

Ward



Word

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Post Office Box 1264 Youngstown, Ohio 44501

Officers: President Mark Memmer, Vice President John Kish, Treasurer Kathy Mahalko, Secretary Mary Krupa
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Ex Officio: Dorothy Snovak

FLEA MARKET

Sunday, September 7th, was a beautiful late summer day at Ipe Field—a perfect day for the second Garage Sale and Car Show sponsored by the 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. (7WCC).

Members lent a hand setting up tables and arranging merchandise and manning the sale throughout the day. About 10 beautifully restored cars were on display, each car owner receiving a commemorative dashboard plaque.

A 50/50 raffle was held. Included in the raffle drawings were 2 gift certificates from business member Jolly Joe's Restaurant. Each was valued at \$25. Thank you Jolly Joe's!

Proceeds from the sale, show and raffle are to benefit Ipe Kids World and the Coalition. Leftover merchandise was donated to the Gleaners Food Bank, Inc. (*see related story*).



"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again..."

—Mahatma Gandhi

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The most recent Board of Trustees meeting was held on Thursday, September 4th, at Lynn Park. Here is a sampling of current activities:

- A meeting date of Monday, September 16th was set to get the ball rolling on setting up the 7WCC as a Community Development Corporation (CDC).
- A letter was sent to the City to request permission for the 7WCC to take on a new beautification project. The project area is the I-680 exit at Shirley Road.
- Plans were made for the next 4 meetings, elections, holiday entertainment and annual food drive and committee work.

WEED AND SEED

A significant portion of the 7th Ward falls in the federally-funded Weed and Seed district. Operation Weed and Seed is a community-based multi-agency approach to law enforcement involving community policing, crime prevention, intervention, treatment and neighborhood restoration. Neighborhood watches, citizen marches, rallies, clean-up events, drug-free zones and graffiti removal are some of the programs that encourage community participation and help prevent crime. Weed and Seed provides grant management, technical assistance, training programs and resources.

Source: *The Weed and Seed Strategy*

**MONTHLY MEETING
JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LOCATED AT LENOX & WINDSOR AVENUES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH AT 6:30 PM**

CLOSE THE BOOK ON HATE CAMPAIGN PLEDGE

On Wednesday, February 19, 2003 Youngstown City Council unanimously passed a resolution adopting the principles of the Youngstown 2010 Vision. Part of the Vision calls for “addressing the divisions in our community. Members of our community have said that there are divisions—especially racism—which are holding Youngstown back. The Comprehensive Plan will not be able to resolve these divisions, but we must begin to take steps to improve the situation.”



If you agree with this, perhaps taking the following pledge could be a first step toward coalition-building rather than perpetuating divisions with others. Do you have “the guts” to take this pledge?

I pledge from this day onward to do my best to interrupt prejudice and to stop those who, because of hate, would hurt, harass or violate the civil rights of anyone. I will try at all times to be aware of my own biases against people who are different from myself. I will ask questions about cultures, religions and races that I don't understand. I will speak out against anyone who mocks, seeks to intimidate or actually hurts someone of a different race, religion, ethnic group or sexual orientation. I will reach out to support those who are targets of harassment. I will think about specific ways my school, other students and my community can promote respect for people and create a prejudice-free zone. I firmly believe that one person can make a difference and that no person can be an “innocent bystander” when it comes to opposing hate.

By signing this pledge, I recognize that respect for individual dignity, achieving equality and opposing anti-Semitism, racism, ethnic bigotry, homophobia or any other form of hatred is a non-negotiable responsibility of all people.

_____ My Signature

_____ Witness

_____ Date

Sources: 101 Ways to Combat Prejudice and Youngstown 2010 Vision

THIS AND THAT

Farmers will convene one more time on Saturday, October 4th, from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the **Northside Farmers Market**, to offer pumpkins, apples, corn stalks, Indian corn, mums and other fall produce. This will be the fifth Saturday that the market has been held, one more time than originally planned due to its popularity. The market is held on Elm Street across from Wick Park.

There will be an **educational forum** on Wednesday, October 1st from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm in the Chestnut Room of YSU's Kilcawley Center. The topic is “**Your Civil Rights and the USA Patriot Act**”.



Member **Nora Seivert**, who is also president of Snoop Block Watch, was quoted in a front page *Vindicator* article of September 11th regarding the impressive **decrease in Youngstown homicides**. Nora stated that “We have people who care. They get in their cars at night and drive around and report what they find”.

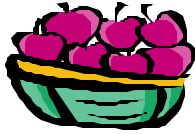
Between late June and early September, Youngstown recorded only 1 homicide! Last year during this time, there were 10 and over the previous 9 years, the average was 8 to 9. Police “attributed the drop to the overall law enforcement effort that included GRIP (Gun Reduction Interdiction Project), the Mahoning Valley Violent Crimes Task Force, the city's Street Crimes Unit and vice squad, Weed and Seed and more. We believe the “and more” includes all of the vigilant and hardworking people of the block watches. **Please, support the efforts of your neighborhood block watches!** Look in this newsletter's ad section to find out when your block watch meets.

Our condolences are extended to Board member **Marty Novotny** on the recent loss of his grandfather.

The 7WCC is a proud sponsor of the Soap Box Derby. Plan to attend the fundraiser **dinner** on Sunday September 21st. Call John Swierz at (330) 788-5114 for details.

Remember to visit our web site: www.7wcc.org

A HAND UP—NOT A HANDOUT



Those of us who have had yard sales inevitably have some things left over at the end of the sale. Fortunately, we are able to get rid of our “junk” by donating it to charity. After the 7WCC garage sale on September 7th, member Ken Norris was instrumental in having us donate our leftovers to the Youngstown Community Food Center, Inc. and Gleaners Food Bank, Inc. on Pyatt Street.

We found out that our leftovers were very welcome. The center was getting ready to send a shipment to Mexico where people could make good use of the clothes, dishes and whatever else we had. We also discovered that up to 450 people come every Tuesday morning and wait in line to receive food and other items for free to give them a helping hand.

The center serves the unemployed, those on welfare, the elderly on fixed and low incomes and the

truly needy. It operates under Judeo-Christian principles and serves needy persons within an environment which respects the dignity of the individual.

Director Joseph Lordi, was the owner and operator of the Boardman Valu King. In 1985, he was forced to close his business due to the fall of the grocery business in this area. In order to support his family, he went on welfare. The stress, rules and belittlement of the system overwhelmed him and inspired him to follow his heart to help those in need. With the help of others including Santisi Sparkle Markets and JJ Cafaro, the food center was started out of the back of a truck.

The center’s mission statement is:

- To dedicate our time, labor and resources to the service of our fellow man.
- To provide food and clothing to our brothers and sisters in need, so as to ensure a measure of dignity in their daily lives.
- To shine as a beacon of hope to all who see these works—that they may join our efforts to ensure the words “compassion” and “human nature” become, once again, words that are identical in meaning.

MEMBERSHIP

Please consider joining the 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month except June, July and August, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The meeting location is Jackson Elementary School at Lenox and Windsor Avenues. The 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. was started in 1995 for the betterment of the 7th Ward. We are a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) corporation. Members consist of residents, religious and educational institutions, businesses, civic and social service agencies, fraternal organizations and labor organizations located in the 7th Ward of Youngstown, Ohio.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. Post Office Box 1264 Youngstown, Ohio 44501

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
 TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE):
 SINGLE (\$10) _____ COUPLE (\$18) _____ FAMILY (\$25) _____ BUSINESS (\$35) _____

NOTE: Phone number will be submitted to City Watch Program which will leave messages about meetings and other Coalition-related events.

FOR COALITION USE: Paid by cash _____ Paid by check—No. _____ Date _____

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

To The Membership,

Unlike the first and second quarters of the year, where committees and members are beginning new projects, the fourth quarter is where we should see results of the hard work. It's a review period. It's a statement of the facts period. Part of our goal in the fourth quarter is to ready the 7th Ward Citizens Coalition for a smooth transition into 2004. With that in mind, let's list a few things you'll see coming down the pike.

October: We hope to secure a toy bear program for kids spending time in the hospital around the holidays. Written nominations will be accepted for the December ballot.

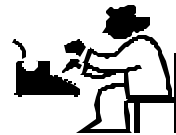
November: A special performance is planned for your entertainment. Nominations from the floor can be submitted. Bring in your food donations for distribution.

December: You'll see financial statements showing revenue and expenditures for 2003. An audit of the books will be performed. We'll close out the year with final committee reports and a report card regarding the overall condition of the organization. Elections will be held.

Please come and join us as we meet throughout the next few months. Be a part of setting the course for what's ahead. Be a part of improving the community in which you live.

Respectfully,

Mark S. Memmer



VOLUNTEER TUTORS NEEDED

Oh no...another newsletter, emails, junk mail, the newspaper, subscription magazines, memos at work—the age of information overload! Many of us don't have time to slowly absorb all the written material that crosses our paths or are even interested in every article. We quickly scan all of this information pulling out what's useful or interesting to us. We are using a skill we learned when we were children and one that is largely taken for granted once learned. That highly useful skill is reading. Perhaps we don't even realize how hard life is for someone who does not have that skill.

OhioReads is Governor Taft's initiative to improve the reading skills of Ohio's students. It is a partnership, known locally as Mahoning Valley Reads, of schools, organizations, businesses, libraries, unions, parents and students. The goals are to improve reading skills, develop life-long interest in reading in students (kindergarten through 4th grade) and prepare them for further education and future employment by the simple act of tutoring.

Research shows that consistent one-on-one tutoring will help children advance their reading skills better than any other method.

The 7WCC is calling for volunteer tutors for Mahoning Valley Reads. The requirements are minimal:

- Spend 1/2 to 1 hour per week during classroom time to work with 1 or 2 students at a time
- Complete a background check
- Attend a brief training session

Won't you please consider volunteering your time? Call Youngstown City Schools (330) 965-9800, Virginia Amstutz or Maria Pappas (Paul C. Bunn Elementary School) to volunteer or for more information.