



The Valley Views

A Newsletter of the Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc.

A Crusader in Our Midst



Paul Meinking in his Moeller hat and a small part of his trophy collection.

The following excerpt is from the front page of The Crusader, Moeller High School's newsletter.

March 2010

The Valley Views is published four times a year by The Ohio Valley Residential Services, Inc. (OVRs). Designed for OVRs families, consumers, staff, and friends, the newsletter includes articles, training opportunities, and personal stories contributed by OVRs residents, staff, and families.

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Consumer Sites & Programs
Charlemar, Parkview, Ivanhoe,
Carmel Terrace, Cypress Way,
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Shadymist, Clovernook,
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Meyerhill, Brookforest,
Epworth Court, Galbraith,
Strifler, Wayland, Cheviot
Apartments, Faircrest, Foster
Settings, and Supported Living

The Valley Views is proud to be the second-best newsletter, because every other newsletter claims to be the best.

He's the most prolific fan in the history of Moeller High School: ...He holds three unofficial records: most Moe cheers started, most Moe games attended in one year, and most in a lifetime. In fact, no one even comes close.

Know who I'm talking about?

His name is **Paul Meinking** and he is a 53-year-old developmentally challenged man, who is just at about every Moeller game, every year. Football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, and even a wrestling match or two; he's been to them all.

No one knows the exact date, but according to people who have been around Moeller sports for decades, Paul started coming to Moeller games about 20 years ago....

"He's been the most faithful fan we have," Moeller principal Mr. Collison said.

What's really amazing is how he gets to all of the games. Even though he can't drive, he's been seen at Moeller games as far away as Columbus. This is thanks to a dedicated group of caretakers who work for the agency where he lives and assists him to and from games.

But Paul being at the games isn't what makes him such a great fan, it's what he does once he's there.

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"Paul always comes to the Moeller game dressed to the 'T' in Moeller gear," athletic director Mr. Barry Borman described. He walks into the stadium or arena and heads to his trademark spot in the front row of the student section carrying what is perhaps the most famous thing about Paul—his sign. Most signs may have a word or phrase cheering on a team, but not Paul's.

Paul's signs (which he makes before every game) are dressed with a myriad of motivational statements and encouraging words....

"He gets us pumped," senior Doug Nymberg said from the student section. "His dedication is inspiring," senior soccer-star Thomas Devore added.

One time, late after a basketball game, Paul needed a ride home. He wasn't too worried about it, but apparently he was supposed to take the bus and the last one had already left. Mr. Bohne, who lives close to him, offered to give him a lift. Paul agreed, but under one condition—that they stop at McDonald's on the way back. "Ok," Mr. Bohne said. So they went to McDonald's drive thru and pulled up to the window to get their order. As the person working the window handed them their food, she immediately recognized Paul. Before long, the whole store came over to the window to say hello. "It was like I was with a celebrity," Mr. Bohne recalled.

Mr. Kremer, coach of the Moeller basketball team, routinely asks Paul to come in the locker room after home basketball games. Mr. Collison remembers one of these times during the 2007 State Championship season when he led the whole team in the fight song. "All the guys rallied around him," explained Collison.

"It's a great way Moeller extends their community to someone who wants to be involved," Mr. Borman said.

"But, it's more than just Moeller sharing itself with Paul. It's about Paul sharing himself with us. ...He speaks to what our school is about," Mr. Borman concluded. So, thanks for being a part of it all, Paul. We'll see you at the next game.

Jim McDermott, One of the Founders of OVRs, and Sandy Landers Resign in January



Jim McDermott listening to a Board resolution read by President Carey Kruer acknowledging the Board's appreciation for his long tenure with OVRs.

Sometimes partings are not such sweet sorrows. Jim McDermott, one of the founders of OVRs, originally called Opportunity Village back in 1973, resigned as a Board of Director in January. As a micro acknowledgement of his effort over the years, the Board gave Jim an enviable selection of red wines. As it happens, Patrick Landoll, OVRs' property manager, is married to Laura Landoll, who is a member of a small group of level-three certified sommeliers, who know their wines, and she did the picking for Jim's final meeting. Seeing the gift, his almost speechless moment, spoke his delight. We wish Jim and his wife, Louise, good health and some very pleasant meals.

Sandy Landers Also Resigns

Besides the resignation of Jim McDermott, Sandy Landers, who only recently joined the Board, had to resign. Hers is an unfortunate loss, given her knowledge of Medicaid, public funding, and the field of developmental disabilities.



Jim McDermott (middle) strategically blocking Michael DeFrancesco and Board Director Bob Schneider from his wine.

Heard Over the Fence

Shadymist

Welcome **Mary Scheid** to Shadymist.

Parkview

I would like to mention how the individuals at Parkview are enjoying their remodeled bathrooms and a special thank you to Cypressway, Charlemar, and Shadymist for helping out during the construction phase. The biggest praise goes to **Paula Foster** (who came to work every day at 7 am) and the entire staff at Parkview for staying positive during this time.

Additionally, a big salute to **Patrick Landoll** and his team of **Nate Dutle** and **José Fernandez** for their hard, physical labor to plan, tear out, and rebuild the two bathrooms—one over the other in the four-unit—at Parkview. Their intent was to replace the two current bathrooms, including the stack, with two that would be accessible. They accomplished their task well.

Patrick and his team worked many hours—from early to very late—to try to keep the sidewalks clean and driveways open. Heavy snows are a particular challenge: group homes, unlike schools and many other businesses, can't close, and staff have to get in and out throughout the day and night.

Woodsfield

The Mardi Gras party was a ball for everyone. **David** and **Richard** enjoyed a spa retreat at Belterra and some evening ventures. Everyone's looking forward to fishing weather both residents and staff.

Birthdays: March: **Steve**; April: **Alan**; and May: **David**

Frank McMorrow and **Maude Swain** are both in a nursing home for ailments; both are on the mend, and we anticipate their healthy return to their own beds.



Before the Lenten season, partiers from OV—under the stage direction of **Tammy Wyatt** and **Dawna Von Trotha**—held a Mardi Gras celebration at the Farm, on Anderson Ferry Road.

Everyone came bedecked in shiny beads, renaissance-type masks, and colorful costumes. Besides a spread of goodies, there was dancing, dancing, and more dancing. **Mary Weber** has the look of fun and having a gala time.

New Chapter: Use of Monitoring in DD Long-Term Care



A new chapter in the long-term care of developmentally disabled (DD) is in the offing—the use of monitoring technology in small-home sites. A slew of devices are

emerging, which have evolved from the care of the elderly—both at home and in sites out of their homes, *e.g.*, assisted living and nursing homes. The driver of these technologies is the cost of labor, especially around-the-clock personal supports, which admitted by all is costly, and at a time when the Medicaid entitlement program is bursting with cost.

The technologies involve video monitoring or sound monitoring, or both, strategically placed in a particular home site. Using video monitoring in a person's home will invite troubling questions on matters of privacy. Will the individuals who live at the site want to be "on camera" all the time? In a site with several individuals, if one individual does not agree to the monitoring, will the others be denied? What if members of an individual's family object to the watchful eyes of cameras or monitors, which detect the smallest sound?

The idea is not futuristic. The Department of Developmental Disabilities is in the process of writing a new Medicaid waiver, which supports the use of a variety of technologies in homes. Even if all parties are in agreement to the installation of a

monitoring system, the provider of the service will determine if an installation is cost effective—for example, having several homes in close proximity to spread the cost; having an outside service monitor what is happening in the home sites; and most certainly, having staff able to respond to sites in an emergency. The watchful eyes and ears of monitoring equipment will show their faces in the



Ohio DD system within the next two years.

James "Woody" Werdig



James "Woody" Werdig

For over three decades, James "Woody" Werdig lived under the auspices of OVRS.

According to Kim McCray, "Woody confessed to Christ at an early age and held Him close to his heart. He was a long-term member of the Faith Fellowship in Bridgetown, and recently started attending the Norwood Church of Christ. He was a faithful member of both congregations and loved to worship."

Woody had a calm demeanor toward everyone. He loved to go bowling, dancing, and especially fishing. For the past several years, Keith Pollard arranged a spring fishing trip for the men at Cypress Way to Lake Michigan, where they all revelled for a week casting lines—and fish.

On Tuesday, January 5, a funeral memorial service was held for Woody. He got sick on Christmas and two days later he passed. The memorial service was worthy of the man. Pastor Kurt Wells of the Faith Fellowship led the service with prayer and humorous tales of his relationship with Woody. Members of the congregation were also present. Keith Pollard recounted some funny fishing adventures. One of the most striking moments was when one of his fellow housemates, Jeff Engel, stood up with his trumpet, walked to the side of the casket, and played taps for his good friend. He finished, and then he saluted Woody.

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Community Services Supporting
Individuals with Developmental
Disabilities in the Home, Community,
and in Everyday Choices

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