

"Be wary of great leaders-hope that there are many, many small leaders" Pete Seeger

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## Mayor Tim DeGeeter Looks Forward To State Of The City Address

by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter enjoys looking back proudly at the accomplishments of his administration. "We're all working hard to move Parma forward," he says. "It's nice to see the things we've done. But we don't want to live in the past, we are looking ahead to our future as well." So when DeGeeter takes the stage on Feb. 24, 2014 at the new Snow Road Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, he will share accomplishments, yes, but he will also look ahead to what residents might expect from his

administration in the coming year. The Mayor will deliver the speech in the new, state-of-the-art, 400-seat auditorium at the library; the address is scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Mayor has taken the speech "on the road" for the last two years, delivering his first one at the GrafTech Corporation and this year's at Parma Community General Hospital. After the Mayor was treated to a sneak peek of the Snow Branch before it opened, he decided showing off this new library is a perfect fit for the 2014 speech.

"The auditorium is a

beautiful space and we are so appreciative of our partnership with the Parma libraries," he said. "Let's show them off."

DeGeeter's speech will encompass a review of a busy 2013 in which, among other things, the Shoppes at Parma began reconstruction, two Parma Library branches became reality, and a sister city relationship was formed with Lviv in the Ukraine. The address will also map out continued efforts and plans to continue to move the city forward and increase the quality of life for Parma residents.

He will likely introduce a

new program or two during the speech. One of them is a series of events called "Business 101" in which City officials and the Chamber of Commerce help new business owners navigate the sometimes tricky landscape of licensing, permits and inspections, among other

things.

"If someone wants to open a business in Parma, we'll have representatives there from our Building Department and Engineering, for example," DeGeeter said. "They can answer questions right there

**continued on page 8**

## Memorable Monthly Meetings For Veteran's Group At Parma Restaurant

by Daniel P. McCarthy

On the first Monday of every month at Jordan's Family Restaurant in Parma, a remarkable group of veterans assembles for breakfast. They are part of the National Association of Destroyer Veterans, better known as "Tin Can Sailors". I had never heard of this group or their monthly meetings until Jordan's owner Mike Dolan told me about them, but after some fascinating research I will never forget them. The role that Destroyers played in the history of our nation is one of those incredible untold stories.

Why "Tin Can"? That is the nickname for a destroyer in the US Navy. It seems that in the two world wars, the hull plat-



The Tin Can Sailors meeting went on even though temperatures of 10 below zero kept most people in the house.

ing of a Destroyer was so thin (a round from a .45 caliber pistol could go through it) that the sailors swore they were made of tin cans. The hulls of modern destroyers are much thicker, but the name stuck. These ships

were designed to be fast and maneuverable yet have long endurance, for the purpose of escorting larger vessels and defending them from attack by submarines and other vessels. With the advent of the guided missile, destroyers were able to assume roles previously filled by battleships and cruisers. I personally recommend to everyone that they investigate this on their own- there are endless stories about these ships and crews that are utterly fascinating, just one click away. A recommended book is by James D. Hornfischer entitled "The Tin Sailors Will Not Be Forgotten- Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors."

Stories that stick out for me begin with the fact that the

**continued on page 4**

## Parma Hospital Joins University Hospitals Health System

by CJ Sheppard

Parma Community General Hospital became part of University Hospitals Health System on January 1, following approval from state and federal government regulators. The hospital, founded in 1961 at Ridge Road and Powers Boulevard, is now known as University Hospitals Parma Medical Center.

EMH Healthcare in Elyria

also was integrated into the UH health system. Each hospital conducted a thorough and rigorous process to evaluate the benefits of joining the UH system to better serve their respective communities and arrived at unanimous decisions for integration.

The organizations announced separately last summer that they were exploring

**continued on page 4**

## New Chapter For Axelrod Buick/GMC In Parma

by Daniel P. McCarthy

No matter how you look at it, 35 years is a long time. Back in 1979 Larry Axelrod opened his business, Axelrod Pontiac at the corner of Brookpark and Pearl Rds. Flash forward to 2014 and this Parma landmark is still thriving in the automotive sales sector so crucial to our local and national economic vitality. Now known as Axelrod Buick/GMC, the dealership celebrated a major transformation in January. Barry Axelrod, along with his brother Phil, have maintained this family business now well into the new century, and this is definitely a major step forward in our crucial local industry of automotive dealerships. "We are just thrilled to be in Parma, and the strength of the city gives us the confidence to make an investment like this" said Barry Axelrod.

The dealership in Parma



Barry Axelrod of Axelrod Buick/GMC prepares to cut the ribbon celebrating the completion of construction on their newly expanded dealership in Parma on January 10.

sits on 3.25 acres and sells new and used vehicles. In November of 2012 Axelrod Buick/GMC announced plans for a significant remodeling project at the property, which would involve the demolition of 1 building and parts of 2 additional buildings, with newly built additions featuring vastly

**continued on page 8**

## Parma Heights Ranked Ohio's 20th Safest City

by Mike Byrne

Parma Heights has been named one of the safest cities in Ohio according to a study completed by SafeWise, a community-focused security organization. Public safety is a critical marker of the quality of life in a community and I have continually said that safety is, and always will be, my top priority. I am proud to announce that we are ranked #20 in the state on the SafeWise 50 Safest Cities in Ohio list. The full list can be viewed at: <http://www.safewise.com/blog/50-safest-cities-ohio>.

To compile the report, SafeWise used the most recent FBI crime data from 2011, along with population and other ranking factors, such as unique safety initiatives and security programs implemented within the past few years. "From the hundreds of cities in Ohio, we narrowed the list down to 50 and assigned rankings according to how the city met our criteria," explained SafeWise security analyst John Roskelley. "When neighbors know each other,

**continued on page 6**



# Community News

## The President’s Corner

by Sean Brennan,  
Parma City Council President

This month I will begin a series of columns informing you about the committee structure of Parma City Council. Like many organizations, legislative bodies form committees to allow members to specialize in certain areas of the law in which they have a special set of expertise or interest, for a legislator simply cannot be an expert on all of the issues that arise. It also allows the workload to be spread out so that no one person or group is overwhelmed with legislative duties. I will also argue that the innovative way in which our Council runs its committees is superior to that of most other legislative bodies.

Parma City Council has created eight committees, including Finance, Public Safety, Public Service, Environmental Standards, Appointment Scanning, Planning, Governmental Operations, and Public Housing. Finance and Public Housing consist of all nine ward members of Council, while the other committees consist of five ward members apiece. Committee meetings generally take place on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 pm and the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend and participate in these informative meetings, which take place at Parma City Hall in City Council Chambers.

Residents attending their first City Council meetings often wonder why they are so fast-paced and hard to follow. They also are perplexed as to why most ordinances and resolutions pass or fail unanimously. The reason for this

is because most of the work of a legislative body, like a city council, goes on in committees. Therefore, by the time a council meeting takes place, members already know how they are going to vote on the piece of legislation because they have already discussed and debated it at length and reached consensus. It is for this reason that committee meetings are especially important for a member of the public to attend, if they wish to become more informed about the legislation being discussed by Council and to better understand the rationale of considered legislation.

It is common for legislative committees to meet on separate days and sometimes different locations. However, Parma City Council has developed a system whereas all members of Council meet together in City Council Chambers on committee meeting nights. The President of City Council, Mayor and top administrators, such as the Safety Director, Service Director, Law Director, Treasurer, Auditor, City Engineer and Building Commissioner, Economic Development Director and others are also present. Each committee is called to order by its respective Chairmen or Chairwoman and legislation is discussed, presentations made, questions asked, etc. Thus, all members are Council may become informed of every issue before every committee through this deliberative process. This practice helps ensure sound decisions are made by Council, as it allows for more input from every member of Council.

The Finance Committee, arguably the most powerful and important

committee, is chaired by Council veteran Scott Tuma. Councilman Brian Day serves as Vice-Chairman of this committee. Councilman Tuma, an attorney, has served as leader of this committee well for several years. Because of its importance, every member of City Council sits on it. The Finance Committee is charged with dealing with all matters relating to municipal (city) finances, assessments, budget, taxation, indebtedness, appropriations (spending) of funds, payment of funds and money for certain needed services/items not otherwise provided for by previous legislation, concessions, licenses and permit fees, the purchase, lease and/or sale of real property or property by or from the City.

It is the Finance Committee that holds a multitude of budget hearings in the early part of the year prior to Council formally approving the City’s annual budget in March. In these meetings, heads of every city department are summoned to present their proposed budgets to Council. Members of Council painstakingly and meticulously scrutinize every single line item of every single budget. Questions are directed to department heads regarding specific line items. Council members seek justifications for allocations of taxpayer dollars to ensure that they are being used wisely and in the public interest. The ultimate approval of a balanced budget is the single most important job of our Council, as it affects every Department, and, therefore, every service provided to residents. Once approved, it is up to the Administration, headed by the Mayor, to implement the budget and run the city accordingly.

More about the other committees of Parma City Council next month.

It is my hope that you will consider attending at least one City Council Committee meeting in 2014. Our city leaders can truly benefit from the expertise that our nearly 90,000 residents possess. To enter Council Chambers, simply park behind City Hall and enter through the back doors. Meeting dates and times are always posted on the City of Parma’s website at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov) or you may simply call the Parma City Council office for information at 440-885-8091. Stay safe and warm!

## Ken Ehlert Named Citizen Of The Month



by Jeannie Roberts

Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter calls Ken Ehlert “one of those residents every Mayor wishes for. He is active in the city, is a tireless volunteer and takes part in city functions because he cares about what happens in Parma.” Ken, retired after working 43 years at the General Motors plant in Parma, became the Ward One Precinct Com-

mitteeman in the 1970s, and while very active in local politics, he still manages to attend numerous events in support of his nine grand- and great grandchildren. Here is the Citizen of the Month Ken (center) with his wife Elaine, two kids, David and Lori, and two of his grandkids, Nicole and Natalie. Presenting proclamations were Mayor DeGeeter and Ward One Councilman Vito Dipierro.

## Fireplace Safety

by Doug Turner

A fireplace can provide warmth on a cold winter evening, but if not maintained and operated properly, can become deadly. Keep your family safe by following these suggestions.

- Have your chimney and fireplace inspected and cleaned annually by a certified professional.
- Always use a fireplace screen.
- Clear the area around the fireplace and chimney of flammable materials.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Install a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector in your home, maintain them properly and test them monthly.
- Keep small children away from the fireplace.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never burn trash or debris in your fireplace. Use seasoned hardwood.
- Never use flammable liquids to start a fireplace fire.
- Never overload the fireplace.
- Keep the top of the chimney free of debris and clear of tree limbs.
- Place fireplace ash outside your home in a non-combustible container and away from any structure.



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Larry Lika, DO, with surgery team beside the innovative surgical table.

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Brad Sussman working out again just weeks after minimally invasive hip surgery with Dr. Lika.



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Parma  
Community  
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# Health/Culture

## Parma Hospital Joins University Hospitals Health System

continued from page 1

partnerships with UH and anticipated closure by end of 2013.

“Their approval, after a close examination of our strengths, affirms our shared conviction that our patients, and all of Northeast Ohio, will be better served through this unification, and by our vision for providing the highest-quality care in the most patient-focused, coordinated and cost-efficient ways,” said Thomas

F. Zenty III, CEO of University Hospitals. “Together, we have new and exciting opportunities to provide better health care. Our plans to invest in Parma Community General Hospital and EMH Healthcare will allow both organizations to continue to provide superior care to their communities and we are eager to reward their trust as we advance our mission: To Heal. To Teach. To Discover.”

UH will work closely with their

boards of directors, the physician community, leadership, employees and volunteers to bring investments and cost efficiencies that will benefit the communities that we serve including upgrades to facilities, equipment, services and technologies at both entities.

UH, with its nationally recognized academic medical center – UH Case Medical Center – will also provide strong clinical research, leading-edge technology, innovative practices and initiatives that will complement and grow the two hospitals' highly regarded medical programs. Additional commitments will bring programs from internationally recognized centers of excellence such as UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and UH Seidman Cancer Center to UH Elyria making it their flagship hospital based in Lorain County and continued expansion of their presence at UH Parma.

“Meeting our community's health care needs has been an unwavering commitment of University Hospitals since our founding in 1866,” said Mr. Zenty. “Joining with these hospitals will provide western Cuyahoga and Lorain counties the best opportunity

to strengthen and improve the health of their communities for years to come. We look forward to connecting with their medical staffs in supporting the communities' focus on prevention and wellness, and to provide the highest quality medical care for patients.”

UH Parma Medical Center has 332 beds and employs 2,000 Northeast Ohio residents. It has more than 500 physicians on its medical staff in more than 30 specialties, as well as a comprehensive campus of services. Its care extends far beyond its six founding cities of Parma, Parma Heights, Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Seven Hills and North Royalton.

UH Elyria Medical Center employs 2,100 Northeast Ohio residents and has campuses in Elyria, Amherst, Avon, Sheffield and North Ridgeville. Founded in 1908, EMH today is a 387-licensed bed hospital system

UH now employs 25,000 Ohio residents and its health system includes 14 hospitals, including our relationship with Southwest General and St. John Medical Center, and 25 outpatient health centers located throughout the region. All three organizations have won numerous recognitions for quality in patient care, safety and innovative practice.

## Memorable Monthly Meetings

continued from page 1

USS Greer was attacked by U-652 off the coast of Iceland on September 4, 1941. She evaded two torpedos and with her 19 depth charges became the first US ship to attack a German vessel in world War II. As a result of the Greer incident, President Roosevelt ordered all US naval vessels to attack any ship that threatened US shipping or shipping under escort. Another historic tragedy was the 5 Sullivan brothers, all lost when the USS Juneau went down during the Battle of Guadalcanal. How about this one: on November 1, 1943 the USS Borie engaged in a nighttime battle with U-405. After a one hour fight Borie succeeded in ramming U-405. The two ships were stuck together and their crews carried on the battle with small arms fire! The Borie sunk the next day due to damage to her hull. Last but most certainly not least, we all knew him as Commander McHale, but actor Ernest Borgnine was first and foremost a Tin Can Sailor, having joined the US Navy in 1935 and served on the USS Lambertson. He passed away in 2012 at the age of 95.

Jordan's Family Restaurant, is a good central location for meetings of groups like these, as it is easy to find, serves great food, and offers a familiar welcoming atmosphere that everyone with the Tin Can Sailors seems to enjoy. Even though

the meeting on January 6 was on the coldest day of the year so far, that didn't stop a couple dozen of the hardest veterans from showing up. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter, Parma Council President Sean Brennan, Ward 5 Councilman Allan Divis, and newly elected Ward 1 Councilman Vito Depierro were also honored guests. The meetings begin normally with flag salutations and the singing of many songs collected over the long history of Tin Can Sailors. I've been told that it's not uncommon to see people in the restaurant cry tears of joy and admiration during these meetings. Here's a tiny sample of the lyrics of one of their songs, this one I believe is to the tune of the Battle Hymn of the Republic:

Submariners get the glory  
When they come home from the scrap  
Landing craft men get promotions  
While the Seabees get a nap  
Aviators get the medals  
Tin Can Sailors get the crap  
And we ain't going to sea no more!  
Stop by Jordan's at 11575 Brookpark Rd. on the first Monday of any month and meet these wonderful veterans who served and survived many a scrape to come home and live fabulous lives. They are a sight to behold, and each one has a unique and fascinating story to tell.

## Joint Surgery From Highly Rated Local Hospital

by CJ Sheppard

Anyone considering a hip or knee replacement can count on University Hospitals Parma Medical Center, rated among the best in the country by Consumer Reports for how patients fare both during and following elective procedures like knee replacements.

UH Parma Medical Center was among only 128 hospitals in 34 states to earn the highest possible rating for knee replacements in the current effort by Consumer Reports to inform patients of the quality of care available to them. Each month, UH Parma Medical Center's Joint Camp provides informational sessions for patients contemplating total joint replacement surgery.

The sessions in February take place on Monday, February 3 and 17 from 2-4 p.m. Patients are encouraged to attend a one-time session with a support person who will coach them through their pre- and post-surgical care. Physical

and occupational therapists explain the exercises that will help patients strengthen their muscles and prepare for a stronger post-surgical experience.

Joint Camp is free but registration is required. Call 440-743-4024.



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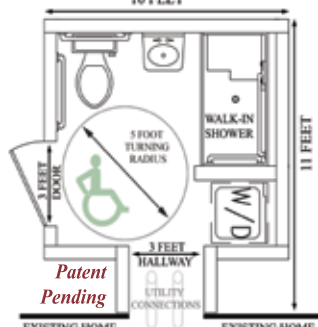
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# Parma Education

## ASSET CORNER

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



What All Kids Need to Succeed 40 Developmental Assets



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## Asset Corner #50

by Gene Lovasy

**SHOW KIDS YOU CARE: CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COLLEC-TIONS. Developmental Assets – 40 individual assets in 8 Categories.... February’s Asset Category: Positive Values You are what you believe.** 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.)

## City Of Parma Scholarships 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 2014 award season. In its seventh year, the Foundation will once again offer three to five scholarships with a minimum award of \$1,500 each. 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

**This column’s focus will be on..... Asset #30 – Responsibility**

**Give young people a chance to stand on their own two feet**

Following rules is important, but is doing as you’re told enough? To become strong, upstanding, and successful adults, possessing a personal desire to be responsible is also significant. Accountability is more than following rules. It means you’re responsible for knowing why you follow the rules and when it may be beneficial to change the rules. Give young people the chance to do their best—sometimes without assistance.

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people are more likely to succeed if they accept and take personal responsibility for their actions. About 63 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say they accept and take personal responsibility for their actions, according to Search Institute surveys. Take time to model and teach young people how to take care of themselves, follow through with commitments, and learn from mistakes.

**Tips for building this asset**

There are four keys to instilling responsibility in young people, according to authors Don Dinkmeyer, Ph.D. and Gary McKay, Ph.D. In their book, *Raising a Responsible Child*, Dinkmeyer and McKay list the following keys to teaching responsibility: 1. Let the young person do it him or herself; 2. Expect it to take time; 3. Ask, don’t demand; and 4. Use natural and logical consequences.

**Also try this**

In your home and family: Create a chart of family chores, listing everyone’s responsibilities, even yours.

In your neighborhood and community: When you make a

commitment to a neighborhood or community group, follow through. Don’t minimize the responsibility simply because you’re a volunteer.

In your school or youth program: When a young person won’t take responsibility for her or his actions, help him or her understand the consequences. For example, if a homework assignment isn’t completed on time, let the student experience the natural outcome of receiving a zero. If he or she asks for an opportunity to bring the grade up, great! If the student doesn’t seek that opportunity, avoid offering it. It will be a great lesson for the student to see how that zero affects his or her overall grade.

Clarifying values is critical as young people explore who they are and who they want to be. You can’t choose young people’s values for them, but you can help shape the values they choose by talking about and modeling values important to you. Present young people with consistent messages about the values you wish to instill.

**ASSET RELATED NEWS**

**A CALL FOR HELP! Community Ambassadors** has been informed they must vacate their space in The Shoppes at Parma by April 1, 2014. Since 2010 this non-profit has been dedicated and committed to serving our community through practical, strategic ways

that help to alleviate the most pressing needs in our community. As a matter of fact, because of their work Community Ambassadors will be recognized as a Parma Area Chamber of Commerce 2014 PRIDE Award recipient. For the organization to continue serving our most challenged residents they need a secure space as close as possible to city-center; no less than 1,500 sq. ft.; wheelchair accessible; bathroom accessible; ability to accommodate at least 75 people; access to water; a small storage area; space for a refrigerator and they must have a key and access as needed 24/7. If you know of anything available or can help in some other way, give Jeremy Kiner, Community Ambassadors, Co-Director a call at 216.200.7030.

**> The District continues to focus its attention on bullying prevention.** If you become aware of any incident of bullying call the **Bullying Hotline at 440.886.7630** or via **email at [pcsdreportbullying@gmail.com](mailto:pcsdreportbullying@gmail.com)**. The call is anonymous. Please be prepared to provide the following information so that they can respond appropriately:

- 1) Explain the incident or problem
- 2) Where did the incident take place?
- 3) Who was involved?
- 4) Which schools do the individuals attend?

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

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

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# Inspiration

## February, The Second Month Of The Year!

by Ruth Revecky

The month of February usually has 28 days; however,  
Every 4 years we accumulate an extra day, thereby  
Adding 1 more day to the month, for a total of 29 days.  
This is known as Leap Year, the year when  
Many couples take the leap and get married.  
February 2 is Groundhog Day; in 1887, Pennsylvania  
German settlers decided to use a groundhog to determine,  
By its shadow from the sun, whether or not we would have  
6 more weeks of winter or an early spring. If the groundhog  
Saw its shadow, there would be 6 more weeks of winter;  
If the groundhog did not see its shadow, there would be  
An early spring! Pennsylvania named its groundhog  
Punxsutawney Phil; Ohio's groundhog is named Buckeye Chuck!  
A special day is set aside on February 14 and is called  
Valentine's Day, a day set aside just for love.  
This is the day when many people exchange candy  
And flowers, plus an abundance of kisses and hugs!  
Presidents' Day is observed on February 7  
When we combine the birthdays of Presidents  
Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, who  
Were born on February 12 and February 22, respectively.  
Shortly thereafter, March makes its blustery entrance!

## I Believe

by Daniel Taddeo

All stand to benefit when we are grounded and rooted in truth.  
Any person who endeavors to live a Godly life is bound to encounter opposition.  
Blaming God for our troubles is like being on a dead-end street.  
It doesn't take you anywhere.  
Christianity grows with love, not violence.  
Come near to God and He will come near to you.  
Do not give me your list to live by and I will not give you mine; instead,  
follow God's list.  
Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.  
Faith is not about understanding; it is about trusting.  
Giving thanks and praising God for our many blessings should be an ongoing act.  
God's law has not changed because God does not change.  
If we are not careful, pride, security, cowardice, wealth and reputation  
can become our gods.  
It is difficult to always do what is right because we tend to trust in  
ourselves rather than God.  
Keeping our minds on Godly expectations is not easy.  
Many people are influenced more by the surrounding culture than the truth.  
Nobody can please everybody all of the time.  
No amount of sin in our lives prevents God's acceptance of us.  
Of making and reading many books there is no end, and much study  
wearies the body.  
Often the very traits that most annoy us in others are ones we possess.  
Pleasing our peers can easily take us down the wrong road.  
Rather than cling to certain old ways, we need to embrace the new.  
Responsible people do not elevate their interests above others' needs by  
taking advantage of them.  
Some people may possibly entertain angels without knowing it.  
Suffering will come to everyone.  
There should be no difference between what people believe and their actions.  
What we say at any given moment reveals the condition of our hearts at that time.  
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 Heights Ranked Ohio's 20th Safest City

continued from page 1

they look out for each other. Ohio's safest cities are brimming with civically-minded residents who clearly take pride in where they live.”  
I feel the small-town atmosphere of the community is one of the reasons Parma Heights scored so high in the ranking. We are a small city that takes pride in being small. In Parma Heights, you can walk or bike the community and get to know your neighbors, plus, you can take advantage of free safety programs to keep you informed, ensure your safety, and be your eyes when you are away from home. Our safety programs for Parma Heights residents that are proof of our commitment to safety include: CodeRED emergency notification system; fully-staffed Police and Fire

Departments; "Are You OK?" phone program for seniors, shut-ins and disabled persons; the Vacation Check Program; and a Home Security Survey. These initiatives, along with our recent membership in the Heritage Home Program which helps owners keep up their aging properties, instills a sense of pride and ownership in the community at large.  
SafeWise prides themselves on being “the source for everything safety and security” and assists consumers in comparing home security systems so they can choose the best method to protect their homes. The SafeWise Report provides resources to help make homes and communities a safer place by providing home security tips and tools, as well as the most recent news in the safety industry.



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# Parma Area

## West Creek Conservancy To Host Second Annual BLUES For GREENS Fundraising Gala

by Pam Menhenett

Parma, Ohio: West Creek Conservancy will host its second annual gala Blues for Greens, a night to benefit the conservation work of West Creek Conservancy in Greater Cleveland. Featuring fine food, great live music by Colin Dussault, local beer and wine, and chances to win fabulous raffle prizes, the event will help support the ongoing efforts of the organization as it strives to protect local natural areas, open spaces, streams and waterways right here in our Greater Cleveland communities! Dedi-

cated to local conservation efforts, West Creek Conservancy believes that clean streams and rivers, abundant natural areas, neighborhood green space and beautiful walking and biking trails are an important part of healthy, vibrant, successful communities.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 6:00 to 11:00 pm at St. Michael's Woodside, located at 5025 E. Mill Road in Broadview Heights. Tickets are \$55 for individuals and \$100 for couples. Tickets can be purchased at [www.2014bluesforgreens.eventbrite.com](http://www.2014bluesforgreens.eventbrite.com)

## Wine & Dine Your Valentine Feb. 13

by Tricia Kuivinen

The lovely setting provided by the College Club of Cleveland will be the scene of the 2nd Annual Maggie's Place Ohio "Wine & Dine" benefit set for Thursday, February 13 from 6:30-9 PM. Delicious food and wine samplings from Mia Bella Restaurant in Little Italy, live music and the auction & raffle of unique packages will round out the evening designed to support the continued operation of The Zechariah House.

Maggie's Place, a community of hospitality homes for expectant women in both OH and AZ, can house up to nine expectant women at The Zechariah House, located in Parma. Maggie's Place provides safe housing, nourishing food, clothing, counseling, parenting preparation, employment and educational opportunities for pregnant women who may be alone, on the streets or facing other difficult life circumstances. Women must be at least 18 years of age, non-drug using and pregnant to be admitted, and may stay up to a year after their child's birth. Since 2000, Maggie's Place has helped over 700 vulnerable young mothers find safety and opportunities to rebuild their lives.

Funds raised from guests attending "Wine & Dine" will support the continued operations of The Zechariah House, where each mother in residence has the opportunity to share in a sup-

portive community, receive counseling and if desired, increase her educational level. Many Maggie's Place residents complete their GED, receive additional job training or attend college classes with the help of Maggie's Place scholarships, positioning them for better job opportunities. At a time when Ohio's jobless rate persists at nearly 8% and the child poverty level in Cleveland stands at 21.6%, Maggie's Place is playing an important role in supporting the preparation of young parents.

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

About Maggie's Place

Maggie's Place is a community of homes that provide hospitality for pregnant women who are alone or on the streets. We have a two-fold strategy in assisting mothers to grow. First, Maggie's Place provides for the immediate physical and emotional needs of our guests including shelter, food, clothing, and a safe, supportive community. In addition, Maggie's Place connects young mothers to appropriate local agencies and resources including prenatal care, health insurance, low-cost housing, childcare and educational and job training programs, so mothers can care for their children properly while reaching their own personal goals.

## Worldstock's City Beat Parma Is Family

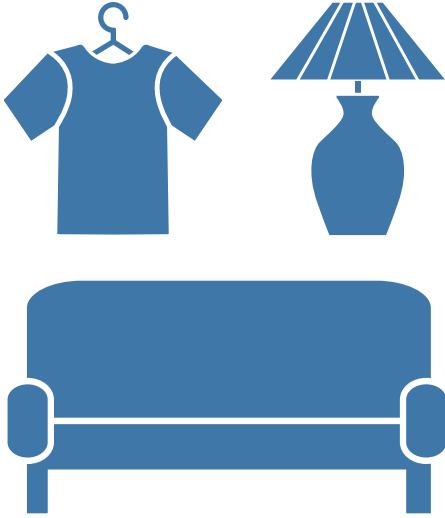
by Wayne Mesker

As we approach Valentine's Day, a day where we express our love to family, friends & that Special someone, I'd like to express my own affection for the City Of Parma. It was just over a year ago that I was an average "Parmaranian" like many of you & I went about my business relatively uninvolved in most things that didn't personally concern myself or my loved ones. Somewhere along the line I decided to become more informed, more active & more engaged in the community & much to my surprise have discovered that in this city of 82,000 plus citizens that "We Are Family" from City Hall down to business owners & private citizens.

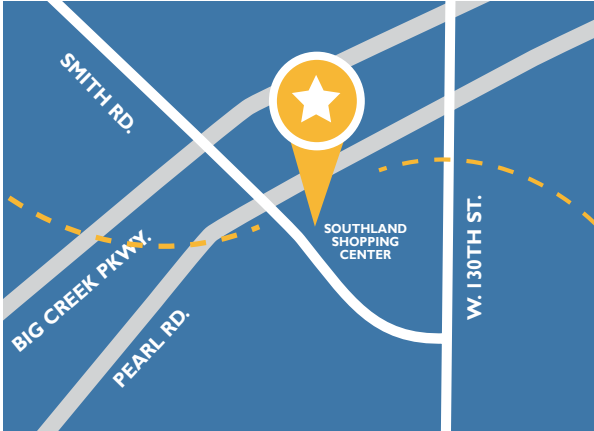
In order to become part of that

family, all you need to do is reach out & show up. Today I count among members of my "Extended Family" the Mayor & City Council & other members of the Mayor's staff & city government, members of the School Board & Parma City School District, the Police Chief, various business owners & media people, members of many non-profit & community organizations, executive staff of the Shoppes At Parma & so many others. Earlier in the month I was present at a meeting of the Tin Can Sailors that we had been invited to attend at Jordan's Family Restaurant & the breakfast meeting was attended by the Mayor, Council President Sean Brennan, several

**continued on page 9**



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## Perspective

# Retirement Insecurity - Part Two

by Lee Kamps

Last month I explained how 401(K) plans have replaced the old fashioned defined benefit company pension plan that our fathers relied on for their retirement security. I also explained some of the advantages of a 401(K) plan over the old defined benefit pension. This month, I will explain the pitfalls and problems of 401(K) plans which I fear outweigh the advantages. Here are the major pitfalls of a 401(K) plan:

Not contributing enough. Far too many workers contribute just the minimum required or none at all. Most employers match employee contributions up to a certain point. To properly save for retirement, an employee should contribute at least to the maximum for employer matching and then maintain that same percentage when their income increases. The increasing cost of health insurance is wreaking havoc on many 401(K) plans. As employee health insurance contributions are increased with no corresponding increase in compensation, very often contributions to 401(K) plans are reduced or suspended. In short, too many workers are mortgaging their retirement just to maintain health insurance and a standard of living in the present.

Poor investing decisions. Far too many participants in 401(K) plans make all the wrong investment choices. Either they invest too conservatively and avoid any risk or they chase returns and get burned in the process. In addition too few employees rebalance their investment portfolio annually to account for changes in the investment mix. A good option that many plan administrators now offer are managed accounts based on one's age and risk tolerance. Those are often a good choice for those who lack investment savvy or a trusted financial advisor.

Loading the 401(K) with too much stock in the employer. This is a great peril and one word can describe the problems with loading a 401(K) account with company stock. That word is Enron. Thousands of Enron employees lost their entire retirement accounts when the company went bankrupt. That was one large example that made national news. But in 1987 I worked for a regional insurance company that had been in business since 1902 and they gave their employees generous amounts of the company's stock. In 1992 that company went belly up and many employees found that their retirement accounts were worthless. Employees

who had worked at that company for more than thirty years lost everything in what I called a "mini Enron". This hardly made news outside of the city where the company was headquartered.

Treating the 401(K) plan as a personal piggy bank. The law allows loans to be made against a 401(K) account as well as withdrawals. But loans carry a pitfall in that if they are not repaid in full within five years, they are considered as taxable withdrawals subjecting the participant with a huge tax burden. Withdrawals from 401(K) plans made while under age 59 ½ are subject to a 10% penalty and the IRS withholds taxes against them at the 28% rate. Loans should be considered only for large major expenses such as college tuition or large medical expenses; not for that Disney World vacation or a new car.

But perhaps the biggest pitfall to a 401(K) plan is job insecurity and job loss. It used to be that if you had a job and did your job; you kept your job. But that notion of continued employ-

ment with one company went out the door long ago. Nowadays no one can be sure in the private sector that a company will remain in business or that your job will not become obsolete. Since the 1980s, companies that had been on business over 100 years have gone out of business and many large companies have been bought up or merged with other companies. Therefore no one can assume that they will keep their job just by doing their job to the best of their abilities.

Very often when someone loses their job, the 401(K) account is tapped to maintain their standard of living. Unemployment benefits are hardly enough to maintain a middle class standard of living and when they expire, very often there is only the 401(K) plan to keep the family afloat. I cannot remember how many people I have met who tapped their 401(K) account and very often ran it dry when they lost a job. For too many people the funds in a 401(K) account has kept them in their house or allowed the family to survive. There cannot be true retirement security until there is job security.

## Supporting The Parma Community And Being The Change You Want To See In Parma

by Amandah Blackwell

On Monday, December 16th, I attended my first Parma City Council meeting. Why? Because I recently found out that meetings are held on the first and third Monday of each month. I know what you must be thinking, "How could you have not known this?" The truth is I, like many residents, didn't know. But now that I am aware of when the meetings are held, I plan on attending so I can stay informed about what is happening in the City of Parma and how it's moving forward.

At the December 16th meeting, many citizens and organizations were recognized for their service. For example, did you know that Golubski Funeral Home, located on Ridge Road, turned 100 years old this year? I didn't. And I've attended funeral services at the funeral home in Parma and Garfield Heights.

In addition to Golubski Funeral Home, two Eagle Scouts were recognized along with the Parma Animal Shelter, the girls' volleyball team (state champions) from Padua, and a men's team from the recent Senior Games.

It was nice to see Parma citizens receive recognition for their community service and accomplishments. After all, the community is what makes a city.

I was moved by Denise Geschwender, Vice President of Animal Guardians for a Prosperous Parma, Breed Neutral Division, who spoke about changing the ordinance regarding allowing residents to own Pitbulls and Pitbull-mixes. Currently, residents are not allowed these dogs.

I've loved animals ever since I was a child and agree with Ms.



Parma City Council In Session.

Geschwender's statement, "Parma residents may have a false sense of security regarding all dogs." It's a fact that any dog that has teeth can bite or get triggered by something or someone and bite. I know this all too well because in 2006 I was bitten by a 10 lb. terrier mix while running in my neighborhood behind the Pleasant Valley Shopping Center. Ouch! I didn't blame the dog because it wasn't his fault. It was, however, his owner's fault because she decided it was a good idea to walk her dogs off of their leashes. But I digress.

If you agree or disagree with changing an ordinance, you need to show up to city council meetings as Denise did. You need to allow your voice to be heard by those you voted into office. This is how change happens. You, the citizen, must speak up. Otherwise, it will be business as usual and change and progress won't happen. And you know what they say about change, "If you're not changing, you're dying."

The next time you have an issue with something the City of Parma is or isn't doing, speak up. Gather facts and data and present them at a council meeting. Even if what you're proposing isn't amended or passed, at least you will know you spoke up and were heard.

continued from page 1

on the spot about zoning and building code compliance."

The programs will be free, and city officials will gauge further programs by attendance at early offerings.

The Mayor will also expound on the Good Neighborhood Initiative, which encompasses several programs designed to increase the quality of life for residents by praising and rewarding those who take care of their properties and ticketing those who don't. "We don't want this to be just about the bad apples," he said. "This is also about the

homeowners who take pride in their properties and are assets to their neighborhood."

DeGeeter will be available for anyone who wants to seek him out for comments after the speech, as this will be a Mayor's Out event as well.

"We are thrilled that Mayor DeGeeter asked to use the auditorium for his speech," said Parma Snow Branch Manager Stacey Boycik. "It's a wonderful reflection on the partnership that the Parma Libraries have with the City. We are looking forward to hosting it."

## New Chapter For Axelrod Buick/GMC In Parma

continued from page 1

improved functions. These include a brand new showroom, 16 bay service building, and what is said to be the largest collision center on the West Side. These new building additions have been designed and constructed to meet the latest General Motors building design standards. Parma City Council approved the rezoning and variances needed to begin the project in December 2012, and construction began in 2013.

Barry Axelrod explains that as soon as the announcement was made revealing the planned changes at the dealership, the place became a magnet for the best talent in all of the areas of this business. With the greatly enlarged and enhanced service area, top notch technicians are eager to work in that kind of environment. With a brand new showroom and fantastic, proven products to sell in it, sales professionals with talent and experience compete for a chance to be part of the sales team in place here. "What we have is an even better facility, where the employees are

pleased to be here, and the customer has a totally satisfying experience as a result" states Barry Axelrod.

On Friday Nanuary 10 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to officially open the newly expanded Axelrod Buick/GMC in Parma. The size of the audience was impressive; this was a highly anticipated event. General Motors Executives, Plant Managers, numerous elected officials, Parma Area Chamber of Commerce associates and proud family members filled the VIP zone behind the podium where the ribbon cutting occurred. The audience heard from those who had played a part in or had witnessed this latest chapter of a local Parma success story. Afterwards those in attendance toured the facility and enjoyed wonderful food and entertainment. I had a fabulous time there and engaged in many conversations, but the whole time I'll admit, I was distracted by the dazzling sight of a shiny new 2014 Buick Lacrosse that was just begging to go home with me.



Perspective

# Emerald Reckless Annual Deer-Kill (500+) Adds 43 To West Creek Jan. TO March 2014

by Lucy mckernan

Below are quoted responses from Cleveland Metropark’s (CMP) Terry L. Robison, Director of Natural Resources, to an Open Public Records request concerning deer. (Sharpshooters will kill over 500 deer in nine reservations this winter. Although population deer population numbers were clearly requested in the OPR, park officials did not include them in the responses quoted below.)

**Robison’s responses:**

- 1) Management reservations: Bedford, Bradley Woods, Brecksville, Hinckley, Mill Stream Run, North Chagrin, Rocky River, South Chagrin, West Creek.
- 2) Numbers targeted: Bedford (45), Bradley Woods (55), Brecksville (70), Hinckley (45), Mill Stream Run (126), North Chagrin (35), Rocky River (36), South Chagrin (25), West Creek (45).
- 3) Counts: Spotlight surveys (Cleveland Metroparks staff), aerial infrared survey (Davis aviation), helicopter visual survey (USDA APHIS Wildlife Services).
- 4) Start/finish date on the permit: 1/21/2014 start, 3/13/2014 finish. Culling dates for each reservation are not announced until the day of culling for safety reasons.
- 5) No management will occur in properties acquired in the past 12 months.”
- Following is quoted OPR to Robison by League of Humane Voters of Ohio, state director:
- Dear Mr. Robison,
- I am requesting the following:
- 1) A list of all Metropark reservations where deer are to be culled in the 2014 deer management program.
- 2) The numbers targeted to be killed in each separate reservation.
- 3) The most recent deer count, who conducted it as well as the method utilized.

- 4) The start date and finish date on the permit as well as the schedule per each reservation.
- 5) Will deer be killed on any of the newly acquired properties?”
- Robison did not include the numbers for the most recent deer count.
- Although Robison promised to not kill deer in the new West Creek Rez unless the City of Parma engages in a hunting program, he approved the sharpshooting killing of 43 deer there Jan. to March 2014. Mr. Robison, head of the park system’s natural resources, now has an office in the West Creek Reservation, where he and other park employees and volunteers have conducted radio collaring and telemetry studies on the park’s deer and coyote. The study resulted in a percentage of doe and fawn mortalities.
- The study also showed a higher than expected percentage of fawn mortality through coyote predation.
- At the Watershed Stewardship Open House in West Creek, Robison publicly told me – in front of families with children – that even before they had results from the radio collaring in West Creek, killing of deer in CMP would continue, but he could not answer my question about why the study is being conducted. The study involves apprehending deer and coyote, and affixing radio collars. The stress resulted in some mortality, mainly among fawns. Interestingly and, again, ironically, the study also found that does with fawns stay in very small ranges, which means that less robust herds would not survive, should killing cease. So, populations would stabilize! When questioned about “stressed” deer ranges, Robison completely contradicted himself, and the printed out results from the study, hanging on the wall right in front of us.
- Emerald Reckless has killed hundreds of deer every year for 15+ years. According to park officials, killing

must continue to keep populations from rebounding to what they were prior to 1998, before killing began. If that’s not proof of “Compensatory Rebound Effect,” (CRE) what is? CRE, simply stated, means that deer, like any other species, bounce back after sudden reductions in population. Killing deer has the paradoxical effect of stabilizing numbers, not reducing them. That is why the state won’t allow birth control; rather, it deliberately maintains through the hunting/rebound paradox “maximum sustainable yield” for hunters and profit. Doing nothing would ALSO result in stable populations, through carrying capacity and death by natural causes.

What does this have to do with CMP’s killing? CMP’s Ohio & Erie Canal once enjoyed an effective deer birth control program, but the Ohio Division of Wild”Death” squelched it, claiming “tainted” deer may cross park boundaries and get “harvested.”

So the state is ultimately to blame, or is it? CMP is actually a separate political subdivision of the State of Ohio; it is not governed by the county, even though Cuyahoga County collects our property taxes to finance it. And because it’s the only park system in the

state with a zoo affiliated, it gets special levy protections, like the \$75/100M one that just passed -- in spite of property values declining.

Our CMP levy money continues to be spent on killing, paving over, recreation/profit vs. conservation. The park should be a safe haven for wildlife, not a crime scene.

Instead, CMP has engaged Wildlife Services (WS) – the same federal agency that kills millions of wild birds and animals each year for private industries – to target deer. Wildlife “Disservices” conducted CMP’s deer count. WS is the same agency that used captive bolt on deer in Pepper Pike, a tool designed for use in the cattle industry to stun an animal before slaughter – not by any stretch of the imagination “humane.” Terrified and wild, trapped deer thrash about, repeatedly bolted through eyes, throat, etc. before being stunned and slaughtered. This federal agency, along with CMP and the State of Ohio add up to your tax dollars being used to kill many millions of wild creatures.

Contact Terry L. Robison, Cleveland Metroparks Director of Natural Resources, 2277 West Ridgewood Drive, Parma, OH 44134, or 440-253-2162 to express your concerns.

## Worldstock’s City Beat Parma Is Family

continued from page 7

Councilmen & others. Attending the City Council meeting where re-elected council members & newly elected council members & officials were sworn in by members of their families & applauded by those in attendance was another event where the sense of Family & Community were visible. Finally, I attended a couple of other community events: A forum on Heroin at the Main library & a Community

Business/Schools Partnership meeting at the Snow Rd. branch & again was impressed by the attendance & commitment of those involved. As the Observer strives to become the most relevant “Local” News Source, we hope that you’ll become a “Partner” & part of our family as a reader, contributor and hopefully as an advertiser too, so that we can continue to grow & provide you with the best and most important news for this community!

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# Greater Parma Area



Mayor Byrne being sworn in by his son Bryan.

## Parma Heights Officials Sworn-In

by Christine Hnat

The Council Chambers were packed on New Year's Day as Mayor Michael P. Byrne and three members of Council took their respective oaths-of-office.

Mayor Byrne, who ran unopposed, began his second four-year term after his son, Bryan Bryne, administered the oath of office. In his acceptance remarks, the mayor joked that there were two ways to run for office, "scared or unopposed", and said that he experienced both emotions as the filing clock ticked closer to deadline. Once the deadline had passed, he said he was "relieved that I could now spend more time preparing for 2014 and working on future goals."

Byrne credited the lack of an opponent on four factors: the support of Parma Heights residents, the dedication of City Council, the hard work of his directors and city employees whom he thanked for "their outstanding dedication and commitment to the residents", as well as, the support and encouragement he receives from his family and friends.

Citing highlights and accomplishments of each of the departments and their respective directors, he then turned his attention to City Council saying that he has "truly enjoyed working with this

Council". Byrne noted that, although disagreements are inevitable, discussion, debate and mutual respect lead to resolutions that always have the best interests of the residents in mind.

Also sworn-in was newly-elected Councilwoman Renee Everett, representing Ward 1. Everett replaces former Council President Ralph Kolasinski, who did not stand for re-election. Councilwoman JoAnn Koch, re-elected as representative for Ward 3 and Robert Verdile, re-elected as a councilman-at-large were also sworn-in.

At the Council Organization Meeting held on January 2, 2014, Ward 4 Representative Marie Gallo was elected President of Council, while At-Large Councilman Jim McCall was re-elected Council Pro-Tem. This marks the first time in the city's history that a woman has been elected Council President. Gallo presides over a seven-member Council with women representing all four of the wards.

"I want to thank my Council colleagues for electing me Council President for the next two years. I look forward to working with Mayor Mike Byrne and his Administration to continue to strengthen the city and the services we provide to our residents," said Gallo.

## Parma Heights Awarded \$75,000 TLCI Grant

by Mike Byrne

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Transportation Agency (NOACA) announced that the City of Parma Heights was one of only seven cities awarded a highly-competitive Transportation for Likeable Communities (TLCI) grant. The city will use the \$75,000 award to conduct a "Pearl Road Complete and Green Streets Initiative" study.

"The TLCI provides funding specifically for planning studies," explained Grace Gallucci, NOACA executive director. "This year's round of applications was very competitive because we received requests for more than double the amount of funding available."

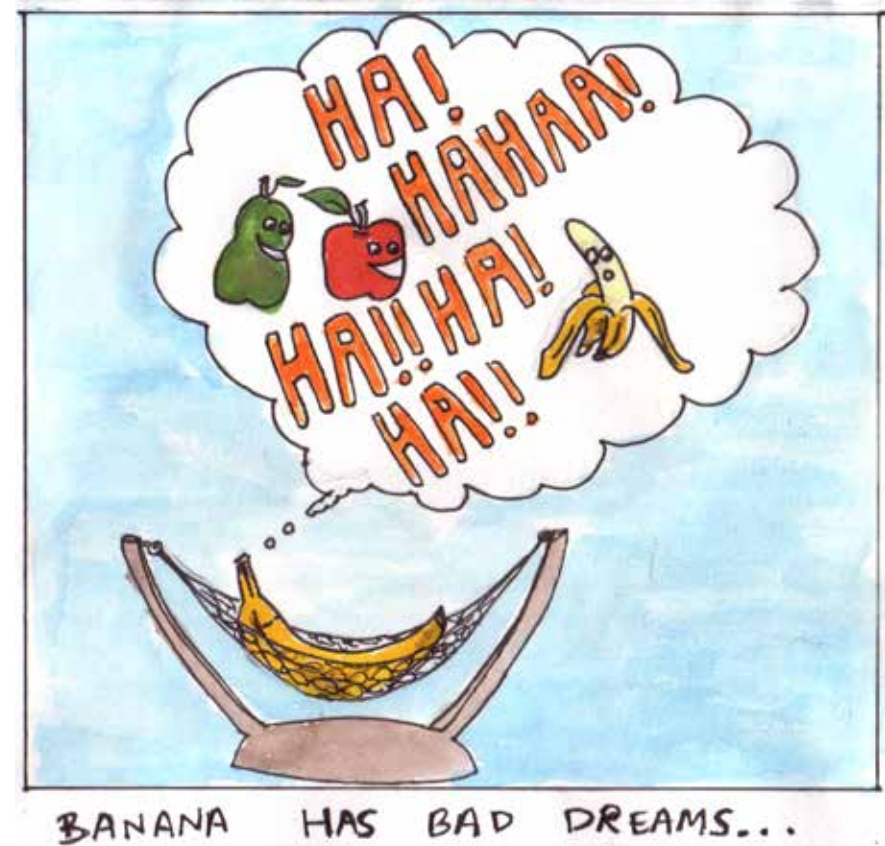
TLCI grants are aimed at targeting ways to strengthen community livability and promote economic development through integrated transportation and land use planning strategies. The goal of the TLCI program, which is part of a growing national movement tagged as "Complete and Green Streets", is to shift the focus of the main streets of a community away from a dominant cars-only model to one that reflects the "Main Street" concept where all users including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, are equally welcome. Completed "Com-

plete and Green Streets" projects have been shown to stimulate local economies, raise land values, and increase safety while having a positive environmental effect.

The awarding of this grant is a testament to our continuing vigilance to secure all funding available to address the needs of our city. Pearl Road is our Main Street. It is an historic road that existed as a business thoroughfare before Parma Heights even became a village. Then, because of the tremendous growth that occurred here during the 1950's and '60's, it evolved quickly based on the demands of the time. This study will provide all of us, residents and business owners alike, with an opportunity to re-evaluate Pearl Road and provide us with guidance on how to make it work for us and reflect today's lifestyle.

NOACA is a transportation and environmental planning agency that represents state, county, city, village, and township officials and addresses the transportation, air quality, and water quality needs of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina counties. NOACA and its partners cooperatively develop and implement plans to ensure that travel throughout the region is safe, cost-effective and environmentally sound.

Now That's Funny? by Julia Cindric




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**SMALLWOOD ACTIVITIES CENTER**  
7001 W. RIDGEWOOD DRIVE, PARMA

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