

“ When facts change, I change my mind. What do you do sir?” - Winston Churchill

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Parma State Of The City Address To Be At OSG Tap & Die, Inc.

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter is set to deliver his fourth State of the City address this year. Continuing his tradition of delivering the speech out in the community, this year's address will be given at OSG Tap & Die, Inc., a thriving Parma business at 12502 Plaza Drive. The speech is scheduled for Monday evening, Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. on the manufacturing floor at OSG. The Mayor recently met with OSG Vice President Ed Segula to inspect the site and to finalize details.

“OSG is a Parma business that has shown considerable growth in its history and that is still growing,” Mayor DeGeeter said. “Our administration is proud to highlight such a thriving business partner. In fact, OSG's Segula is



OSG Vice President Ed Segula shows Mayor DeGeeter around the manufacturing operation.

actively soliciting employees as the Parma business grows. OSG has had continuous year-over-year growth, which has

enabled the operations to add additional equipment and employees,” he said. “By combining OSG's global history with the Parma's Fastener Product Division's hardworking perseverance, we have molded a company with a well-rounded future to shape the dreams of our customers worldwide.”

This is music to the ears of DeGeeter, who values a strong relationship with the local business community. “A company with a ‘well-rounded future’ is a company that we want to have in Parma,” he said. “We are proud of the growth that's been experienced at OSG; that's why we want to bring people in to see

what's happening here.”

What's happening at OSG is that the Parma branch is now the largest full-line domestic die manufacturer in the United States. The modern facility now offers a wide range of products for the thread forming industry including flat, cylindrical, planetary, trimming, rack and segmented carbide dies, along with bent shank taps, nib taps, and gages. The plant also provides reconditioning services for OSG and non-OSG dies.

DeGeeter is expected to highlight his administration's accomplishments during his first term. Among them are creating several new family-friendly recreation programs, forging strong ties with the local business community, and making it a priority to stay connected with residents.

The Mayor has delivered previous State of the City addresses at GrafTech International, UH Parma Medical Center, and the Parma Snow Branch Public Library.

Art Awakenings At Pleasant Lake Villa



Georgeta Hanna, Art Director at Pleasant Lake Villa for 10 years, is very proud of her recent crop of students. It's always a fantastic experience to find another hidden treasure in Parma!

by Daniel P. McCarthy

We continue to discover that the Parma Area is blessed with an abundance of talented artists, and their fabulous creations can be seen in places that you might not expect, including the Pleasant Lake Villa Nursing Facility at 7269 Ridge Rd. I attended an Art Walk there in December, and what a profound experience this event turned out to

be! Georgeta Hanna, the Art Therapy Instructor for the past 10 years, is surely one special lady. First of all, she is from Transylvania (how cool is that!) and is certainly a delightful woman to have a conversation with. Not only that, but she obviously has a gift of being able to help her students find their artistic soul, even with some people

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Parma Business & Citizen(s) Of The Month



Manager Andrew Leszczynsky of Avalon Jewelers, receives his award from Mayor DeGeeter and Councilwoman Debbie Lime.



The staff of Holy Family Home and Hospice is honored as the Citizens of the Month.

Parma Mayor Honors Citizen, Business Of The Month

by Jeannie Roberts

The staff of Holy Family Home & Hospice was honored as Citizens of the Month for January. The nomination, written by Ward Six Councilman Larry Napoli, states that "the staff has taken it upon themselves to go the extra mile to make sure that the families and patients are treated lovingly and with compassion." Members of the Holy Family staff came to City Council on to accept their award. Also honored was Avalon Jewelers, as the Mayor's Business of the Month for January. Congratulations to Manager Andrew Leszczynsky, who was mentioned in six nominations the business received. Andrew was noted for his considerable involvement in Parma school and community events and for his efforts on behalf of Parma's Ukrainian community. He also has 25 years of experience in the jewelry business and is a certified diamontologist.

Community News

The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan

Recently, I was speaking to a young couple in Parma. They moved into their first home with their newborn last fall. Both work steady jobs, but are finding it difficult to save for retirement or for their child’s college fund. In the midst of our conversation, they asked me advice on how to save money. I provided several suggestions, including the one I am going to share in this column.

No doubt, one of the biggest expenses of homeownership is keeping the home warm during the cool months and cool during the warmer ones. If only we could bottle that warm and cool air! This is why my wife and I had a home energy audit completed by Columbia Gas of Ohio a few years back. As a result of the projects we completed following the audit, our little brick bungalow is among the most energy efficient homes in Parma – saving us hundreds of dollars annually.

A home energy audit involves a phone call to Columbia Gas in which they will schedule a visit to your home by a Home Energy Auditor. This highly qualified individual will go through your home like a fine-toothed comb – visually and infrared inspecting, testing gas appliances, performing assessments of insulation levels, air leaks, furnace efficiency and safety, etc. When they have completed the audit, you will be provided with a list of suggested improvements you can make to



Sean Brennan,
Parma City Council President

improve the energy efficiency of your home (adding insulation, air sealing, high energy furnace, etc.), as well as information about generous rebates on these projects. They will also provide you with a list of pre-qualified contractors approved by Columbia Gas. Finally, Columbia follows up after the work is completed to ensure that it has been done properly and that your home is, in fact, more energy efficient.

The cost of the home energy audit is \$50, but it is money well-spent. In fact, just for taking part, if you do not have them, you receive a free programmable thermostat and energy efficient shower head, both of which can save you a small fortune each year. For instance, my wife

and I program our thermostat to 60 degrees when we are sleeping and when we are at work and 66 when we get up to get ready and for when we get home. As an added bonus for taking part in the program, we receive a monthly Home Energy Report which rates our home against efficient similar homes – defined as the most efficient 20% of similar homes – and similar homes – defined as approximately 100 nearby homes similar to ours. According to our most recent statement, our home was rated highest at “Great.” In fact, in December we used 80 CCFs of natural gas, while efficient similar homes used 113 CCFs and similar homes used 145 CCFs. That is about 45% less gas than many of our neighbors! For more information about the program visit <https://www.columbiagasohio.com> and click on the “ways to save” tab. To schedule an audit simply call 1-877-644-6674.

Of course, there are also programs out there for folks who are struggling to pay their monthly gas bill. The Ohio Development Services Agency offers several programs to income eligible Ohioans to assist in paying their utility bills and to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, including the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), Winter Crisis Program (WCP), Summer Crisis Program (SCP), Percentage of Income Payment Plan Plus (PIPP Plus) and the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP). HEAP provides a one-time annual benefit to your primary heating source account (gas or electric bill), while WCP is also

a one-time annual benefit that can help with disconnections and other emergency issues. More information on all of the programs, as well as an application, can be obtained 24-hours a day by calling 216-518-4014.

As always, I hope you find this column informative and helpful. If you have ideas for future columns, I would love to entertain them. Feel free to e-mail me at councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net or call me at 440-884-0489. Best wishes for a February full of warmth and love – Happy Valentine’s Day!



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Utility Company Smart Meters

by Ray Rosenberger

“Henry wondered aloud why the Philadelphia convention had not proposed a bill of rights along with the Constitution and argued that one must be added now. He noted sarcastically that a “Bill of Rights may be summed up in a few words. What do they tell us?—That our rights are reserved.—Why not say so? Is it because it will consume too much paper?” And he warned that without a bill of rights federal officials could “go into your cellars and rooms, and search, ransack and measure, everything you eat, drink and wear?” Patrick Henry from James Madison and the Struggle for the Bill of Rights, Oxford University Press, 2006.

They are in the cellars and they are called smart meters. These meters, being installed in our homes by electric, gas, and water suppliers are replacing traditional mechanical measuring devices. Unlike the familiar monthly manual meter reading, smart meters continuously record and in delayed or real-time mode, transmit measured data back to a central collection point.

Up until now there was very little a home owner could do except submit to the mandate of installing a smart meter or face termination of services. That all changed in May 2014.

The Public Utilities of Ohio (PUCO) in May of 2014 made a rule change which requires electrical utility providers in Ohio to allow customers to opt-out of a “smart meter.” The rule

is officially Rule Change 4901\$1-10-05_OF_A_RU_20140312_1603.

The use of smart meter technology has also found its way into the Cleveland Division of Water (CDoW) through their “Clear Reads” program. The Clear Reads program, however, has met with sufficient concerns that the CDoW is re-thinking the mandatory portion. Anyone with concerns about CDoW smart meters may contact Mr.

Gregg Faust (Manager of Meter Operations, 1.216.348.7277 x 3203) and have their name placed on a deferred installation list.

What is so different about Smart Meter technology is this is the first time in our nation’s history that the government has mandated the monitoring of a citizen’s activities inside their home without a warrant.

Maggie's Place To Celebrate 15 Years Of Serving Women In Need



by Tricia Kuivinen

Please join us for an 15th Anniversary Open House! Maggie’s Place is a community that provides homes of hospitality for expectant women who wish to achieve their goals in a dignified and welcoming atmosphere. Maggie’s Place 15th Anniversary Open House

Sunday, Feb. 15 from 12-3 PM
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Health/Culture

UH Parma Nurse Wins National Award For Facilitating Senior Driver Assessments

by CJ Sheppard

Four years ago on Jan. 13, an elderly couple froze to death in a Maryland field, lost on their way to visit one of their three children. Today, a nurse at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center was recognized with an award in their memory aimed at preventing similar tragedies.

Lisa Profio, LPN, was presented with the Bill & Betty Fresch Outstanding Achievement Award for her dedication and compassion in facilitating the Beyond Driving with Dignity Program. The nurse of 38 years, who also runs UH Parma Medical Center's Club for those with early stage memory loss, has been providing the driver self-assessment for older adults over the past three years.

"As a retired state highway patrolman, I have had to deliver dozens of notifications of deaths like these," said Matt Gurwell, founder of Keeping Us Safe, who presented the award to Profio. "I wanted to be more proactive. Having people like Lisa Profio out in the community across the country trying to keep these tragedies from happening means the world to me."

Profio is only the second of the 70 certified Beyond Driving with Dignity professionals in 15 states and Canada to receive this award. Nancy Schuster, the first recipient, traveled from Cincinnati to congratulate Profio. The

City of Seven Hills has utilized UH Parma Medical Center's program in its Senior Traffic Offense Diversion Program.

"The beauty of this program is helping older adults make good decisions about their driving skills while preserving their dignity and potentially saving lives," says Laura Matthews, Manager of the ElderCenter. "Lisa takes wonderful care of our families."

Beyond Driving with Dignity and The Club are programs of UH Parma Medical Center's ElderCenter adult day services, with 25 years of serving the needs of older adults and helping them continue to remain a part of the community. These services will soon be offered through UH's new Center for Lifelong Health, which is dedicated to meeting the health and wellness needs of today's older adults through a patient-centered approach that emphasizes individual patient preferences. Its comprehensive range of medical services and customized care plans are tailored to the wants and needs of individual patients and their families, from routine checkups and establishing the right doctor to making the best possible decisions at every stage.

To schedule a driver self-assessment or to receive more information, call 440-743-2777.



Lisa Profio, center, won a national award for facilitating a senior driver assessment program, Beyond Driving With Dignity, at University Hospitals Parma Medical Center. She is only the second of the 70 certified professionals administering this program across the nation and in Canada to win the Bill & Betty Fresch Outstanding Achievement Award. The award was presented by founder and retired Ohio state highway patrolman Matt Gurwell, right, in honor of the parents of Paul Fresch of Medina, left, and Jo Rinehart of Pennsylvania, second from right. Their elderly parents froze to death in a Maryland field four years ago when they became lost driving to visit a family member. The first recipient of this award, Nancy Schuster, second from left, travelled from Cincinnati to congratulate Profio.

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter At Kiwanis Breakfast On January 21



Parma Mayor Timothy J. DeGeeter attended a breakfast with the Parma Kiwanis at Pappou Family Restaurant in Parma on January 21

City Of Parma Scholarship Available

by Sean Brennan

The Board of Trustees of the City of Parma Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2015 award season. In its eighth year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. One of these scholarships will be designated for an applicant exhibiting an exceptional commitment to community service. Applications are available on the City of Parma website at <http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov>. Applications may also be obtained at Parma City Hall, any of the Parma Cuyahoga County Public Library

branches or any high school located within the Parma City School District. The Scholarship is intended to provide financial assistance to high school seniors or equivalent who are residents of the City of Parma wishing to pursue post-secondary education during the 2015 – 2016 academic year. Financial need, work ethic, community service and accomplishments are among the selection criteria for the scholarship. The application deadline is March 31, 2015. For more information or to donate to the Foundation please contact Parma City Council President and Board of Trustees Member Sean Brennan at councilmanbrennan@sbc-global.net or (440) 884-0489.

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

Asset Corner #62

by Gene Lovasy

February's Asset Category: Positive Values shape young people's relationships, behaviors, choices, and sense of who they are. Although positive values help young people avoid risky behavior, they also help guide their day-to-day actions and interactions. Thus, values inspire, not just prohibit. Young people who have positive values are more likely to listen to their conscience, help others, be independent, tell right from wrong, and feel happy. Ultimately, positive values help young people make their own decisions rather than imitate friends or follow trends. **Positive Value Assets Include:**

- #26 **Caring** – Young person places high value on helping others. (50%*)
- #27 **Equality & Social Justice** – Young person place high value on promoting equality & reducing hunger & poverty. (55%*)
- #28 **Integrity** – Young person acts on convictions & stands up for his or her beliefs. (68%*)
- #29 **Honesty** – Young person "tells

the truth even when it's not easy." (66%*)

- #30 **Responsibility**– Young person accepts & takes personal responsibility. (63%*)
- #31 **Restraint** – Young person believes it's important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs. (45%*)

(* 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 31: Restraint

Let them know you're here for them—no matter what

Sex, alcohol, drugs . . . These are subjects many adults would just as soon not discuss with young people. But if parents and other caring adults don't step up and talk to young people about these things, who will? Make it easy for young people to come to you

and talk about the temptations in their lives. Avoid judging. Listen, and educate.

Here are the facts

Research shows that young people who refrain from sexual activity and the use of alcohol and other drugs are more likely to grow up healthy. About 45 percent of young people, ages 11–18, believe it's important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs, according to Search Institute surveys. These young people are less likely to chew tobacco or smoke cigarettes, fight, steal, or feel depressed. Further, drinking and driving or riding in a car with someone who's been drinking are also less likely to happen when young people practice restraint.

Tips for building this asset

Communicating with young people about the risks of sex, use of alcohol or other drugs is important. Labeling them as bad is not necessarily helpful. Instead, explain the dangers: having sex can lead to pregnancy and disease; using alcohol or other drugs causes you to lose control over your functions, which can lead to serious, even fatal, accidents; substance use can also damage the developing teenage brain. Work with young people to focus on long-term outcomes—not just on the moment. Helping them to internalize and stand up for their personal values also makes it easier for them to practice restraint and withstand negative peer pressure. If they do get in trouble with

these issues, though, make sure they know they can come to you for help.

Also try this

In your home and family: Look for opportunities to respond to messages in the media about sexuality and use of alcohol and other drugs. Discuss your reaction and ask for your child's opinion.

In your neighborhood and community: Keep everyone accountable! Make a pact with your neighbors not to allow alcohol at parties for young people—and to report to other parents if you hear of or see young people using alcohol or other drugs.

ASSET RELATED NEWS

The Collab's Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled this month for Thursday, February 12th. If you're interested in volunteering, give the Collab a call at 440.887.4873. The aforementioned Food Pantry & a host of other programs/services could really use your help.

The School District is rolling out a new, volunteer-based program called Project More. This will be a one-to-one mentor reading program available in each District elementary plus Greenbriar M, S., and Valley Forge H. S. Go here for additional information: <http://comamb.org/project-more/>. If you'd like to volunteer, email your name, phone number & email address to Kira Karabanovs, Dir of Family & Com-

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Inspiration

I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

A feeble compromise between Godly and worldly will satisfy neither.

A sinning person will stop praying; a praying person will stop sinning.

All motives become known and weighed by God.

All service ranks the same with God.

Confession is what believers do when they sin.

Each person should use whatever gift he or she has received to serve others.

Enthusiasm for God is contagious. Has anyone caught it from you?

Flattery usually has strings attached.

God answers to knee mail.

God calls us according to the gifts He has given us.

God can turn any difficulty into an opportunity.

God gives each his or her due at the time allotted.

God heals us of those illnesses that prevent us from becoming the people He wants us to become.

God never consults your past to determine your future.

Godly principles are scarcely followed in high places.

Slipping

by Melanie Clink

Slipping through my fingers
Slipping into memory
Slipping fast
the life, the loves, the family
You were young
The sky stood blue
The house, the dream
it all was new
Before you even looked up to see
it passed unkindly and, impatiently
It's gone you know
it can't remain
It crumbles down
to be built anew.
Swallow, swallow catch up fast
before what's left
goes slipping past.

I would rather one walk with me than merely tell the wa

In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without heart.

It is not well for a person to pray cream and live skim milk.

It is of very little account what people think of us, but it is of vast importance what God thinks of us.

Love of people leads to love of God and the opposite is even truer.

No Jesus, no peace; know Jesus, know peace.

People never violate God's laws without suffering the consequences sooner or later.

People should use their blessings to bless others so all can benefit.

Pride builds walls between people; humility builds bridges.

The only people without problems are those in cemeteries.

The wise see danger ahead and avoid it, but fools keep going and get in trouble.

There is no delight in owning anything unshared.

Think how happy we would be if we lost everything we have right now—and then got it back again.

Those who are discontented in one place will seldom be content in another.

Too much of anything has negative consequences.

We are born with tendencies toward both good and evil.

We are very smart if we are a little kinder and wiser than yesterday.

We become what we are committed to.

We cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds

We pardon to the degree that we love.

When we are self-centered, we cannot be God-centered, and the opposite is just as true.

You cannot unscramble eggs.

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

Running To Remember

by Michael Comiono

Parma City Council President Sean Brennan is on a mission that may very well span the entirety of his life. His mission, to help others, has taken multiple forms, including public official, teacher, athlete, and role model. He is exceptionally passionate about one mission in particular - marathon running. After starting his running career a few years ago, training extensively, and having an unwavering drive to help others to the best of his ability, Brennan is ready to take on his next major challenge - the Boston Marathon - where he hopes to raise funds for an organization he is particularly fond of - the American Red Cross.

Brennan's running career began in 2008. Since then, he has completed 35 full 26.2 mile marathons and numerous half-marathons and shorter distance races, including the Walt Disney World Marathon and four Chicago Marathons. While Brennan does enjoy the time he spends running for its health benefits, and the friendships forged during training and the races themselves, his real passion for running comes from somewhere else.

When his mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2010, Brennan wanted to make a difference for families facing this terrible disease. As a result, he ran on behalf of the Livestrong Foundation, an organization founded by Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor himself. The Livestrong Foundation has raised millions of dollars to help those with cancer and their families. Thus, in 2010 Brennan ran the Chicago Marathon in honor of his mother. "Sadly, however, we lost her the following spring," he said. This emotional race is one of Brennan's most memorable moments in his running career. Running in front

of over one million spectators and alongside over 40,000 fellow runners, he realized this was how he could help to make real difference.

Brennan has also found inspiration in the American Red Cross and its many causes. The American Red Cross raises money and awareness in five key service areas, including disaster relief, supporting military families, supplying life-saving blood products, health and safety services, and international services. After the Boston Marathon bombing took place two years ago, Brennan realized that he had an elevated drive to qualify for this pinnacle of marathon runners and to help those affected by the tragedy. Last year he met his goal and qualified and will be running as a member of the 119th Boston Marathon charity team, with more than fifty Team Red Cross members, to support both the victims of the Boston Marathon tragedy and the mission of the Red Cross. "Running for a cause multiplies the sense of accomplishment," says Brennan. His goal is to raise \$2,620 - ten dollars for every tenth of a mile of the race.

"My hope is to eventually run at least 100 marathons and to run one in each of the 50 states, while helping those who can benefit most," Brennan stated.

For those who would like to get involved and assist Brennan in his fundraising efforts on behalf of the Red Cross this spring, they may send a check payable to the American Red Cross to 6306 Hampstead Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44129 or donate online at crowdrise.com/AmericanRedCrossRunsBoston/fundraiser/seanbrennan1. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Brennan personally by phone at 440-884-0489 or by email at councilmanbrennan@sbcglobal.net.

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Our Neighborhoods

Furlough

by Leo Lampeter

Time comes again for a revenue shortfall for the city of Parma. Estimates of a three million dollar shortage will possibly dictate furloughs for the hourly employees again. Certainly for some, it may pose economic hardship, for others it may mean cutting back on the items that they have become accustomed to having such as cell phones, cable television, getting into the car every time they go somewhere instead of walking to your destination (if you belong to a gym this can take the place of the membership) and a host of other items. It's time to tighten your belts when the income is reduced. That, for most part, is the only alternative. The adage of living within one's means becomes a bit of a harsh pill to swallow. Now there are those who have extended their credit while they assume the job will always be there. What do you do to get income to pay for the items you really couldn't afford? Panic is often a frequently resorted to ally. Worry is also relied on. You will find that panic solves nothing. Worry is in the same category. If you worry about something and all goes wrong, worry didn't change anything, and if you worry and things work out, you did all that worrying for nothing. It will be more difficult, most certainly, to be furloughed, but you will make it through this difficult time. As long as everyone shares the burden of a reduced income, somehow the sharing seems not to be as bad.

This brings to mind of everyone sharing in the furloughing. If City Hall is closed, no one can work. If no one can work, how does the administration get any work done? If the hourly employees aren't doing any work, is anything getting accomplished? If one concludes that work is not being done, there would be no sense in most administrators just sitting at their desk, however they would be under the same umbrella as the hourly employees. They would be sacrificing a portion of their income to help balance the budget surely. The item that would certainly outrage the public is if raises would be distributed during this time. And no one would be so arrogant as to take advantage of such a situation as to penalize just certain individuals and not share the burdens. An excuse that could be used is that in the contract it stipulates that raises have to be given, change the contracts. They certainly are not any better than the hourly employees in any regard, at least in a logical mind. There may be one person who comes to mind who certainly could still work through a furlough and that would be the Mayor. With the meetings he attends and the assorted duties that befall such a position he would surely not be the one furloughed. The hours he invests have no room to be reduced. He certainly wouldn't have time for any outside income as no other administrator should. If there is a second employment for any salaried person,

the question would be if they are fulfilling their duties as a city employee in the first place.

Yet it had been said that while the hourly employees are asked to live on a reduced income, the salaried employees are not asked to make the same sacrifices. This is hard to fathom as one would conclude that the salaried employee to be more important. This brings to mind one question; does the salaried employee work while the hourly employee is furloughed, or do the salaried employees get an extra paid vacation? Going back to the pre-

viously mentioned, how does work get done if the hourly employee is not there to do the work?

This is a perplexing situation. If the work is getting done without the hourly employee, why would there be a need for them in the first place? There is confusion, in my mind, as to how this entire system functions. One last thought; why are salaried workers mostly nine to fivers? Isn't the object of a salaried worker to complete a task before calling it a day?

Perhaps the only solution is to get rid of everyone and start all over again.



Robert Warner Henry House.

"Just People Helping People"

by Bob Stilwell

Of more than passing significance is the fact that some of the early families of Brooklyn Township, then Parma Township, and currently Parma Heights, cooperated before the Civil War in the "Underground Railroad" which helped escaped Negro slaves reach Canada and freedom. Few records of such activity were kept, but one story has been handed down through the generations.

The Amos Denison home at 6037 Pearl Road was one of the "Underground Stations." Denison was a strong abolitionist as were many of the former New Englanders, used to hide fugitive Negroes from the South in the barn and then transport them to the next

station in a wagon whose sides were built up to hide runaway slaves. The iron-tired wheels of the wagon were wrapped with cloth to prevent undue noise during the night trips. Another home that was frequently used to aid the runaways was the Robert Warner Henry House at 6607 Pearl Road. This house is on the National Historic Registry. It has been said that there were underground tunnels and passageways in this house that worked well to hide the runaways. If I can obtain permission to enter this house, I will explore the entire area for any evidence that will support this claim. It is History like this that makes me proud to live in this community.

Art Awakenings At Pleasant Lake Villa

continued from page 1

who have never before created art. Five of her artists who entered their work in the Annual Art Show at the Cuyahoga County Fair were awarded first place ribbons.

One artist, Tom Platton, won a first prize ribbon for his work, and it was the very first piece of art that he had ever created! Similar for Judy Presley, who admits that before she ever came to Pleasant Lake Villa, she had no experience with art whatsoever, yet she won 3 first place ribbons in the show. Bob Hagley, Elsie Kranik, Theresa Wasielewski, and Jean Gracyk also garnered first place ribbons and an honorable mention as well. If you ask me, this can't be just a coincidence; there must be some magic going on in the art room at Pleasant Lake Villa, and it just goes to show that great art can be anywhere, and it always makes life better. Kathryn Mabin, Board Member of the Parma Area Fine Arts Council whose column "Artist Of The Month" appears in the Observer, has discussed with other members the possibility of inviting these artists from Pleasant Lake Villa to display their works in the Spring Art Show at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. Just a fine example of the networking efforts occurring in Parma as we

move forward with consolidating our considerable artistic presence into a growing community of Arts and Culture. There is a video of this Art Event at Pleasant Lake Villa on the Parma Observer Facebook Page, and it is well worth going there and watching. Stay tuned, and by all means support and encourage our local artists wherever and however you can.

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Perspective

Big Money, Big Oil, And The Keystone Pipeline

by Lee Kamps

What should have been a simple construction project five years ago has become a major political football between Republicans and Democrats in Congress. That is the further construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from the Alberta tar sands in Canada to the Gulf coast refineries in the United States. This pipeline would most likely have been built already if it did not involve crossing an international border which requires approval from Congress and the President. However, environmental and political issues have clouded the further construction of this pipeline.

First, the oil generated from mining of tar sands requires far more energy to extract the oil and to refine it than other sources. The pipeline as well as the oil in the tar sands of Alberta are owned by the Trans Canada Corporation and they will be financing the construction of the pipeline.

That oil when it is flowing through the pipeline is actually in the form of diluted bitumen that is laced with toxic chemicals to keep it flowing to its destination, where the oil is actually extracted and refined. From there the oil will be sold at auction based on the world price of crude oil. Then it will be shipped to its destination, most likely to Asia and in particular China. None

of the oil coming through the pipeline will be used in the United States.

The proponents of the pipeline claim that the construction of the pipeline would create thousands of new jobs in the United States and the oil refineries of the Gulf Coast, mainly in Texas and Louisiana, will also benefit from the additional refining of the oil coming through the pipeline. Another large beneficiary of the pipeline would be the Koch Brothers and Koch Industries as they are one of the largest lease holders of Alberta tar sands oil.

As far as the economic benefits of the pipeline construction, later studies have shown that the number of jobs created by the pipeline proponents were greatly inflated. Newer estimates now say that perhaps as many as 2000 temporary construction jobs would be created and that only about 50 permanent jobs would be created because of the Keystone pipeline.

However, there are serious environmental concerns regarding this pipeline. It would cross some environmentally fragile regions including the sand hills region of Nebraska and the Ogallala aquifer, a major source of water for agriculture in the plains. A leak or break in the pipeline could seriously pollute the source of water for many cities and farms. Another con-

cern is the toxic chemicals that will be carrying the diluted bitumen through the pipeline. Those chemicals are very dangerous and carcinogenic. A spill or leak would be very difficult and costly to clean up and could have long lasting effects on the area.

Currently, most of that diluted bitumen and tar sands crude is being transported by rail. The problem with transporting that oil by rail is that there is a much greater likelihood of a spill from a rail tanker than through a pipeline as well as the fact that a pipeline could transport much more oil than using railroad tanker cars. In addition, pipelines are much more highly regulated than railroads so transporting this by pipeline is much safer than transporting it by rail.

If this pipeline is finished, then the oil will be sold at global prices at auction. The cost of extracting oil from tar sands is much more expensive than extracting oil from traditional sources. In addition, the cost of the construction and maintenance of the pipeline has to be factored into whether this venture will be profitable or not. So even if the pipeline and the tar sands oil prove to be profitable, none of those profits will be in the United States. Trans Canada will reap most of the rewards if this proves profitable.

There is a strong possibility that with the current low price of oil on the world market that extracting and transporting tar sands oil from Alberta in Canada to the Gulf coast of the United States may make this pipeline a losing proposition for Trans Canada. Should this pipeline be built and become a white elephant, the United States will have an empty pipeline crossing a very sensitive part of the country that could pose a great environmental risk for years to come or perhaps the taxpayers may be footing the bill to dismantle the pipeline if it is abandoned or outlives its usefulness.

As one of the largest lease holders in the Alberta tar sands region, the Koch Brothers can profit handsomely if this pipeline is built. The Koch Brothers have spent millions of dollars in campaign contributions to Republicans in the last election cycles who would support the construction of this pipeline. Now that the Republican party has a majority in both the House and Senate, the Koch Brothers are calling in their favors from the politicians they supported.

But what would we gain or what could we lose by the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline? If this pipeline becomes abandoned or there is a spill or leak, would Trans Canada be completely responsible for the clean up? Would the United States be receiving any money from the pipeline or the oil travelling through it? Or would that money be going outside the United States while we share the risks of the pipeline? These questions need to be asked and answered before construction is authorized or halted.

For more information regarding the Keystone XL pipeline, check out this link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Keystone_Pipeline

Parma Move To Amend

by Stephanie Riccobene

Several citizens of Parma attended the first exploratory meeting of the prospective “Parma Move to Amend” on Monday, January 26, 2015. Those in attendance learned a great deal about the national, state and local Move to Amend organizations. The ultimate goal of the Move to Amend movement is to get Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to establish that corporations are not people and that money is not speech. It is in this way that the Move

to Amend movement hopes to end the practice of the wealthy few having inordinate influence and power over our elections and thus public policy.

Attendees learned that voters can ask their local City Council to pass a resolution to this effect, and/or that they can collect petition signatures to get the issue on the local ballot. They also learned that they could ask their City Council representatives to put the issue on the ballot for them so they do not have to do the work of collecting

the requisite number of signatures of registered voters in their community. They learned that, as more and more communities pass such resolutions and ballot initiatives across the nation, the greater the likelihood Congress would respond to pressure to amend the U.S. Constitution in this way.

Finally, not only did attendees learn that six Ohio communities with populations greater than 30,000 passed resolutions, two passed partial resolutions, and six passed full ballot initiatives to amend the U.S. Constitution, but that the issue has a 100% passing rate in communities across the U.S. wherever it was placed on the ballot!

In view of the above, we invite our fellow Parma voters to attend the next meeting of our fledgling “Parma Move to Amend” on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Parma branch of the Cuyahoga County Library, 6996 Powers Boulevard, Parma, Ohio, Large Meeting Room A.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Riccobene at riccobene726@gmail.com

Asset Corner #62

continued from page 5

munity Engagement at karabanovsk@parmacityschools.org.

The Developmental Assets page is now available at www.parmacityschools.org/character. Check out the menu on the left side of the page to display and/or to print any number of asset related documents.

Enrollment for participants and volunteers is now underway for the week long, learn-how-to-bike camp for physically challenged youngsters scheduled to begin June 22, 2015 at the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink, 5000 Forestwood Dr. in Parma. Go to www.icanshine.org to find our program and register your rider and/or as a volunteer. The event needs upwards of 100 volunteers to work with these kids over the 5 day period. Don't miss this opportunity to get

involved. Sign up now.

If you're not already aware, the Parma City School District offers FREE GED & ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) to anyone over 19 years of age in Parma and the surrounding communities. New orientations are going on throughout January & February. They offer classes in over 30 different locations including Libraries, Career Centers as well as at the Collab. Visit www.parmacityschools.org/adulted or call 440.885.8797 with questions or for details.

The open enrollment period to obtain health coverage ends on Sunday, February 15, 2015. If your group is looking to host an enrollment event or if you or if you know of anyone who has questions and/or is having difficulty enrolling in the federal health insurance program (Obamacare) or about Ohio Med-

icaid, visit Parma Health Ministry's web site at www.parmahealthministry.org or phone: 440.843.8087. Their Health Care Navigator should be able to help.

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

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Perspective

Half-Truths And Myths About Urban Deer Perpetuated By Metroparks And Most Local Media

by Lucy McKernan

This writer is no stranger to bashing our levy-bloated Cleveland Metroparks because of its annual deer slaughter. But what must now be published is a rebuttal to a recent article, the mother lode of B.S. in a long line of it, published by the only game in town that calls itself a daily newspaper. We'll call it the "daily."

The daily article referred to above begins with the presumption - because its editorial board is a conflicted, hunter-friendly one that employs a hunter columnist - that there are too many deer to be "managed," followed by an equally misleading argument that the best way to "control" deer is through killing. What is new is the back-peddling by Cleveland Metroparks' head of natural resources, Terry Robison, who probably does not appreciate my repeatedly quoting his early 2014 statement: that large, stable populations of deer are here paradoxically, "because Ohio hunting has been so successful."

In the daily, Robison now states, "so-called compensatory rebound of deer reproduction is largely illusory." He then says, "A rebound effect only happens in a herd that has had a reduced birthrate because it was stressed and starving . . . The birthrate goes back up to previous levels once the population falls below a point where there is, once again, enough food to sustain the herd."

Huh? Let's unpack this: It's true that deer can populate only up to their biological carrying capacity, but Robison completely denies leading national evidence that rebound is inevitable, especially when lethal measures are



used. Our open public records requests found that both Solon and Pepper Pike, communities that engaged in lethal measures that were then stopped, saw deer populations rebound to within ONE-TENTH OF A DEGREE within two years.

All living species want to survive. When there is not enough food, does (female deer) reabsorb fetuses. Conversely, when herds experience more significant losses, such as killing programs ironically meant to reduce numbers, yearlings conceive earlier. In fact, our public records requests of Cleveland Metroparks over many years consistently reveal many of the yearling does were pregnant, and most older does were pregnant with twins or triplets. Last season, Cleveland Metroparks killed fawns, some less than six months old.

The article in that daily also claims

that in reservations where sharpshooters are actively killing deer – with silencers now, so the truth doesn't upset taxpayers – is that those responsible for ensuring gates are closed and everyone is out, actually don't.

Here's how I know: Last killing season, on an unseasonably warm February day, I drove into the Brecksville reservation, parked, and walked into the nature center. The woman working there was shocked. She asked, "What

are you doing here? No one is supposed to be here. The park is closed!" She then got right on the phone to call administration about it. I knew what was up, but wanted evidence, so I acted naïve. I explained that the gate was open at the Chippewa entrance, no signs were posted, and many people were seen recreating throughout the reservation. Others I know had similar experiences.

In the daily article, Metroparks officials also claimed that because deer get spooked after a couple days with sharpshooters around, go figure, killers are scheduled to come back later in the season, so they can kill more quota. (The sterile language the park uses to document deer killing, reads as if they were numbers and not beings. And the perky public relations and communications staff make the whole thing a sort of surreal, nauseating travesty.) This, combined with silencers on weapons, and slipshod staff not closing reservations during killing, make it very alarming that the park does not notify the public before killing. They don't even tell local police. Only immediately adjacent property owners are notified -- by regular mail within a couple days before.

read the rest of this story online!

The Other Side Of The Story

by Dave Kozak

It was a nice summer afternoon and I was home a little early from work, so I had a chance to clean up the yard and do some other chores. I was going in and out of the house and putting stuff away until it was time to go in and start supper. The yard looked good and I was glad to be done. As I reached for the front door knob I heard some strange sounds. I went inside, kicked off my shoes, but something wasn't right. I went back outside and I listened closer to the strange combination of sounds. There was a dog, maybe two, barking...a lady yelling...and another lady screaming frantically.

I ran in the house, got my shoes and phone, ran back out, grabbed a rake, a long sharp stick, and ran like crazy toward the neighbor's back yard where the sounds came from. Tracy, my neighbor, about my daughter's age, was running in the side door of her house. She was frantic, she was bitten several times, and she was bleeding. She seemed like she was scared crazy and yet strangely composed at the same time. She said the dog wouldn't stop biting...wouldn't let go.

She was calling her friend on her cell phone. I was calling 911 on mine. The fire station was right across the street, the siren was soon heard and the rescue squad was there in no time flat.

The paramedics couldn't come in the side or back yard until the police came...that was because I told the 911 operator that my neighbor was bitten by a pit bull. It seemed like it took the police

a long time to come and secure the area.

The severity of Tracy's wounds kept her in the hospital for a week, and in bandages for longer than that. Her parents went through their own grief as they came from out of town to attend to their daughter's needs. When Tracy's parents brought her home she saw me and she gave me world's biggest hug. She was so grateful that I was there for her. Tracy moved 3 months later because the nightmares of what happened in her back yard wouldn't stop. The last time I spoke to her she loved her new job out on the west coast.

I've never cared for dogs—I had a paper route when I was young. Also my daughter was bitten on her face when she was 5 years old by my good friend's always-good dog. Another friend was attacked by his own St. Bernard after playing with the dog in his back yard. These people didn't deserve what they got. This is the victim's side of the story that needs to be told. Suppose that your child was attacked. The owners are always so shocked that their dog could do such a thing; they thought they had control of their pet. Then they end up being scared stiff that they will be sued.

There are consequences for having any dog, and we need laws to minimize the chances for serious attacks on innocent victims. The public's safety comes first. Owners of any breed that is considered dangerous better have heavy chains to control it, and \$100,000 of homeowner's liability insurance. These animals are solid muscle, their instinct is to bite and to NOT let go.

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Observers' Viewpoints

Parma Symphony Orchestra To Perform 3/1/15

by Joe Germana

The Parma Symphony Orchestra will perform a concert on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 3:00 PM at Valley Forge High School Auditorium located at 9999 Independence Boulevard in Parma Heights. Music Director Dr. Randolph P. Laycock will present: Brian Bigley on Uilleann Pipes performing “The Brendan Voyage” by Shaun Davey. Also on the program are Polovetsian Dances by Alexander Borodin, and Beethoven’s “Lenore Overture #2.”

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

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

The Parma Symphony Orchestra is a self-supporting community orchestra in cooperation with the Parma City Schools. For more information can be found on Facebook, web-site www.parmasympphony.org or calling Business Manager Joe Germana 440-882-2012.

Brian Bigley comes from musical



Brian Bigley to play Uilleann Pipes

family on the west side of Cleveland. Studying with Achill Island, piper Michael Kilbane from the age of eight, Brian's sensitivity to the art of uilleann piping has developed into a high level of understanding.

His interest in maintaining the best sound possible led Brian to study the art of pipe-making with Seth Gallagher in upstate New York and time spent with flute maker Patrick Olwell. He is currently making pipes in the style of the late Dave Williams and is an accomplished reed maker.

Brian is also a world-class Irish step dancer, having competed at the World Championships in Glasgow and Killarney. He has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe as a pipe, flute, and whistle player, as well as a dancer with "The Magic of Ireland" and "Tomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas" (tomaseenfoley.com) He was a guest artist with the Contemporary Youth Orchestra (cyorchestra.org) in Cleveland where they performed "Symphonic Led Zeppe-lin" at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2002) and the Masonic Auditorium (2007). He has also had the privilege of performing at Carnegie Hall in New York with the Chieftains as well as appearing on stage with legendary piper Paddy Keenan. The fall of 2007 included a tour with Orange County Irish rock band "The Fenians" as well as appearing at the Milwaukee Irish Fest with the Trinity Irish Dancers.

Competitive accolades include taking first prize at the Midwest Regional

Fleadh Cheoil 2007. Brian now lives near Cleveland, OH with his lovely wife Kristen and son James.

For more information see: <http://www.brianbigleymusic.com>



Uilleann Piper Brian Bigley to perform with PSO on 3/1.

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The Parma Art Scene

Artist Of The Month Michelle (Baran) Behal

by Kathryn Mabin

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

Michelle (Baran) Behal

Michelle was raised in Cleveland. She studied commercial art and art history at Cuyahoga Community College-Western Campus, and the Cleveland Institute of Art. She was a resident of Old Brooklyn for 14 years. She recently married her best friend, Mark, who encourages and inspires her. Michelle and Mark now live in Parma Heights.

She has served as President of Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) for a few years now. She feels truly blessed to work alongside this group of artists. She said PAFAC members have become like a family, because you collectively share successes and failures, learn from one another, and support each other, as you pursue your

artistic goals. “Having an arts education is great, but your best teacher is your artist friends.”

Under Michelle’s presidency, PAFAC has begun working with other nonprofits, partnering and participating at events that help to further mutual goals. PAFAC’s mission is to bring art into the community. In 2014, PAFAC was given the opportunity to march in the Polish Constitution Parade. PAFAC partnered with Polish Village CDC and the owner of Local Tavern for a summer time chalk drawing event for children. The event was free to the public, and gave area children not only a chance to express themselves artistically with chalk, but win prizes. PAFAC also participated in the popular Polish Village Treat & Greet, dressing in costume and passing out candy and stickers to the children. PAFAC artists also have participated in the ongoing Polish Village Public Art Auction, Flamingo Fever. Plans for 2015 are to continue to take a more visible role in the community.

Michelle has been an instructor for PAFAC over ten years, and has had the opportunity to share her knowledge with a number of students. She said her students have also taught her plenty too. She teaches acrylics and mixed media, incorporating fabric, stucco, sand, pen & ink, and various other mediums to enhance the texture, mood, and overall feel of the painting. She also feels it puts a new twist on the traditional medium. Michelle says, “Not everyone has the same vision, art is more individualized in the eye and mind of the student.” So she likes to focus on their style and composition to help them find what best suits what they want to accomplish. In addition she also teaches pyrography (wood burning), basic drawing, calligraphy, and pen & ink. Beginners are encour-



Michelle (Baran) Behal at Stearns Farm.

aged to attend, the classes are fun and casual, and class size is small to offer a more individualized instruction. Plus, the cost is a bargain at \$8.00 for members or \$10.00 for non-members, for a two hour session.

She is also a long time member of Great Lakes Wood Carvers and the Western Reserve Wood Carvers. These two great carving associations are fun and friendly and also welcome new members. She also is a big supporter of Artists of Cleveland, National Oil & Acrylic Painters Society (NOAPS), National Park Artists, Brooklyn Center Naturalists and Art House of Cleveland.

I asked her to highlight her most memorable achievements. Her debut auction piece was for the Old Brooklyn Development Corporation’s 25th Anniversary, a pen & ink drawing of the Old Fulton Road Bridge, which was auctioned off during the celebration inside the Primate Building of the Cleveland MetroPark Zoo. Since then, there have been countless showings throughout Cleveland and the surrounding areas of her works. Also on permanent display is an original drawing she did of the Gatehouse at Riverside Cemetery, and pen & ink of the Fulton Road Bridge, in the lobby of the Riverside Gatehouse. Another claim to fame for Michelle is when she appeared on the FOX8 New Day Cleveland Show, “The Brooklyn’s” segment, where she was featured wood burning to music. Michelle also met the challenge when she created “Pretty Posie” her flamingo for Polish Village’s 2013 Flamingo Fever.

When asked who inspired her the most, she listed three artists for various reasons. Her favorite is Sergie Mirko,

a very young Russian artist. She loves how his realistic paintings just “pull you in.” He uses a light source with dark edges to draw you closer to his subject. Her favorite painting is of a ship between two dark mountains with the bright sun setting on the water. His use of light and dark tones she finds amazing. Antoni Gaudi, the great master of design who built Barcelona, inspired her attention for detail and her love of architecture and design. And last but not least, is the great Georgia O’Keeffe for her style of larger than life florals and abstracts, which Michelle states has taken her places she wouldn’t have normally have gone. Georgia O’Keeffe has been an inspiration to a great many female artists, past and present, for her ability to be different. She inspired Michelle to break away from her attention to detail.

In addition to working a full time job, teaching evening classes at PAFAC, volunteering for various nonprofits and events, and appearing at various arts and craft shows, she also has her own business. Bear Tracks Art, now in its 10th year, focuses on a rustic, outdoor theme. Commissioned wood burnings, wooden coasters, wine markers, bookmarks, and note cards are just a few of the items she offers. You can view samples of her unique pieces on her web site at www.beartracksart.com.

For more information regarding her classes and upcoming events, contact Parma Area Fine Arts Council (PAFAC) at 440-888-4514.

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





Flight - Wood Burning by Michelle (Baran) Behal.

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