

Ward



Word

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Officers: President John R. Swierz, Vice President John Kish, Treasurer Rick Swan, Secretary Mary Krupa
Trustees: Eleanor Booher, Patti Dougan, Wally Dunne, Bill Graurich, Ron Hoffman, John Jerek, Ray Miller, Ken Norris, Marty Novotny
Ex Officio: Mark Memmer, Kathy Mahalko

FEBRUARY MEETING UPDATE

It's been a very long time since I've been to a 7WCC Meeting! How long? Let me tell you. When I turned off Sheridan onto Kent then Tangent, I was shocked! An extremely dark parking lot lay to my right. It wasn't long though before the motion light turned on to reveal an empty parking lot. Jeez, just what I do not need is another senior moment like this!!! Good thing I have a cell phone, but not good when no one answers or the voice mail comes on. As Ole Martha (the one in the stew) might say: "And this is a good thing?" Well, home I headed until I got to the corner of Sheridan and Midlothian. Then a light bulb (maybe 25 watts?) went off. Oh Yeaaaah! It's at the church! I was a little late to begin with and with the extra driving and thinking I was just plain late. The meeting was GREAT. Detective Jack Palma was there and spoke about City Watch. What a terrific program that is for Youngstown and for our Coalition. Did you know we are one of 17 cities nationwide with this program and we have the newest system (which still has a few kinks to iron out)? I particularly like the idea of being able to phone people in a certain area for evacuation purposes since I live near I-680.

This leads me to the next and main speaker Mr. William DeCicco who is executive director of CASTLO Industrial Park. Mr. DeCicco started out with a brief description of his English ancestry and how his grandfather came from England to Youngstown to work in the Steel Mills. He has fond memories of his visits to their home here on the South Side of Youngstown. Saying that he has roots and great enthusiasm for the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity Project is to put it mildly. Maps are one of my favorite things so you can just imagine what a state I was in when he had an aerial map that was about 5 feet by 30 feet - love at first sight! Poor John's arm got tired holding it up, but Marty

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its most recent meeting on Tuesday, March 9th at the Brownlee Woods Presbyterian Church. The BOT took the following action:

- unanimously agreed to again sponsor Bobby Ford as this year's Soap Box Derby driver
- set up a meeting of the Community Development Corporation (CDC) committee on Tuesday, March 23rd at Jolly Joe's restaurant (see Patti Dougan for details)
- is asking for more members to participate on the CDC, By-Laws and Fundraising committees

"Give cheerfully with one hand and you will gather well with two."

—Irish Proverb



didn't seem to have too much trouble. Mr. DeCicco explained that the bridge at Stop 14 of the old Sheet and Tube at the bottom of Walton Hill, had to be rebuilt because of the tracks and access to the plants—especially for emergency vehicles. This was a first priority item. My own personal concern was access to the Interstate 680 both inbound and outbound. It appears that this too is in consideration but much lower down on the list. The socialization after the meeting is never long enough for me since there is never enough time to talk to everyone. Thanks for reading my ramblings and God Bless!

—Submitted by Ken Stanislaw

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 6:30 PM
BROWNLEE WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1970 EVERETT AVENUE
SPEAKER: TIM BERLEKAMP—MAHONING COUNTY GREEN TEAM



BROWNLEE WOODS LIBRARY UPDATE

Debbie Housel and Ray Miller recently went to the Library meeting in Austintown, one of a series of meetings for the public to hear about and give input on the changes that are happening within the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County system. Many people came from North Jackson and they were very opposed to the closing of their branch. As for the plans for the Brownlee Woods library, it is too soon for the library to know what they're going to do . Brownlee Woods is supposedly way down on the list for the future changes. It shouldn't be affected until 2010 or so.

On a personal note, Ray reported that this was his first visit to one of the new libraries which left him shocked. As with many other things in government, it appeared to him that the overkill was astounding. He saw a beautiful building with modern architecture and all the trimmings. He couldn't stop thinking of how much it was going to cost for utilities and upkeep and if the same services could not be supplied from the inside of a well-insulated pole barn. As a taxpayer, he felt that the government once again chose to be extravagant and was living beyond its means, especially since there is a current fiscal problem. If he ran his personal life like this he would be constantly in a state of bankruptcy. Ray's not against modernization but thinks they need to use a little more common sense. He doesn't blame the people from North Jackson for being upset after seeing the Austintown branch. He wouldn't be opposed to traveling a little further for better services, but is opposed to sacrificing better services for extravagance.

The Coalition formed a library committee at the February meeting in order to be proactive about any negative changes to the 7th Ward. Please join in this committee. You can also go to the library website (www.libraryvisit.org) to easily comment on the recommendations. Click on "Strategic Planning Underway".

Thanks, Ray and Debbie, for being good citizens and attending this meeting. Debbie's mother, Florence Smith Erickson, is pictured above, standing in front of the original Brownlee Woods branch library circa 1931. She worked at the library for 9 years following graduation from South High School. Florence will be 94 on April 17th.

THIS AND THAT

The **Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force** consists of officers from the state, local and federal levels working together in a unified effort in the fight against drugs and violent crimes. The "**Drug Hotline**" number is (330) 788-9946.



Secretary and **Ed Nelson**, Treasurer.

Congratulations to the following good citizens newly-elected as officers of the **Buckeye Eyes and Ears Block Watch**:
John Easterday, President,
Margaret Mullens,

A warm **welcome** to the following new or returning members: **Linda Mauerman**, **St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church**, **Margaret Freisen**, **Rashid's Market** and **Pitzulo Brothers**.

Don't forget the **Spring Fling Variety Show** at St. Rosa of Lima Parish Hall on Sunday, March 21st from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

We wish **Ethel Draia**, Pete's wife, a speedy recovery from her accident.

Visit our website at www.7wcc.org.

OLD YOUNGSTOWN HAS NEW HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

BY REVEREND EDWARD P. NOGA

A child released a yellow helium-filled balloon as her mom and dad pushed her sister's stroller closer to the stage. The smell of confections and grilled food permeated the air. Teenagers hand-in-hand milled about as the lights and sound system were tested. People of all ages began to sit, focusing on the stage. Children rushed to the ice cream vendors, money in hand. Wind-driven streamers and flags added to the colorful setting. As the music and dancing began, people pressed forward to see and hear. It was Sunday evening, the temperature pleasant and the breeze slight—a relaxing atmosphere in every way.

It was a recent evening in the central plaza of downtown Cancun, Mexico—"old" Cancun. Like other cities, Cancun has grown well beyond its city limits. Commercial development and hotels extend farther and farther from the center of town. Yet, the new and pleasing developments have a sameness about them. Close to the center of town, there is more of a feel of a city's personality. The feeling seems more real, tangible and human.

Having just finished, ***Steeltown, USA***, by Youngstown State University professors Dr. Sherry Lee Linkon and Dr. John Russo, I felt a jog in my memory. I was born and raised in Youngstown, and grew up when a ride downtown guaranteed a good time, wonderful food and great shopping. Jobs were plentiful, neighborhoods full, and families were very proud of their heritage. My family attended a church that added new families every week, and our parish school had students learning in classrooms and hallways and even closets. Faith was a very important element in my family and I know that part of my vocation as a Roman Catholic priest came from living faith daily.

I was present on September 19, 1977, Black Monday, when Youngstown took a devastating turn into unemployment and decay. I agreed with the authors' research and conclusions about flight from the city, racial discord and political corruption. Their picture of a citizenry on the brink of hopelessness was devastating.

Thankfully, the dark story was punctuated with light and hope. There is little doubt that a city's future can be creatively crafted by committed citizens, institutions and businesses, guided by true leaders and enhanced by a new sense of pride. *Youngstown 2010*, refreshing initiatives at Youngstown State University and newly elected leadership all point to new hope if—I repeat—if we are willing to think outside the box.

As a Youngstown resident, I am encouraged to see a new neighborhood beginning in Smoky Hollow, a new neighborhood beginning near the medical complex on the city's near north side, the expansion of the arts and entertainment in the downtown district and neighbors engaging in meaningful discussions about where they live and what they want their neighborhoods to look like in years to come. I am encouraged by calls for more demolition in ravaged neighborhoods and demands for more attention to major city thoroughfares.

Maybe we need to redefine our assets so visitors know our rich heritage and to resurrect our "Man on the Monument" as a symbol of commitment to the city and the Mahoning Valley. Maybe we need to look at the land that could become available in neighborhoods if we eliminated blight and reduced the number of streets that were planned and built for three times the current population. Maybe we need to clean the Mahoning River for a site for rest and relaxation. If we create a livable atmosphere instead of wishing for what we had, we might craft city government, neighborhoods and pride that reflect our ever-growing racial mix.

As a pastor in the city for eighteen years, I am most encouraged by the many different faith communities who bring the pride and strength of their religious backgrounds to the challenges that are before us.

I was drawn to the historical center of Cancun because it was where the real citizens of Cancun lived, worked, prayed and played together. Youngstowners can also draw more people to a city which has contributed much in our nation's history.

Around 1985, Dr. Terry Buss of YSU's Center for Urban and Regional Studies listed the area's attributes that remained from steel's heyday: the interstate highway system, three national network television affiliates, a downtown university and the arts community along with other benefits, such as a low cost of living, a lack of congestion and Mill Creek Park. Dr. Buss said, "Truthfully, this city can become whatever it wants to be."

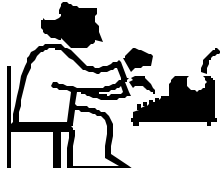
Cancun, on the Yucatan peninsula, has been blessed with wonderful attributes and is using them to near-full capacity. Youngstown, on the Mahoning River, has been blessed with wonderful attributes. How will we use them?

Source: *The Vindicator*, January 21, 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Members,

Just a short message to thank all the members who renewed their memberships for 2004. To all those new individual and business members we welcome you to our organization. At last month's meeting several people came forward to volunteer to serve on our standing and ad hoc committees, we thank you also. We are still in need of members to serve on the Ipe Yard Sale committee. If interested, call Mary Krupa at (330) 788-9277. See you at the meeting!



Respectfully,

John R. Swierz
President

IT'S THE LAW!

TRAFFIC CODE SECTION 351.03 PROHIBITED STANDING OR PARKING PLACES

(d) Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant

(t) On the front lawn of any property between the sidewalk or where there is no sidewalk, the property line on the abutting property, and the required setback or required side yard abutting a street, except for temporary parking in permitted driveways. The penalty for these violations is a \$10 fine and is classified as a misdemeanor of the 4th degree. (These are only two of twenty-one violations under this section.)

HOW PEOPLE DRIVE

BY TERRY ESARCO

Some people drive other people up a wall.
Some people drive other people up a tree.
Some people drive other people into an early grave.
Some people drive other people to commit suicide.
Some people drive other people to commit murder.
Some people drive other people to love.
Some people drive unconsciously.
Some people drive with a conscience.
Some people drive with a purpose.
Some people drive anything into the ground.
Some people should use a four-iron instead of a driver.
Some people drive to succeed while some people drive to fail.
Some people should not drive at all.
Some people drive other people off the chartered course.
I suppose some people like the driver's seat while other people opt for the back seat.

*The 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. supports
Youngstown 2010, the citywide comprehensive plan.*

