

WARD WORD

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 Post Office Box 1264 Youngstown, Ohio 44501-1264

MAY MEETING UPDATE

Our last meeting was held on May 20th. This was a brief business meeting. Thank you to Patrick Strange for donating \$25 to the Coalition. Our speakers were Judge Theresa Dellick and Chief Probation Officer Ralph Ricci both of the Mahoning County Juvenile Justice Center. We heard impressive statistics about the Center and the juvenile court system. Very enlightening!



Let's see, who got the poison ivy? Ed Nelson and Eleanor Booher at the Mount Vernon cul-de-sac clean-up May 22nd.

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The last meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) was Tuesday, June 8th. Here are some of the actions taken:

- Welcomed Tom Rovnak as a new trustee.
- Unanimously approved Nicholas Durse as the winner of the 2004 7WCC scholarship (newsletter article will be in the September newsletter).
- Furthered plans for the fourth 7WCC Yard Sale event to be held at Ipe Field on Saturday, August 28th.
- Approved donating \$50 to this year's National Night Out event in August.
- Approved paying \$100 to become a sponsoring member of the new Youngstown Children's museum.

"Every aspect of our lives is, in a sense...a vote for the kind of world we want to live in."

—Frances Moore Lappe

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH, 6:30 PM
LYNN PARK PAVILION
ON LYNN AVENUE JUST OFF SHERIDAN ROAD
PICNIC TO FOLLOW BUSINESS MEETING

THIS AND THAT

We would like to extend **condolences** to the family of **Margaret Friesen** who recently passed away. Also, to **Bertha Smith** who lost her daughter this past spring and to **John Kish** who lost his sister-in-law a few weeks ago. **Jean Carkido** also lost her husband this month. Our sympathies are with all of you as you go through this difficult time.

If you are a member in good standing and would like to serve the remainder of this year as a **trustee**, please let an officer or trustee know you are interested.

Reminding you once more that we are 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. Contact **John R. Swierz** at **(330) 788-5114** for more information or to be a volunteer.



The **Lansingville Block Watch** will have its annual **4th of July parade** on Sunday, July 4th.

The makers of M&M candies (Masterfoods) have teamed up with the **Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation** to raise funds through the sale of their new pink and white M&M candies. For each 8-ounce bag of the special candies sold, Masterfoods will donate 50 cents to the foundation. The next time you want a treat, please pick up a bag (now sold in stores nationwide) - you will be satisfying your sweet tooth yet donating to a great cause. As you know, several of our members have either succumbed to cancer or are survivors.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 17th. We will be celebrating (anything!) with a **PICNIC** at Lynn Park. A short business meeting will start the evening. The 7WCC will provide chicken, chips, beverages, condiments, plates, napkins and silverware. We are asking you to bring a covered dish. Come and enjoy a late spring evening outdoors at one of our lovely city parks. If you are a new member, now is the chance to come and meet other members. If you are a member who hasn't been able to come to any meetings, please

come to this one. We would love to see you.

There will be no member **meetings** during July or August.

It's official. The September 17th meeting will serve as our 7th Ward Councilman Mark Member's **Town Hall Meeting**. Save this date.

Visit the Coalition website at **www.7wcc.org**.

The **21st National Night Out (NNO)** will be celebrated at **Wick Park** this year. Two years ago the 7th Ward hosted the Youngstown celebration at Homestead Park. It was a well-attended, lively event featuring a parade and a great potluck picnic. Please join the City and the block watches in this year's celebration which will be on Tuesday, August 3rd. NNO is a unique crime and drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and promotes police-community partnerships. One of the goals of NNO is to send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back. Over 34 million people participated in 2003 in the United States and Canada.



The 3rd monthly **ACTION march** will be held Saturday, June 19th at 9 am. In order to make a statement to criminals that their behavior will not be tolerated, people march as a peaceful group around a couple of blighted city blocks. 7WCC members have participated in both the April and May marches. Check the newspaper for the location of the June march.

Gibson Heights Second Presbyterian Church on the corner of East Dewey and Homestead Avenues, is offering **free meals** from 1 pm to 3 pm on the last Wednesday of each month for the elderly and unemployed. A special thank you to the church for this kind gesture!

The 7WCC supports the city-wide comprehensive plan:



EDITORIAL COMMENTARY

BY MARY KRUPA

Youngstown is in pretty sorry shape. Lack of leadership, poverty, lack of jobs, dilapidated houses, dilapidated neighborhoods, sorry schools, old, historical landmarks being torn down or being allowed to fall down, rusty, unpainted bridges, rusty unpainted street signs, no street signs, shootings, lack of parenting, disinterested school principals, teenagers taking over the streets around Wilson High School, arrogant and self-serving old school politicians, butchered treetops, wasting and rape of the environment, urban sprawl even as the population of this county diminishes, pathetically ugly new buildings going up. Wow, what a trip!

I was gone for 18 years and came back home because of my family, my heritage and the beautiful geography of this area. I always said I would give living in Youngstown a year and then would probably move to within driving distance of Youngstown because I wasn't sure I could take the politics. However, I have now stayed 3 years. The politics are much worse than I would have imagined. I left as an unaware young adult taking Youngstown for granted and returned with a profound interest in this city.

I know a very emotional lady who lives in the 7th Ward who once told me that she cries every day of her life. I thought, how odd, how different from me. However, I *hurt* everyday of my life as I drive through the city and see what doesn't need to be seen. Sure, other places have similar problems. However, Youngstown seems to be at the top of the heap.

How many of you reading this truly think that Youngstown is getting better? Be honest. I think it is getting worse because people are dispirited about this area and there is very little community pride.

What happens when your life situation is bad? You wallow in self-pity, feel like a victim, feel hopeless and essentially do nothing. Or, you do something. You know, make lemonade out of lemons. It seems there are so many problems that it would be impossible to make good changes in your lifetime. So, you give up???? No, you do something. Because, otherwise you are faced with the alternative (re-read the first paragraph). I have to keep reminding myself of all those common bits of wisdom such as don't give up, try and try again because persistence is one of the key elements of success. You read this all the time about millionaires. They don't give up even when they have lost millions, even when times are bad. That's why they are successful.

Our Coalition was formed to enhance the 7th Ward. The 7WCC provides many opportunities to do something. Many of these activities require little effort but make a difference. Most of us are capable of doing some of them. Citizenship *requires* that you do some of them. But where are you, our members? We have well over 125 members but most of the activity is performed by about 30 people. And boy do they do a good job! And, as you can guess, many of them are close to getting burned out.



Here's what I think would happen if the 7WCC fell apart. Things would continue to get worse. In a year or so, some good concerned citizens would say, "Why isn't there some kind of grass roots citizens organization that could tackle some of the problems of the 7th Ward? After all, doesn't uniting with others get things done? I'm surprised nobody ever thought of forming such a group! Let's form a group!" And then we would tell them the story that, once upon a time, there was such an organization and it did this and it did that.... Yeah, let's reinvent the wheel.

I know there are many reasons to join organizations. Maybe you are a supporting member only as I am of the Mahoning Valley Historical Society. I currently have no time left to volunteer with them but show my support by being a dues-paying member. Some of you fall into this category with the 7WCC and we are most grateful. However, I believe we could have more than 20% active participation. Think about it! Lend a hand, we need you. We need you for the work that you can do and we need you for your presence to build up our community spirit.

By the way, I truly believe that there are many great things about living in Youngstown. I won't list them because you know what they are anyway. The caliber of this city was once high quality and I don't just mean in terms of industry. It's still here, hidden. Let's uncover it. We have tremendous potential here, we have so much. It looks like in this case, we *do* need to reinvent the wheel. Let's start once again.

REARRANGE THE LETTERS

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

GEORGE BUSH:

When you rearrange the letters:
HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:
HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:
IS NO AMITY

MOTHER-IN-LAW:

When you rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER

SNOOZE ALARMS:

When you rearrange the letters:
ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
IM A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO:

When you rearrange the letters:
TWELVE PLUS ONE

Yep! Someone with waaaaaaaaaaaaay
too much time on their hands!



7WCC

Please welcome our new members, Mary Cristea and Martin Yavorcik, Attorney-at-Law.

The 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, Inc. was started in 1995 for the betterment of the 7th Ward and is a grass roots, 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.

7WCC YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH IPE FIELD—7WCC YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH IPE FIELD—7WCC YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH IPE FIELD—7WCC YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH IPE FIELD—7WCC YARD SALE SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH IPE FIELD—7WCC



A little rain didn't stop Terry Esarco from cleaning up Powers Cemetery on Saturday, May 15th.



Bobby Ford, our Soap Box Derby driver, speaks at our May meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Members,

On Tuesday, June 1st, a meeting for Youngstown 2010's Comprehensive Plan was held at the OCCHA Building on Shirley Road. This was an opportunity for the 13,000 residents of the 7th Ward to shine. The day was beautiful (no rain) and the meeting place was air-conditioned, yet only 73 brave souls were in attendance to give their input into what our ward should look like in 2010. Isn't there something wrong with that picture? Remember the 2003 May Primary?—only 1300 people came out to vote.

Are the residents of our ward becoming complacent? From my view, I would say YES! Having made that statement, let me say that I was impressed by the comments that were made by those who chose to speak, but if more people had come, maybe more ideas would have been brought forth. Was this a missed opportunity? Only time will tell!



Respectfully,

John R. Swierz
President

WHAT DOES THE NEW MEDICARE DRUG BENEFIT MEAN FOR YOU?

INTERIM DISCOUNT CARD

From spring 2004 through 2005, beneficiaries can buy a card (for about \$30) estimated to shave 10 to 15 percent off drug prices at the pharmacy.

INTERIM LOW-INCOME HELP

People with incomes below \$12,569 (\$16,862 for couples) in 2004 will each get \$600 a year on the card.

COVERAGE CHOICE

From January 2006 beneficiaries can choose to (a) stay in traditional Medicare, a current Medicare HMO or a retiree plan without signing up for the drug benefit; (b) stay in traditional Medicare and enroll in a stand-alone drug plan; (c) enroll in a private health plan that offers drug coverage and Medicare health services.

DRUG BENEFIT

Enrollees will have an annual deductible of \$250, an estimated premium of \$35 a month (may vary in private plans) and a 25 percent co-payment of drug costs up to \$2,250 in a year. After that, enrollees pay all drug costs until they have spent \$3,600 out of pocket (equal to \$5,100 in annual costs for those with no other drug insurance). At that point catastrophic coverage kicks in, and enrollees pay 5 percent of prescriptions or co-pays of \$2 for generics and \$5 for brand names (whichever is greater).

"DUAL ELIGIBLE" SUBSIDIES

People eligible for Medicaid and Medicare will pay no premium or deductible and have no gap in coverage. They will pay \$1 per prescription for generics and \$3 for brand names. Co-pays are waived for those in nursing homes.

OTHER LOW-INCOME SUBSIDIES

People with incomes below about \$13,000 (\$17,600 for couples) in 2006 and assets of under \$6,000 (\$9,000 for couples) will pay no premium or deductible and have no gap in coverage. They will pay \$2 for generics, \$5 for brand names and nothing above the catastrophic limit. People with incomes between \$13,000 and \$14,400 (\$17,600 and \$19,500 for couples) in 2006 and assets under \$10,000 (\$20,000 for couples) will pay premiums on a sliding scale, a \$50 deductible and 15 percent of drug costs with no gap in coverage. After spending \$3,600 out of pocket in a year, co-pays will be \$2 for generics, \$5 for brand names.

MEDICARE PART B CHANGES

The annual deductible for Part B (for outpatient care) will increase from \$100 to \$110 in 2005, then rise annually. The Part B premium will be linked to income for the first time, starting in 2007. People with incomes over \$80,000 (\$160,000 for couples) will pay more on a sliding scale. —from *AARP Bulletin Online*, December 2003