

NEWS RELEASE From Mayor Dean DePiero

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Contact: Jack P. Marschall (440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

Parma Students Put Their Skills to the Test

(**Parma**) – The Michael A. Ries Ice Rink in Parma is looking better than ever thanks to vocational students from Normandy, Valley Forge and Parma Senior High Schools.

Classmates from Carpentry and Building Trades spent the past several weeks completing improvement projects to the interior of the ice rink as part of a unique partnership program with Parma City Schools.

"The students were learning as they worked with their teachers," says Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. "They also saved the city thousands of dollars by doing the heavy lifting, so to speak, and giving the rink that polished look its been needing."

Supervising teachers separated the ice rink projects into four separate phases. Included was the building of a new concession stand. The old concession stand has been converted into a new skate room. The old skate room has been transformed into a new party room. And a new entranceway was created for the girl's locker room.

The partnership with Parma City Schools comes only weeks after State Representative Tim DeGeeter (D-Parma) announced the awarding of a bricks and mortar Capital Appropriations grant to the Michael A. Ries Ice Rink totaling \$250,000.

The rink was originally constructed in 1959 as an outdoor rink for the City of Parma. The ice rink has not had any major renovations made to it since 1983 when it was enclosed. In 1994, the rink officially was dedicated as the Michael A. Ries Rink in honor of the former Parma Mayor.