



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **From Mayor Dean DePiero**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, March 2, 2009**

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## **PARMA ON BOARD WITH *READY SENIORS***

**PARMA** – The City of Parma and the Visiting Nurse Association are teaming-up for a special program March 12 to assist seniors in planning for an emergency. The Ready Seniors project will be coordinated by The Donna Smallwood Activities Center and Office on Aging, the VNA and CERT, Community Emergency Response Team.

“We want our seniors across the area to be up to speed when it comes to a possible emergency situation,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “This valuable tool of computer education could save lives. It’s neighbors helping neighbors, making our community safer for all residents.”

Parma is the first city in Ohio to work in concert with ReadySeniors.org and a community-based organization like CERT. Volunteers will assist seniors to register and answer an online survey for the VNA-sponsored event. The information will help seniors identify a safe place in their home for an emergency, coordinate transportation for a possible evacuation, store a three-day supply of prescription medications and teach them how to shut off home utilities.

The computer model – a check list of vital personal information – will then be available confidentially online at home, libraries and other convenient locations throughout the Parma area.

“This is a golden opportunity to keep our seniors safe and ready in any type of emergency,” said JoAnn Mason, Director of the Donna Smallwood Activities Center. “We are taking action now to better protect our seniors. Emergency preparedness is the key to the whole program.”

The Ready Seniors program will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Donna Smallwood Activities Center adjacent to Parma City Hall. You must call ahead to make an appointment. Another registration day will be added if necessary. For more information, call 440-885-8800. You can also learn more by going online at [www.VNAReadySeniors.org](http://www.VNAReadySeniors.org) or [buckeyeweb.com/parmasc](http://buckeyeweb.com/parmasc). There is no cost to register.

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