



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARMA CHRISTMAS PARADE TO FEATURE TV8'S "BIG CHUCK" SCHODOWSKI

(PARMA) – Legendary Cleveland TV personality “Big Chuck” Schodowski will be meeting and greeting his fans as he rides along in the Parma Jaycees annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6.

“Big Chuck” will appear at Parmatown Mall’s Borders Express following the parade to sign copies of his new book, “Big Chuck! My Favorite Stories from 47 years on Cleveland TV.” Schodowski estimates he wrote 2,000 skits during his career at channel 8, creating bits for Soul Man, Mr. Mean, the Kielbasa Kid, Ben Crazy, Parma Place and more before he retired last year.

The Parma Jaycees Christmas Parade promises to be the city’s biggest and best ever as more groups join the planning team, infusing more excitement and grassroots involvement by the entire community.

Purple Heart recipient and Parma resident Vance Noah will serve as the parade’s Grand Marshal along with Miss Parma, Brittany Wojcik.

“The City of Parma is trying to reinvigorate the traditional popularity of our Christmas Parade,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “Having Big Chuck join the party may be just what the doctor ordered for helping us get into the Christmas spirit. This will be a joyful coming together for all residents in the area.”

Schodowski wrote scripts for “Parma Place,” a spoof on the soap opera “Peyton Place,” and was responsible for the polka music that played every time Ernie “Ghoulardi” Anderson said, “Paaarr-mma?” He remains one of Cleveland’s most popular and recognizable TV personalities even in retirement.

In addition to the Parma Jaycees, the Christmas Parade is also being planned by Proud of Parma, the City of Parma Administration and Parma City Council, Parmatown Mall, The Parma Sun Post, the Parma City School District and a committee of community volunteers.

(more)

Residents are also being encouraged to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the Parma Hunger Center. Collection boxes will be available inside Parmatown Mall.

“We want everybody in our city to come out and celebrate with us,” said Proud of Parma President Donna Smallwood. “There will be something for everyone – marching bands, choirs, Christmas sing-a-longs, dance groups, “Big Chuck,” Santa Claus, of course, and refreshments and entertainment when the Parade participants and residents enter Parmatown Mall.”

The Parma Jaycees Christmas Parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. Parade units will line-up behind Parma City Hall about an hour before the parade starts. High School bands, floats and dignitaries will travel from Ridge Road, heading west on Ridgewood Drive to Ames Road, turning on to Day Drive before entering Parmatown Mall at the Chase Bank entrance.

Santa Claus will greet everyone at the door and direct the crowd to the Main Stage near JCPenney for the entertainment, hot chocolate and cookies. You can call 440-843-3734 or 440-885-8143 for more information.

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