a spot. Or you could walk to the mall.

One of the best memories I have of Parmatown is having a picnic in front of the May Company one rainy summer day. It was someone's birthday and my mom was taking a group of us kids on a picnic in the park. The clouds rolled in and the sky opened up and it rained cats and dogs that day. So, instead of cashing it in and going home, mom took us to Parmatown with all our gear.

We spread our blankets on the mall floor and opened our coolers and thermoses. We ate a typical picnic lunch and while mom got the cake out we played on the concrete seals until it was time to sing "Happy Birthday." What a blast!

If the Shoppes at Parma can capture even a little bit of the magic that was the Parmatown of my childhood, then the development and growth that is happening now will help create a bright future for the City of Parma, its surroundings and its people.



Ward 1 Councilman Vito Dipierro at his first ward meeting on April 10.

First Ward 1 Meeting Held By Vito Dipierro On April 10

by Daniel P. McCarthy

Fulfilling a promise he made while campaigning to be the council representative for Ward 1 in Parma, Councilman Vito Dipierro held the first of several scheduled ward meetings on April 10. Rather than have the meeting within the council chambers, he opted instead for the event room in the Donna Smallwood Center, and that provided a more relaxed, informal atmosphere, I believe. He announced plans to form Neighborhood Committees of both residents and businesses, and he informed those in attendance,

at least 25 residents in all, of a planned Pearl Road business walking tour scheduled for April 28. Mayor Tim DeGeeter was the guest speaker for the evening and he spoke at length about the notable events, occurrences, and major projects happening right now and in the near future here in the seventh largest city in the State of Ohio. Several city officials attended the meeting in order to show support for Vito Dipierro as he emerges and develops his skills as an elected official in Parma. A good showing, I thought.

Now That's Funny? by Julia Cindric



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★ Outdoor Mass

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Perspective

# Bringing Accountability To The Veterans Administration

by Jim Renacci

Ohio is home to more than 900,000 veterans and I'm proud to represent thousands living in the 16th District. Veterans in Northeast Ohio and across America have made immeasurable sacrifices on behalf of our country, and I am sincerely thankful for their service and commitment to preserving our freedom. Our veterans represent the best that this country has to offer, and they deserve to receive the benefits that they have earned once they return home. Sadly, however, the widespread inefficiency within the

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to fail the millions of Americans who rely on it. Though Congress has increased funding for the VA in recent years, the agency's responsiveness has not improved. According to the 2013 annual report from the VA, it took an average of 378 days for the department to process a claim to completion. The Cleveland, Ohio Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO), which serves veterans living in my district and throughout the region, is processing claims in an average of more

than 250 days. On top of that, 14 percent of all finished claims are appealed, and this backlog is largely ignored. The current processing time for disability claims appeals is between five to ten years at the Cleveland regional office, leading many veterans to believe that they will never receive their benefits. This is completely unacceptable and it must be improved.

Veterans who depend on the VA have an expectation that senior leaders within the agency are accountable to them. However, it has become apparent that the senior officials who presided over negligence and mismanagement linked to VA preventable deaths, patient safety incidents, and backlog increases received a bonus or impressive performance review. Despite the fact that several VA Inspector General reports have connected patient care problems to pervasive mismanagement within VA facilities, and GAO findings that VA bonus pay has no clear link to performance, the department has consistently defended its bonuses and glowing performance reviews of senior executives who presided over these events.

One of my most important obligations as a Member of Congress is to stand up for those who have served our country, and it is time that we bring more accountability to the VA. I am a proud cosponsor of the VA Management Accountability Act, a bill that empowers the VA Secre-

tary to demote or remove senior officials who are not doing their jobs. The ability to remove such an employee is modeled after the same authority that Members of Congress have to remove their professional staff members who work for them. This legislation will benefit the millions of veterans who depend on the VA for its services, the VA employees who deserve stronger leadership, and the taxpayers who fund these important programs. It's a commonsense bill that should receive support from my friends on both sides of the aisle.

Our men and women in uniform should never have to worry about whether or not they will receive the care that they need once they return home or dread wading through the bureaucratic red tape that stands in their way. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has promised to eliminate the backlog of disability claims, and the department has said that it is on track to meet its goal. My office works closely with Cleveland's regional office and I am encouraged that its leadership has implemented several changes and the number of claims pending is down by over a third in the last six months. However, we can and we must do better. I appreciate the steps they have taken to improve their responsiveness and look forward to continue working with them to deliver the best service that our nation's finest expect and deserve.

## Maggie's Place Golf Scramble June 16

by Tricia Kuivinen

Tee off with friends, family, or colleagues in support of Maggie's Place Ohio on Monday, June 16 at 1 p.m. at Fowler's Mill golf course in Chesterland. The 2nd Annual Maggie's Place Golf Scramble will support the continued operation of The Zechariah House, a non-profit hospitality home for pregnant women in Parma, and will include 18 holes of golf with cart, a box lunch, beverages, and steak dinner for each registered player. A Chinese raffle of unique packages will also be offered.

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

Maggie's Place Ohio hopes the golf scramble will raise at least \$30,000 in operational support for The Zechariah House, which can house up to nine expectant women at a time. Each mother at Maggie's Place is encouraged to increase her educational level while living at The Zechariah House, by completing their GED, job training, or attending college classes with help from Maggie's Place scholarships. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 7.5% and the child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place OH is playing an important role in the lives of expectant and new parents.

To learn more about Maggie's Place Ohio, visit [www.maggiesplace.org](http://www.maggiesplace.org), follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or call 440-866-2620 to arrange for a personal tour. Fees for the 2nd Annual Golf Scramble are \$150 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome; golfers can register for the scramble by calling 440-866-0137 or paying online: <http://mpohgolfscramble2014.eventbrite.com>. A portion of the event registration is tax-deductible.

## Sustainable Development And Social Responsibility

continued from page 8

droughts in Africa as significantly less condensation is produced and thus, never reaches Africa. It also leads to less water and oxygen worldwide. Air pollution produced anywhere, goes everywhere. All the ecosystems are interconnected and we all experience the effects of a healthy or unhealthy environment. We disrupt nature's cycles, it disrupts us. The reciprocal relationship is: self-society-nature. Currently, efforts increasingly focus on adaptation instead of improvement.

The conflict is individual rights and collective rights. If responsible environmental behavior is grounded on the ethics of the common good, this shifts focus away from individual rights. When addressed as an ethical problem, we legitimize political action which provides the individual with the will to act in an environmentally responsible manner. Ecological integrity is the common good, is a higher value than individual rights, and the future of life

depends on this, even when restricting individual rights. Legitimize restriction of individual behavior by asserting rights to be a condition of contribution to the common good. We already live with restrictions and punishments. We all make sacrifices and cannot do or get what we want all the time. Governments are meant to provide the design of restrictions and punishments for the common good.

Technological development cannot get us past the fact that the richest, developed countries need to reduce consumption to improve living conditions in developing countries (re-allocate resources) so they are not forced to destroy the natural world: forests, water, species. The natural world has an intrinsic value and to continue to put a price on it is destroying life. We have an ethical responsibility to the planet and all species, not just humans, to maintain a healthy environment. Nature can exist without humans, humans cannot exist without nature.

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# Citizen Viewpoint

## A Chat With A Horror Hostess

by Robby McDonald

Greetings to everyone in the area. I have met a recently “dug up” actress/ host, Ms. Janet Decay. She is the hostess of the “Daughter of the Ghou Show.” I had the honor of chatting with her recently. Here is from our conversation.

Q: When did you get into being the DOTG?

Q: Where do you do your shows?

Q: Are any done "live" or with audiences?

Q: Have you always liked sci-fi, comedy along the lines of the original Ghoul, Anderson, and B. Chuck and L. John?

(Ms Decay) - I started working with DMK Productions in spring 2013. I auditioned to be their hostess because they went through two girls before myself. Some people get it and some don't, I wish them the best though and I hope to keep hosting as long as I'm around. We've done some "live" taped shows for Halloween and Christmas, but most of it is shot around northeast Ohio. We've used the Ampol Hall before and some VFWs, we've even filmed at my house with green screen or some other background. As the show keeps going, we keep evolving and some props and set background are in the works. I grew up watching The Ghoul on channel 55 Friday Nights and my family would sit and watch Big Chuck and Lil' John, on cable we would watch Elvira and Mystery Science Theater 3000, so I've always had a fondness for old cheesy monster movies. Nowadays, I tend to act in some new cheesy movies as well and many great independent projects.

Q: Do people recognize you?

Q: Have you done other acting/ hosting/modeling?

Q: Where can we find the Daughter of the Ghoul Show?

(Ms Decay) - Some people do recognize me. I'm a Medina city resident and DOTG is broadcast on WCTV in Wadsworth and BAT TV in Brunswick, neighboring cities. So, sometimes I do get stopped and people ask. When that happens, all I can do is smile and the best is when kids know who I am because it's cool to see youngsters watching these old movies on my show. If you don't get Time Warner cable in Northeast Ohio, you can also watch Daughter of the Ghoul online or request a DVD for only 5 bucks!

If you don't get Time Warner cable in Northeast Ohio, you can also watch Daughter of the Ghoul online or request a DVD for only 5 bucks!

<http://www.TheDaughterOfTheGhoulShow.com>

<http://freeundergroundtv.com> (check listings)

<http://indiehorror.tv> (check listings)

Q: Where can we get more info/ contact/fan mail for you and your show?

(Ms Decay) - My fan Email address is JanetDecay@Gmail.com. I accept poems, stories, feedback, etc. I love hearing from fans! And on Social Media: <http://facebook.com/JanetDecay>; Instagram: JanetJayDecay

I've been acting and modeling since 2008, but fairly new to horror hosting. I've been in all sorts of independent features from different genres, but it seems I specialize in horror. In 2012, I won Cleveland "Scream Queen" at a convention and some directors have hired me just for my scream. In the modeling community, some photos I've posed for have won awards with the Cleveland Photographic Society and been on display at Halloween stores and galleries throughout Cleveland. Most of the time, I do my own makeup, hair, and design my own costumes. Recently, I've been acquiring vintage clothing pieces.

## Parma Mayor's Citizen Of The Month

by Jeannie Roberts

Cindy Wheatley, who is the Parma Mayor's Citizen of the Month for April, has worked at University Hospitals (UH) Parma Medical Center since 1977 and is currently a cook at the hospital's Seasons of Life Hospice. Even while she works full time and is the primary caregiver for her own mother, Cindy always has time to bring special treats to hospice families and to spread warmth and kindness wherever she goes. Mayor Tim DeGeeter presented a proclamation from his office and Ward Nine Councilman Jeff Crossman presented a proclamation from City Council. Wheatley was accompanied



Cindy Wheatley being honored as the Citizen of the Month in Parma City Council Chambers on April 7.

to the City Council meeting by UH's Charlene Krueger, who nominated her, and co-workers Sharon Secura and Mary Jo Verbofsky. Her life-long best friend, Linda Zassick, and Linda's daughter, Jackie, also accompanied her.



Parma Area Kiwanis President Bob Durante (left) sponsored new member Rey Galindo and Lt Gov Joe Germana (right) sponsored Carl Poghen

## Parma Area Kiwanis Inducts Two New Members

by Joe Germana

Parma Area Kiwanis recently inducted two new members. President Bob Durante sponsored Rey Galindo and Lieutenant Governor Joe Germana sponsored Carl Poghen. Carl is a long time resident of Parma. He's retired from 36 years with General Electric where he was a manager of shop operations. Married to wife Dorothy for 57 years, has two married sons. Carl was a long time coach of Parma Jaycee Pee Wee football program. Currently serves as president of his local neighborhood Twin Lakes Improvement Association and participant of Friends of Big Creek.

Reynaldo "Rey" Galindo, a native of Mexico City, came to Cleveland in 1971 with his family. Having begun his culinary training as a youngster under the guidance of his Mother, Maria de la Luz Galindo who was also known as Luchita, Rey broadened his horizons to include the very sophisticated regional dishes he introduces to Luchita's faithful and very happy customers. In 1990, he became head chef and vice president of Luchita's Inc., a family business, which has grown from one restaurant founded in 1981 by his mother, to nine locations in the Greater Cleveland Area. Winner of many awards, Luchita's has been named one of the top ten best Authentic Mexican Restaurants in the USA. Professionally, after college in Ohio State and Universidad Autonoma de Mexico, Rey has spent the twenty-five years running the family restaurants with diligence and passion for good food and business sense. He has dedicated the last ten years to culinary research in Mexico. Under his leadership, Luchita's Mexican Restaurants have expanded to catering, imports, and other food business ventures. He has appeared in television, radio, and print. He is a restaurant consultant and teaches Mexican cooking. In 2006, he opened the Hispanic line for the Sanson Company.

Sanson Company is the biggest produce company in Ohio and it provides produce to the biggest distributors like U.S. foods, Sysco, and others. In 2014, he started to work at Four Star Insurance Agency, opening the Hispanic market as a Financial Advisor and Insurance Agent. Rey works in close coordination with his brother, Alex, Luchita's President. The joy of collaborating and working in the family-run business is apparent in the way he speaks of his family, which also includes his 25-year-old son, Justin, and 13-year-old daughter, Elisa Maria. He is an active community volunteer and business leader, City of Cleveland President of the Civil Service Commission, co-founder of the Hispanic Political Action Pact, Board Member at Cuyahoga Community College, Vice President of Hispanic Business Association, Board Member of the Hispanic Democratic Caucus, and a graduate of the Leadership Cleveland Class of 2003.

Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. Kiwanis' primary focus is giving an opportunity for children to learn leadership skills while providing service to their home, school, and community. For school age children, they sponsor the Kiwanis K-Kids in elementary schools, Builders Club at middle schools, Key Club in High Schools, CKI in colleges, and Aktion Clubs for adults with disability. Locally, the Parma Area Kiwanis sponsor clubs at Green Valley and Pleasant Valley Elementary, Greenbriar Middle School, Normandy, Padua, Parma, and Valley Forge. They also sponsor a "Terrific Kids" Sundae Bar at Ridge-Brook Elementary, for kids who "Bring Up Grades" and exhibit good citizenship. Parma Area Kiwanis meets weekly on Wednesday. For more information, see [www.parmaareakiwanis.org](http://www.parmaareakiwanis.org) or call Joe Germana at (440) 882-2012.

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# Reflections

## BW Psychology Major From Parma Preps Four-Legged BW "Students" For National Therapy Dog Exam

by Shawn Salamone

Huge and intimidating. These words might spring to mind when you see Luca, a 3-year-old black Great Dane, wandering the Baldwin Wallace University campus with various student handlers, including Annie Carver from Parma. Luca is, in fact, huge—but intimidating? No. Annie says Luca is more akin to an oversized teddy bear.

The 190-pound Great Dane is one of three therapy dogs in-training that Carver, a 2010 Holy Name High School graduate, and 12 other BW students have taken everywhere around the Berea campus this year including dining halls and classes. OhioGuidestone, which serves children, youth and families needing specialized therapeutic programs, partnered with the BW Department of Psychology to provide students the opportunity to help train the dogs to pass a national therapy dog assessment. Students have the option of earning internship/field experience credit for their work.

Carver, a senior psychology major at BW says she is getting as much as she is giving. "Not only am I training them; they're training me," she said. "It's helped me with time management and scheduling and I swear they are



Annie Carver, a BW senior psychology major from Parma, works with therapy dog in-training, Luca, a 190-pound Great Dane.

therapeutic for me, too."

If the dogs succeed at passing the national Therapy Dog International (TDI™) test, they will be used in therapy on OhioGuidestone campuses.

"The children and youth we serve

really relate to the dogs; they are able to talk about trauma and they literally whisper their fears to the dogs," said Rivienne Levin, co-director of the OhioGuidestone K9 Partners Program and Luca's owner. "They are a wonderful stress reducer and therapy tool."

Even during their ongoing training at BW, the dogs are capable of providing the calming influence that is the hallmark of a working therapy dog. "We made the dogs available to interact with BW students at the library before and during finals week and you could just watch a wave of stress wash away," said Levin.

Dr. Charles Levin, chair of BW's Psychology Department, is faculty coordinator for the therapy dog program (and is married to Rivienne Levin). "Not only are our students gaining hands-on experience with service animals, but the presence of these dogs on the BW campus has a positive effect on the entire community," Levin observed. "I look out my office window and regularly see students stopping to interact with the dogs when they're out on the North Quad four or five days a week."

Carver was first exposed to therapy dogs during what she calls "a

life-changing internship" with Berea's Hanson House this past summer. "That internship really got me involved with mental health psychology, especially PTSD, and I would love to incorporate the service dog training somehow into this career interest."

Carver, member of BW's Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity and a tenor saxophone player in BW's Marching Yellow Jackets, also has been involved with BW's Office of Community Outreach, traveling to Biloxi, Mississippi for Alternative Spring Break in March to help with community service and hurricane relief.

Rivienne Levin says Carver has been a reliable and effective trainer for Luca, who will attempt to pass the national therapy dog exam in June.

"Witnessing the learning and skill development of the dogs and the students' growth in their confidence in training and working with the dogs has made this program a wonderful experience for OhioGuidestone, BW, and the dogs," she said.

"After owning dogs as pets my whole life, this has really opened my eyes to a whole new way that dogs can help people," Carver said.

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