



**Welcome to the  
2009 State of the City**

**Presented by:  
Mayor Dean DePiero**

**Monday, February 23rd  
Parma City Hall  
7:00 PM**

## **Discussion Outline:**

- **2009 Budget**
- **Safety Forces Update**
  - School Zone Cameras
  - Fire Levy
- **Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer Agreement**
- **Blue Ribbon Commission Update**
- **Economic Development News**
- **Community Services**
  - Neighborhood Stabilization Plan
- **Stimulus Package**
- **Department Updates**
- **General Updates**
- **Wrap-up**





## **Recent Mayoral Appointments:**

- **Ohio Municipal League – President**
- **Cuyahoga County Mayors & City Managers Association – Legislation Co-Chair**
- **Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer Board (NEORSB) – Secretary**
- **Collaborative Project on Municipal Court Funding**
- **Ohio Judicial Appointments Recommendation Panel – Governor Strickland**
- **Commission on Local Government Reform and Collaboration - OML**
- **Public Utilities Commission Nominating Counsel - OML**



## **2009 Budget**

- **Remain fiscally responsible**
- **Request flat budgets from all department heads**
- **Healthcare savings in 2008**
  - **Decreased by \$21,093.21 from 2007 to 2008 at a time where other employers were experiencing 10% increases in their healthcare premiums**
  - **Switching of dental providers saved \$13,797.88 from 2007 to 2008**
  - **Allowing employees share in the cost of their healthcare during 2008 provided a reduction of \$554,796 in healthcare costs to the City**
- **Approximately \$47 million budget**

## Parma Value for Your \$\$

City	Population	Total Spending	Total per capita
Independence	7,109	\$32,961,583	\$4,637
Bedford	14,214	\$22,926,947	\$1,613
Brook Park	21,218	\$32,929,716	\$1,552
Berea	18,970	\$26,306,924	\$1,387
Westlake	31,719	\$43,682,065	\$1,377
Strongsville	43,858	\$57,860,054	\$1,319
Bay Village	16,087	\$20,792,209	\$1,292
Cleveland	478,403	\$485,410,000	\$1,015
North Royalton	28,648	\$26,966,391	\$941
East Cleveland	27,217	\$21,884,481	\$804
Brooklyn Hts*	1,558	\$7,833,677	\$5,028
Brooklyn*	11,586	\$23,612,176	\$2,038
Middleburg Hts*	15,542	\$25,491,737	\$1,640
Broadview Hts*	15,967	\$22,047,415	\$1,381
Parma Heights*	21,659	\$22,528,307	\$1,040
<b>Parma*</b>	<b>85,655</b>	<b>\$79,377,411</b>	<b>\$927</b>

## **Parma Police Department:**

- **New hires**
  - **15 new officers since the passage of the May 2007 levy – 94 Total Officers**
- **Field Training Unit - training our many new officers**
  - **Most recent graduated from the police academy on December 19, 2008**
- **Development of TOP Program - added street patrols to address quality of life issues such as traffic enforcement in the neighborhoods, loud car stereos, etc**
- **Enhancement of the Traffic Unit - State of the art accident investigation equipment, radar trailer, training, radio head sets**



## **Parma Police Department:**

- **First Rate Auxiliary Police Unit - dedicated volunteers who continue to answer the call for service to this community**
  - They are a well trained group who maintain the highest uniform standards and represent the department and the City well.
  - Currently 40 Officers; donated 11,365 hours
- **Neighborhood Canvass Cards - Provided a uniform method to conduct follow up even when potential witnesses were not home at the time of canvass.**
  - Raises neighborhood awareness of crime in the area and provide an easy way for citizens to contact the investigating officer.
- **MDT and Cameras in all patrol cars**



## **Parma Police Department:**

- **Significant increases in the amount of officer training**
  - **Weekly training, FBI training, education encouraged**
- **New Equipment - Radios, TASERs, Computers, Digital Cameras**
- **State of the Art radio system in collaboration with Parma Fire – P-25 compliant**
  - **Completely operational soon**
- **Overall improvement in overtime, attitude, education, and work ethic among all officers under Chief Hoffman’s leadership**
- **Significant Detective Bureau successes**
- **We can all be proud of our Police Department**



## **School Zone Speed Cameras:**

- **Only used during the school year**
- **Only in school zones**
- **Proper signage**
- **One Mobile Unit**
- **Ticketing system**
- **Proposed program start date**
- **Hearing process**
- **Effort to maintain safe school zones**



## **Parma Fire Department:**

- **Services climbed to over 13,000 unit responses in 2008**
- **Automatic aid with neighboring fire departments grew from 1 city in 2007 to 4 cities in 2008 – Brooklyn, Brooklyn Heights, Seven Hills, and Broadview Heights**
- **Parma Fire initiated a regional fire department training consortium where we have joined forces with neighboring departments in an effort to standardize fire training**
- **Code STEMI - cardiac patients are identified in the field by paramedics, the hospital is readied, the medics perform pre-hospital care and the patient is taken directly to the cath lab at PCGH**
  - **National Average - 90 minutes**
  - **Average time for Parma Community General Hospital - 54 minutes**



## **Parma Fire Department:**

- **Community Outreach**

- **The Parma Regional Fire Safety House - over 3,000 children participate in this program annually**
- **Parma Fire Prevention has joined forces with the counseling services of Parmadale in the Juvenile Fire Setter Program**
- **Continued to provide and install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors in Parma homes in an effort to prevent fire fatalities**
- **Parma Fire continued to raise funds for local charities including the annual MDA program, worked with the local Marines on the Toys for Tots program and worked with various other programs**
- **The Parma Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which was initiated by PFD graduated two more classes of volunteers in 2008 – 2008 volunteer hours = 1806; 83 total members**



## **Parma Fire Department:**

- **Community Outreach Continued...**
  - **Success of the Emergency Medical Dispatch program**
  - **10 members on the Regional SERT Tech Rescue Team**
  - **Train the City Lifeguards in CPR and water rescue**
  - **Train the Police, Corrections Officers, CERT, Police Auxiliaries, Senior Center, and various Civic groups and Dr.'s Offices in CPR AED**
  - **Speakers visits elementary schools to teach fire safety**
  - **Install children's car seats**
  - **Recycle paper, and aluminum cans for the burn unit**
  - **Host numerous tours of our fire stations, go to block parties, and are a training site for CCC West and PCGH paramedic programs**
  - **Sponsor high school students on ride alongs**



## **Parma Fire Department:**



- **Fire Regionalization Conversation**
  - Discussion and study continues with Baldwin-Wallace College
  - Discussions are now among 2 cities from 7 – Parma and Parma Heights
  - All parties at the table – Fire Fighters Union, members of Council, Mayors, Safety Directors, and Fire Leadership
  - Baldwin-Wallace is currently reworking the numbers for 2 communities – expecting updated data soon
- **Received an ODOD grant to study the feasibility of a 14 City regional dispatch center – Cleveland State University**

## **Parma Fire Levy:**

- **Renewal**
- **Same millage - 1.5 mills**
- **May 5, 2009 ballot**
- **Not a new tax**
- **\$4.37 per \$100,000 of valuation a month**
- **Will continue to fund salary and pension contributions for Parma's fire and EMS personnel**
- **5 year renewal levy**



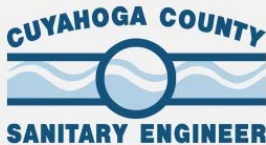
## **Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer Agreement:**

- **Unanimous passage by Parma City Council**
  - **March 2008**
  - **Followed months of discussion after the August 2007 storms that devastated property owners throughout the city**
- **Annual fee**
  - **Assessed on property tax duplicate**
- **Calculated by linear front footage**
  - **Residential and Business owners are assessed**
- **Collection began in January**
- **Work began before passage**

**PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**  
**Maintaining Your Sanitary Sewers**



**Dean DePiero**  
MAYOR OF PARMA



**Robert C. Klaiber, Jr., P.E., P.S.**  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY SANITARY ENGINEER

for information call 216-443-8201  
or visit [www.sanitaryeng.cuyahogacounty.us](http://www.sanitaryeng.cuyahogacounty.us)

## **Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer Agreement Continued:**

- **County Engineer working with Parma Service and Engineering Departments**
- **Currently televising and cleaning sanitary lines throughout Parma**
- **Agreement includes capital improvements**
  - **\$1.75 - sanitary sewer cleaning and capital improvements**
  - **\$.25 - storm sewer capital improvements**
  - **\$.15 - water line capital improvements**
- **Council has requested regular updates**
- **FAQs and information at [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov)**

# **Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer Agreement:**

- **Why?**
  - **Infrastructure improvements needed**
  - **Investing in Parma's future**
  - **Will alleviate flooding over time**
  - **Provides a comprehensive maintenance plan for the City's sewers**



## **Blue Ribbon Commission Report Update:**

- **Completed 3 additional recommendations**
  - **Contract with the Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer for sewer line maintenance and management**
    - **#2 Overall Commission Recommendation**
  - **Continue technological advancements to improve traffic control**
    - **Traffic Signalization Project**
    - **School Zone Speed Cameras**
- **Other areas are still being reviewed**
  - **Comprehensive Architectural Review Board**
  - **Privatization of additional services**



## **Economic Development News:**

- **Parma selected as home of new VA Center with construction to begin on 14 acre VA campus with 300 new jobs**
- **Marc's invests \$7.5 Million in acquisition and improvement of its new Commerce Center produce operation bringing in 150 new jobs**
- **Renovations and expansion have begun on the Parma 2000 building in our Commerce Center as the home for 200 new jobs being relocated to Parma**
- **We expect a deal to be closed shortly for 95 new health care related jobs to be relocated to Parma at a Hauserman Road site**
- **Giant Eagle on Day Drive completed construction on their new store and added 150 staff to its payroll**





## **Economic Development News:**

- **Vacant buildings seeing re-use**
  - **Ollie's and Pat Catan's replace vacant Gillombardo's**
  - **Third Federal is constructing a new office at vacant Denny's on Snow Road**
  - **Busack Pet Clinic and Hospital to open March 1, 2009 after a \$1.7 million investment in a new facility on the site of old Fire Station #2 (retaining 16 jobs and expecting to create 36 more in 3 years)**



## **Economic Development News:**

- **General Motors – Parma Plant**
  - **Parma's top tax payer**
  - **8 state of the art metal stamping presses**
  - **Over \$100 million investment in 1999-2000**
  - **Receiving work from plants that have closed recently**
  - **Strong union/management relationship**
  - **Very high plant quality rating**



## **Economic Development News:**

- **Ukrainian Village created!**
  - **Upcoming Festival**
  - **Storefront Renovation**
  - **Business Development Opportunities**
- **Ukrainian Holodomor Remembrance Flame**



## **Community Services:**

- **Parma attracted 56 new first-time home buying families in 2008 leveraging nearly \$7 million in Real Estate transaction**
- **\$80,000 to make home improvement upgrades and repairs affordable for seniors and lower income homeowners**
- **Created the Homes for Heroes Program**
  - **6 loans granted - \$19,617 total**
  - **Average income of the applicants was \$53,500**
  - **All applicants came from outside of Parma**
  - **The income tax revenue on the new residents' income is \$8,025/yr.**
  - **Even if the applicants remain single and their income stagnates, our investment in them will have been repaid in under 3 years.**
- **Working to create a similar program for college graduates in collaboration with Councilman Tom Regas**



## **Community Services:**

- **Over \$130,000 invested in infrastructure for the third straight year**
  - **Public sidewalks, street curbs and street catch basins**
- **Another \$70,000 invested for the third straight year upgrading streetscapes for commercial businesses**
  - **Including Union Eye Care, Ripepi Funeral Home, Das Schnitzel House**
- **Over \$40,000 invested to demolish blighting homes and structures throughout the City**
- **\$50,000 in rent, mortgage and utility payment support to Parma residents who have lost their jobs in the recent recession**
- **Anticipate similar spending in 2009**

## **Community Services:**

- **Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)**
  - **Award of \$1.6 million to combat foreclosed and vacant housing and to demolish and remove these nuisances from our neighborhoods**
  - **City of Parma inspectors will closely monitor foreclosed housing and make a recommendation to City Council if the home is eligible to receive Summary Nuisance Abatement**
  - **Once City Council approves, Parma will contract for demolition, and send the bill to the property owner to repay the NSP fund**
  - **Opportunity to help the City to maintain property values and resist blight in our community**
  - **The NSP application is available for public viewing and comment on the city website [www.cityofparma-oh.gov](http://www.cityofparma-oh.gov)**
  - **The public can comment on the City of Parma NSP plan through Wednesday, February 25th by calling Director Tollerup at (216) 661-7412**

## **Green Space Update:**



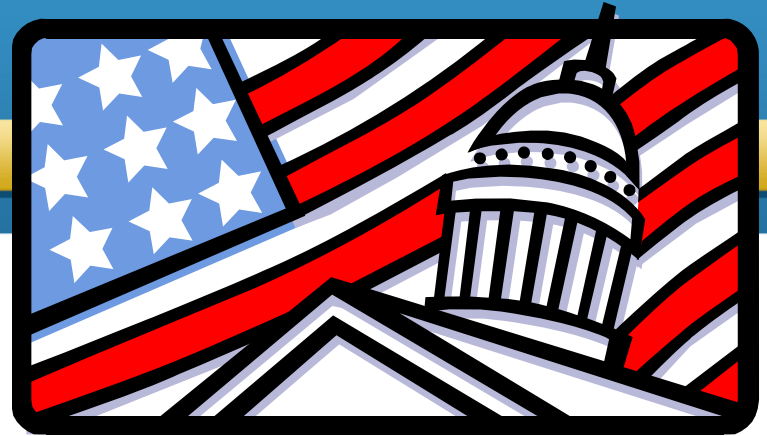
- **Busch Property**
  - **Project has been named “Big Creek at Snake Hill”**
  - **Preliminary approval for final piece of funding – hoping to complete the transfer to the City by May 2009**
  - **Acquisition of 13.6 acres from Busch family, to make City parcel 54.6 acres of protected land**
  - **Funding from Clean Ohio (two rounds), Land and Water Conservation Fund, and State Capital Fund (Totaling \$346,500)**
  - **West Creek Preservation Committee will hold conservation easement on parcel**
  - **We will seek additional easements from abutting parcels such as Shiva Vishnu on Ridge and the Cleveland Water Department (22 acres) on Pleasant Valley**
  - **Parcel will connect all the way through to Sandy Hook park**

## **Green Space Update:**

- **Cleveland Metropark**

- **½ mile all-purpose trail along West Ridgewood, will be constructed in 2009**
  - **Preliminary construction has begun – tree clearing etc.**
- **Filed for \$4 million in federal stimulus funds for the Stewardship Center**
- **Stewardship Center and other park facilities' (trails, shelters, etc.) design will be completed in 2009 – about \$14 million project**
- **Construction expected to begin in early 2010**





## **Federal Stimulus Package:**

- **Tracking the process at the local, state, and federal level daily**
- **Submitted “shovel ready” infrastructure project lists to every level of government, state and federal lobbyists, and to advocacy organizations (U.S. Conference of Mayors)**
- **Working on obtaining as much low-cost or free money as possible so as to relieve the strain on already-strapped homeowners since the alternative is assessment**
- **Prioritized project lists include 5 sewer projects from the federal EPA mandate – fully engineered and shovel ready – and 1 water main project in the City’s north end**

## **Federal Stimulus Package:**

- **Included components that could benefit Parma (continued):**
  - **Energy and Efficiency Block Grant – Parma could receive \$1M to assist homeowners and commercial property owners with updating things like insulation, windows, doors, HVAC systems, etc to become more energy efficient**
  - **Reinstated the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) from the Department of Justice – used for police department technology**
  - **Reinstatement of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant – pay the salaries and benefits of 3 new hire police officers for 3 years**
  - **Possible path for construction of new fire facilities**
- **Parma is again leading the area – Organized and being contacted for advice and information**
- **Special thanks to Shelley Cullins – Economic Development Officer and Grantwriter**

## **SDAT Project and Report:**

- **Sustainable Design Assessment Team – Parma received a grant through the American Institute of Architects**
- **SDAT programs provide broad assessments to help frame future policies and sustainability solutions**
- **SDATs bring a diverse team of experts to work with community decision-makers**
  - **Landscape architects, urban planning experts, transportation experts, and experts on retail centers and design**
- **Visited Parma initially in June 2008 – preliminary visit to get a “vibe” for the community**
- **Comprehensive team visited in October 2008 and provided the City with a preliminary report – available on the website**



## **SDAT Project and Report:**

- **Assets Parma has to offer:**
  - **Good community layout – especially in the northern half of the City – bungalows are great for first-time homebuyers**
  - **Visible history as seen in Parma’s architecture, parks, and streets**
  - **Strong cultural heritage and identity which contributes to community memory**
  - **The basis for a very walkable community**
  - **A good context for growth and development given the changing interest of the public**
- **Awaiting the final report – due anytime**
- **Hoping it can be the basis for a new Master Plan for Parma’s future**



## **Municipal Department Updates:**



- **Parma Senior Center is now the Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging**
  - **Watch for a rededication ceremony in April!**
  - **Applied for a grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation and will receive a new 11 passenger vehicle in April. This is the second vehicle we received in five years**
  - **The Support Services division of the Senior Center has increased exponentially**

**2008 (as of Dec. 19)    715 clients            2,145 actions**



## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Building & Engineering Departments**
  - **The Property Maintenance Department increased to 4 full-time and 2 part-time inspectors**
  - **Assistant Building Commissioner Don Graves has provided training on property maintenance issues at a First Suburbs Consortium seminar on a Parma developed program that no other community in the County**
    - **This unique Parma program on hoarding includes representatives from other City Departments including Law, Courts, Police, Fire, Service and Senior Services, as well as Parma Hospital, Red Cross, County Board of Health, etc.**
  - **Assistant Engineer Melissa Morrow and Engineering Field Crew Chief Anthony Vannello both completed storm water management training and examination to become a Certified Erosion, Sediment and Storm Water Inspector (CESSWI) as recommended by the Ohio EPA**
  - **Master Plan Examiner Dan Kulchytsky became certified as a Building Official.**
  - **Parma was the first City in Ohio to receive a grant from the American Institute of Architects for a study performed by their Sustainable Design Assessment Team. The SDAT personnel are currently working on the final report**



## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Purchasing and Human Resources**
  - **Director Siegfried continued to act as a facilitator for the city-wide healthcare committee.**
    - **Healthcare benefits were settled for 2009**
    - **Our Department put on the third healthcare fair for City employees which involved healthcare screenings and on line health risk assessments**
  - **Established “wellness@work”, a group committed to the health of City of Parma employees**
    - **The group’s mission is to improve the overall health and quality of life of all City employees and minimize healthcare costs that impact all of us. To accomplish their goal, throughout the year, they started several initiatives to help employees “get well, work well and stay well”.**
  - **Membership in the Southwest Safety Council and attendance at 8 yearly meetings = \$10,288.79 savings in BWC premiums for 2008**
  - **Saved \$11,760 in wages for summer workers utilizing Youth Opportunities Unlimited**

## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Parks and Recreation Department**
  - **Significant improvements at Ries Ice Rink – dasher boards and glass, painting, skate room, and concession stand = about \$150,000 investment by the City and private donors**
    - **Still forthcoming funds from the State Capital Budget for lighting improvements and roof repairs - \$250,000**
  - **Will host the Ohio Challenger Baseball Tournament in July – involving special needs youth from across Ohio**
  - **Delay of water park/pool facility construction due to economic constraints**





## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Treasurer Anthony Zielinski**
  - **Continuation of the free tax preparation services for city income tax filings**
    - **Increased evening, and Saturday hours as well as added an “office” in Recreation Department during tax season**
  - **Significant tax software update**
    - **Allows residents to file, pay, and look up information regarding taxes online**
  - **Recent success of the “Economic Forum” held at the Smallwood Center**
    - **Discussed foreclosure, financial planning, banking, legal-aid, mortgage relief, and more – open and free to anyone**
    - **Watch for another Forum in Spring 2009**



## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Parma Clerk of Court Marty Vittardi**
  - **Office is now completely computerized**
    - **Traffic/Criminal, Civil Probation, Jury Administration, Accounts Receivable Cashiering, Assignment, Judicial Docketing, Supreme Court Reporting, and all financial reports**
    - **Public access to files through [www.parmamunicourt.org](http://www.parmamunicourt.org)**
  - **Video Arraignment system for all four courtrooms**
    - **Safer for the public**
    - **Time and cost savings for the Parma Police Department**
  - **Both upgrades were financed through Court Capital Accounts – no General Funds used**
  - **Clerk's budget averaged only 1% growth per year over the past 5 years**



**Law Director Tim Dobeck**

## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Parma Law Department**

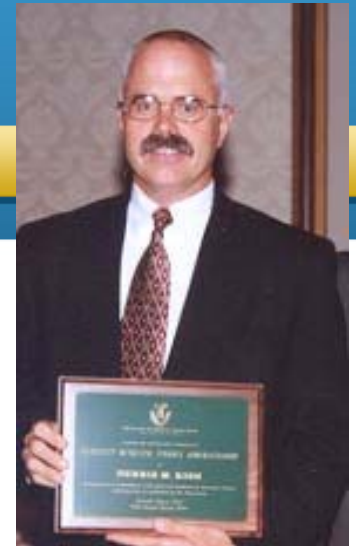
- **Produced 65 formal written legal opinions**
- **Prepared 370 pieces of legislation**
- **Handled hundreds of accident/injury claims resulting in payment to the City of more than \$77,000**
- **Fielded approximately 150 inquires about landlord-tenant issues**

- **Prosecutor's Office**

- **Handled about 350 complaints/mediations**
- **417 preliminary hearings on felony offenses**
- **3,319 misdemeanor criminal offenses, 4,492 traffic offenses, 293 trials**
- **Victim's Advocate Program – offered support, advise and comfort to 610 victims of domestic violence and other crimes**
- **Juvenile Diversion program – 283 cases and approximately 3,255 hours of community service**

## **Municipal Department Updates:**

- **Auditor Dennis Kish**
  - **Coordinate annual audit**
    - **Working with State Auditor's Office to complete 2006 and 2007 audits**
  - **Produced the annual financial report or CAFR**
  - **Process city payroll and accounts payable**
  - **Processed over 1900 birth and death certificates in 2008**



## Exciting News!

- **New Website – we are working on an update that will make our site more user-friendly**
  - **Content will stay the same, just simpler navigation and a new “skin”**
- **Monthly Podcasts**

The City of  
**Parma**

Podcasts Community Links Code Red Do Not Knock Contact

City Hall City Council Resident Services Senior Center News & Events Calendar Photo Gallery

**Welcome**  
To the City of Parma

We are very proud of our city and we are glad that you've stopped by to "have a look around."

As you navigate through the pages of our site, we hope you find the information posted both useful and helpful. Please feel free to contact the people listed throughout various sections of the site if you have any questions that pertain to their areas of expertise.

**Community Highlights**

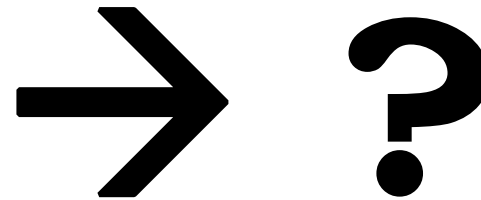
- [Neighborhood Stabilization Program Request](#)
- [Cuyahoga County Sanitary Engineer Maintenance and Improvement Program](#)
- [Sustainable Design Assessment Team Presentation](#)
- ["Parma - Diversity... with a common thread"](#)
- [Parma Newsletter November 2008](#)
- [Andrew Boyko Memorial Scholarship Foundation](#)
- [Tax Department](#)

**Upcoming Events**

- [Christmas Parade - Around Parmatown Mall - 11:00a.m. December 6th](#)
- [Breakfast with Santa 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. December 13th](#)

## **Exciting News!**

- **New Logo & Seal**
  - **Working with a graphic designer to create a logo for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
  - **Reflective of what Parma is today, and into the future**
  - **Will seek community input soon!**





**Thank you**

**It is my administration's pleasure to  
serve the citizens of Parma.**

**We look forward to 2009, and have high  
hopes for our future.**