

Ward Word

Officers: President John R. Swierz, Vice President Patti Dougan, Secretary Mary Krupa, Treasurer Rick Swan
Board of Trustees: Wally Dunne, Bill Graurich, Ron Hoffman, John Jerek, Ray Miller,
Ken Norris, Marty Novotny Tom Rovnak Ex Officio: Mark Memmer, Kathy Mahalko
Post Office Box 1264 Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1264

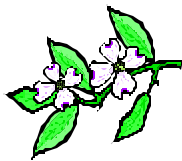
APRIL MEETING UPDATE

Our last meeting was held on April 15th. An announcement was made that the CPR Block Watch would have its neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, May 15th. The Lansingville neighborhood meeting of the Youngstown 2010 Vision will be at OCCHA on Tuesday, June 1st. John Jerek and John Swierz shared their experiences from the first Youngstown 2010 meeting which was downtown. Both had very positive comments to make about this meeting and encouraged everyone to attend as many meetings as possible especially the June 1st meeting.

Next year is the Coalition's 10th anniversary.

The first reading of the By-Laws changes will be in October, the second reading in November and the vote for approval in December.

Other clean-ups and parades were discussed (see page 2 for details).



YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The Board of Trustees (BOT) held its most recent meeting on Tuesday, May 4th. Here are some of the actions taken:

- Patti Dougan was appointed vice president and Tom Rovnak trustee following the acceptance of the resignations of John Kish, Vice President, and Eleanor Booher, Trustee.
- The BOT approved the purchase of a digital camera for the 7WCC.
- A committee was formed to research increasing the amount of scholarship dollars awarded and/or the number of scholarships given.
- The BOT approved planting another tree at Ipe Kids World near the sign.

"The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he should be able and willing to pull his weight."

—Theodore Roosevelt



MAY MONTHLY MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 20TH, 6:30 PM

BROWNLEE WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

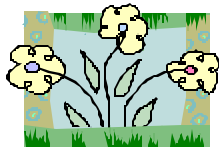
AT IRMA & EVERETT AVENUES

SPEAKER: RALPH RICCI, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER,

MAHONING COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

THIS AND THAT

We regret to report that both **Vice President John Kish** and **Trustee Eleanor Booher** are unable to complete their terms of office for 2004. Both John and Eleanor will be missed as they are not only good neighbors but also good citizens. They have spearheaded up 7WCC committees, helped with many projects that have made a positive impact on the 7th Ward and have continued to believe in Youngstown. Thank you so much for your service and example! In light of this, the 7WCC is calling out to its membership for a **replacement trustee**. If you are interested in serving, please let an officer or trustee know.



The 7WCC is again sponsoring **Bobby Ford** as our driver in the annual **Soap Box Derby** race. The **parade** will be at 12 noon on Sunday, June 20th on Commerce Street. The Derby itself will be on Saturday, June 26th. Both events are loads of fun. The derby provides an opportunity for entire families or groups to work together on a satisfying, fun and wholesome project. Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend and/or volunteer. Contact **John R. Swierz** at **(330) 788-5114** for more information.

The **Lansingville Block Watch** will have its **4th of July parade** but the date has not been set yet.

The quickest way to deal with **annoying phone calls** is, after you hang up, pick your phone back up and press *57 which activates a trace feature. An automated voice will tell you whether or not your trace was successful. If it is successful and you wish to pursue the matter, you must obtain a police report number and then contact the SBC Annoyance Call Bureau at **(800) 769-4099**.

Don't forget that **Jolly Joe's Restaurant** located on Sheridan Road, offers a **10% discount** to 7WCC members wearing the 7WCC badge. The discount is on regular items, not specials.

In 2003, **Youngstown City Schools** had a 52.4% **graduation rate** compared to a state average rate of 84% and a county average rate of 63%. What have *you* done to help improve the Youngstown City Schools?

Youngstown City Schools Alternative School, located at **John White School** on Lyden Avenue on the East Side is looking for individuals or organizations to **mentor** students. Currently, the school has 100 students. In our ward, **Jackson School**, located at Lenox and Windsor Avenues is also in need of mentors. For more information, contact **George Serrano** (a Coalition member) at (330) 744-8795.

The **North Side Citizens' Coalition** is restoring a 4300 square foot house at 130 Madison. It will be converted into two 2100 square foot town homes each with 3 bedrooms, full basement, central air conditioning, garage and security system. They should be ready for move-in by August. For more information, contact Executive Director, **Talut Rasul** at **(330) 747-1674**.

The 7th annual **Streetscapes** will be held on Saturday, June 5th from 8 am to 12 noon. Contact **Heather Belgin** or **Scott Schulick** at **(330) 727-9896**.

The **Youngstown City Health District** has an online **complaint form** at www.ychd.com. Among other things, the Health Department investigates **nuisance complaints** ranging from high grass, to trash in yards or odors caused by accumulated animal droppings. These complaints often require multiple visits to ascertain the problem, issue orders to take care of the situation and check that the problem has been corrected. It also conducts **rodent control** visits to educate, consult and bait for rats.

Our Thursday, June 17th meeting will be a **PICNIC** at Lynn Park (preceded by a short business meeting). Plan to attend and enjoy a spring evening outdoors!

Members will be doing **spring clean-up** at two 7th Ward spots in May: Saturday, May 15th at **Powers Cemetery** and Saturday, May 22nd at the **Mount Vernon cul-de-sac**. The Mount Vernon clean-up will be in conjunction with the **Buckeye Eyes and Ears Block Watch**. No need to call—just show up with gloves and sunscreen. Both clean-ups are from 11 am to 2 pm. The **Cornell gardens** clean-up will be on Saturday, June 12th from 11 am to 2 pm.



STUDY: LIVING HERE IS CHEAPER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

BY CYNTHIA VINARSKY, VINDICATOR

The cost of living in the Youngstown-Warren area continues to be considerably cheaper than the national average, a new survey says, and Valley medical expenses are especially low compared to other metropolitan areas.

Overall, the Youngstown-Warren area's cost of living was 6.8 percent below the national average at the end of 2003, based on a survey by the American Chamber of Commerce Research Association. Mahoning Valley health care costs were 25.5 percent below average last year, based on a study of 314 metro areas, but local utility costs were 13.4 percent higher.

The study, which measures cost of living differences in 314 metropolitan areas, gave the Mahoning Valley an index score of 93.2, based on a national average of 100.

Reid Dulberger, executive vice president of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber, said the Youngstown-Warren area's comparatively low cost of living is a benefit to development efforts.

The region consistently ranks lower in costs than most communities it competes with for jobs, he said, "and that does not go unnoticed by the companies we work with."

Data compiled for the study by the Regional Chamber indicates costs

here are lower in every category except utilities.

Medical costs, the Valley's lowest-ranking category at 25.5 percent below the national average, was based on hospital room prices, doctor and dentist rates.

Transportation costs, which include bus fare, gasoline and auto tire balancing, were 14 percent below average. Housing costs, which include apartment rents, new home prices, mortgage rates and payments, were 10.5 percent below average.

Food costs were only slightly below average, 1.6 percent, based on a count of 27 grocery items, and miscellaneous

7.6 percent less than average.

The index shows the cost of living in the Mahoning Valley is 10 percent lower than Cleveland, 49 percent lower than Washington, DC, and 84 percent lower than New York City.

Stated differently, the Chamber report said, a person earning \$25,000 annually in the Youngstown-Warren area would need \$27,575 to maintain the same standard of living in Cleveland, \$37,232 in Washington and \$45,869 in New York.



St. Louis Avenue was the scene of the second ACTION walk which took place on Saturday, May 8th. The 7WCC was represented by Mary Krupa and John Swierz. 175 people attended this walk. Every month, a different block is chosen in an effort to take back the City of Youngstown from the forces of urban blight, block by block. The next walk is Saturday, June 19th at 9 am.

WORLD WAR II YEARS IN YOUNGSTOWN

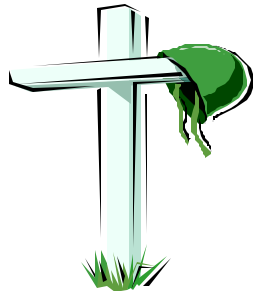
BY BOB WHITED, SENIOR NEWS, DECEMBER 2003

War in Europe had been going on since 1939, as Hitler ran Poland, Czechoslovakia and France. The battle for Britain began. But our country remained neutral until Sunday morning December 7, 1941 when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. On Monday, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan. War was declared six minutes later. Germany and Italy immediately declared war on the US. War came onto the American people with a sudden fury and the mood in the country, and of course, Youngstown, became uneasy.

With much determination and urgings of necessity and purpose, Youngstown and the whole of the Mahoning Valley joined our whole nation in one of the greatest homeland undertakings ever—rationing.

According to the 1940 census, Youngstown had a population of 167,720. Taking in the metropolitan area, the total population grew

to 364,560. By 1942, local newspaper headlines cried out the events of the war, both in the military and the action being taken here at home. Every home in our valley was touched by these events, concerned with things like rationing and shortages and the uncertainties of the draft. During



the week of April 27, 1942, rationing officially began. No sugar was sold at all. Even things like fly swatters, because of their metal or rubber composition, could not be produced.

By 1944, our own Mackenzie Muffler Company in Youngstown was the world's largest producer of auxiliary fuel tanks for fighter aircraft. The company also made history by producing the first disposable fuel tanks for fighter planes—a great advantage for

our military.

On the eve of the nation's third Memorial Day in 1944, the *Youngstown Vindicator* reported that there were 515 deaths from our area. Prisoners of war and wounded had reached 1,651.

The role of the Mahoning Valley during the war effort is truly unbelievable.

Whether it was men, women, money or materials, everything conceivable seemed to just pour out of our valley.

With the invasion of Normandy in 1944, and after battles on German soil, victory in Europe was finally achieved on VE Day which was May 8, 1945. This was soon followed by victory in Japan on August 14th, VJ Day. President Roosevelt died on April 12th.

In Youngstown, production for peace time became the priority with housing, industry and business all expanding. Again, our Youngstown boys and girls came marching home.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

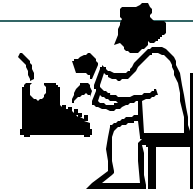
Please welcome our new 7WCC members, some brand new and some returning after an absence of a few years. We're very happy to have all of you on board!

Mary Ann Cristea	Antique Alley	Byzantine Center at the Grove
Rashid's Market	Mike Latessa	David & Suann Kuzma
Linda Mauerman	Pat & Linda Mahoney	Mike Pavlik
Rita Reebel	George Serrano	Bertha Smith
Bonnie Danus	Jodi Kluchar	Maria's Bakery
OCCHA Agency	Pitzulo Brothers	Joe Koken
Carol Danus		
Office of Catholic Schools—Diocese of Youngstown		



WELCOME

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



Dear Members,

As President, I am challenging each member to recruit one new member to our organization by our June picnic.

Respectfully,

John R. Swierz
President

JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Mahoning County Martin P. Joyce Juvenile Justice Center building which opened in 1979. It is located at 300 East Scott Street. The first juvenile facility in the county opened in 1912 at the old Froggett residence on Ridge Avenue.

Our May meeting features speaker Ralph Ricci who is the Chief Probation Officer from the Center. Mr. Ricci has spoken at several neighborhood meetings lately and by all accounts was very well received.

The mission statement of the Juvenile Justice Center is to:

- hold youth accountable
- protect our community
- restore victims to the extent possible

The vision statement of the Juvenile Justice Center is to:

- support youth and families in building caring, safe communities
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WOMEN & MONEY SEMINAR

Ohio Treasurer of State Joseph T. Deters is pleased to announce that "Women & Money", a free financial-planning seminar for the women of Ohio, is returning to Youngstown on Friday, June 11th at Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center. You may have attended a conference in the past and gained useful money management tools, or you may have wanted to attend and been unable to do so. Either way, the 2004 "Women & Money" curriculum offers new and exciting topics to help you better budget your money today and plan for your financial success in the future.

Course topics are: Budgeting, Credit & Debt Management, Estate Planning, Home Ownership, Identity Theft, Insurance, Investments - Basic & Portfolio, Kids & Money, Retirement Planning Over 10 years & Under 10 years

Please visit <http://www.ohiowomenandmoney.org> or call (800) 228-1102 for more information and to register. Conferences fill up quickly, so please register soon.

Free 4.5 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available to licensed counselors, social workers (MCS 050427), nurses and chemical dependency professionals (RCH PID# 04-340-CSP). Also, if you are employed, remember to check with your Human Resources Department regarding time off for this conference.

The 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. supports the citywide comprehensive plan:

