

WARD



WORD

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

SEPTEMBER MEETING UPDATE

Our last meeting was held on Thursday, September 16th. The membership voted to suspend the business meeting since Councilman Mark Memmer's Town Hall Meeting, co-sponsored by the 7WCC, was scheduled for that evening.

Nick Durse, our 2004 scholarship winner was formally presented with his \$500 scholarship.

Councilman Memmer's meeting brought out 14 representatives of most of the City Departments. A noticeable absence was the Parks Department. Audience attendance was only around 50 people which was a disappointment. However, it was an excellent opportunity to become updated on the workings of our city and to have concerns presented directly to our officials.

People had questions about police cruisers, demolition of dilapidated houses, sidewalks and the flooding on Maywood Avenue. Forms were available for constituent concerns, speaking at city council meetings, obtaining official city public records and obtaining resolutions from city council, to name a few.

Thank you, Councilman Memmer, for the time and effort you put into this meeting, bringing government back to the people.

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The last meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) was Tuesday, October 5th. Some highlights are:

- Motion was made and passed to fund up to \$150 for purchase of lumber for the joint Cornell Gardens/St. Matthias School garden project.
- Motion was made and passed to approve the Executive Board decision to pay \$100 fee to the State of Ohio regarding our 501 (c) (3) nonprofit status.
- Set up By-Laws changes committee meeting for Tuesday, October 19th, August 28th.



"You're not supposed to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who says it."

—Malcolm X

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 6:00 PM TO 6:30 PM

OCCHA BUILDING, 3660 SHIRLEY ROAD

FOLLOWED BY CANDIDATES NIGHT AT 6:30 PM

THIS AND THAT

Attention all members! Please submit any recommendations for **By-Laws changes** to President John Swierz, by Monday, October 18th. John can be reached at (330) 788-5114.

Any member interested in **servicing on the Board of Trustees or as an officer** for 2005 must have a written nomination submitted to the Nominating Committee Chairman, Bill Graurich, by Sunday, October 31st. Any member is eligible as long as he or she has attended 3 consecutive meetings. Voting will take place at the December meeting. Other committee members are Andy Ron Hoffman and John Jerek.

Please bring to the next two meetings, your nonperishable food items for our annual Thanksgiving **food baskets**. If you know of any needy families that could use a food basket this year, please contact someone on the Board of Trustees.

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



The State of Ohio permits a **person convicted of a felony to vote** from and after the time he is granted probation, parole or a conditional pardon. Under former law, a convicted felon was disabled from voting, sitting as a juror or holding an office of honor, trust or profit. These disabilities may be removed, however, pursuant to section 2951.09 of the Ohio Revised Code. (from Section 2961.01 of the ORC).



The 7WCC supports the citywide comprehensive plan.

Member church, **Sacred Heart of Jesus Polish National Catholic Church** will hold its next **Swiss steak and chicken dinner** on Sunday, October 31st from 11 am to 2 pm.

Please don't forget our fellow Ohioans to the south of us who have suffered through **disastrous flooding**. Due to all the attention focused on the Florida hurricanes, much assistance has gone to that area and Ohio has been overlooked. Anyone wishing to donate supplies for flood-damaged counties can coordinate with other relief efforts through the state's toll-free, donation management **hotline** (888) 356-6364.

The Boardman Crime Information Network states that **crime prevention** fosters conditions, attitudes and behaviors that promote a safer community. Physical conditions like abandoned cars or buildings or overgrown vacant lots eventually contribute to crime. "Neighborhood disorder affects the public's perception of safety as surely as crime does."

This is the 30th year of the **Youngstown Peace Race**. It will be held Saturday, October 24th. Proceeds will benefit Tod Children's Hospital. Although the event originally was a 25k race, in 1989 it became a 10k run with an additional fun run. Call Second Sole at (330) 758-8708 or Ted Rupe at (330) 583-2423 for more information.

Member agency **OCCHA** will hold its 2nd Annual **Arts & Crafts Bazaar** on Sunday, November 14th from 10:00 am till 5:00 pm. Call Virginia Hernandez at (330) 781-1808 for table information.

The new **Children's Museum** in downtown Youngstown has **free admission** every Wednesday afternoon. On Saturday, October 30th, there will be an all day **Halloween Party** for the kids from 10 am till 4:30 pm. Call (330) 744-5914 for more information.

Janice Rovnak won five prizes for **tole painting** at the Canfield Fair this year: two first places, two second places and one third place. Congratulations, Janice!



Three concerned citizens at the Town Hall Meeting, September 16th. L-R Estelle Chizmar, Ruth Bartos and Kathleen Menosky.


“BUT I HATE READING!”

FROM *HAPPENINGS @ YOUR LIBRARY*, SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2004, NEWS AND EVENTS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF YOUNGSTOWN AND MAHONING COUNTY

What if your child is one of the many who consider reading a chore, rather than a treat?

“Reluctant readers are often kids who haven’t found the right context or material for reading,” says Joey Rodger, president of the Urban Libraries Council, a membership group of America’s top public libraries. “Sometimes they just need a different kind of push to become readers.”

A recent survey from across the country yielded these ideas:

- **Set a good example.** Kids are much more likely to develop a reading habit when they see their parents reading. It’s especially important for fathers to be involved in reading since boys tend to be later readers than girls.
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- **Remove barriers to reading.** Eliminate lights-out time as long as your child is reading. Note: This works very well until about age 12 when kids will read all night. However, at younger ages, kids just fall asleep with a book in their face.
 - **Connect to nonfiction.** Look for short, easy-to-read books in a subject that truly interests your child. Check out the selection at the library—it’s nearly boundless; sports figures’ biographies; extreme sports such as skateboarding and BMX; how-to titles such as books on making origami animals, drawing cartoon superheroes, or creating jewelry and accessories; raising pets; redesigning a bedroom out of inexpensive materials; cooking simple, delicious snacks; and jokes and riddles.
 - **Explore the riches of fiction.** Scary story collections offer books containing some truly hair-raising tales such as those edited by Robert D. San Souci that will hook the reader in the first few sentences. Other possibilities include folk and fairy tales and mystery stories, such as those by Donald J. Sobol and Seymour Simon that include short tales packed with clues to a mystery for the reader to solve.
 - **Magazines and newspapers can be just as important as books.**
 - **Consider the comics.** The whole area of comic books, now known as graphic novels, has the blessing of experts in education and literacy for helping language development, particularly for those who may need help in finding meaning from contextual clues.
 - **Consider large print.** Reading specialists point to the value of large print in winning over reluctant young adult readers.
 - **Consider small screens.** Reading web pages with text is an excellent motivator for reluctant readers. Guide your children to sites where they need to read instructions and those that include skill building games or “blogs” about their hobbies. News web pages, like newspapers, are also good motivators. Use www.LibraryVisit.org for links.
 - **Experiment with different formats.** Tapes and CDs are not only great for car trips, but they complement print versions for kids who need a jumpstart to get into a book.

IT’S THE LAW!

747.18 STORAGE OF JUNK. No junk shall be stored in the City unless the same is in a building or enclosed yard. Junk so stored, whether inside the building or enclosed yard, shall be piled or placed so that adequate passageways are open. Junk piled in an enclosed yard shall not be piled closer than a five-foot distance from the fence enclosing the yard.

MY TWO CENTS WORTH

BY JOHN R. SWIERZ

At last month's Town Hall Meeting, coalition member Eleanor Booher asked Police Chief Robert Bush if the 7th Ward was going to get a second police cruiser to patrol in our ward in the near future. Chief Bush shot back that we would not be getting a second car because our ward did not warrant one.

As the former councilmember, I tried to get a second cruiser from three police chiefs. Our ward is known as a B & E (Breaking and Entry) ward within the Police Department. But ask any resident and they will tell you about a massive youth problem involving guns. In a ward that rarely had any murders, we now have one or two a year.

Where is the proactive policing? Because of the rise in crime, our ward is seeing less home ownership and more rentals with more problems! We must unite and demand that we get a second cruiser now, before it's too late!



PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

BY PATTI DOUGAN

We all know people who are on fixed incomes and we all know the cost of prescription drugs today. The following website lists pharmaceutical companies that supply free prescription drugs to those who can not afford to pay. The chart contains the contact information for various plans. Generally, if you qualify, the company sends a three month supply to your doctor and you just pick it up there. If you do not have access to the internet to get the information at your home, you can use the computers at the library or perhaps ask help of a willing family member or friend. Each program has its own criteria. For example, the Pfizer program that supplies Lipitor requires that your income be below \$18,000. So if you, or someone you know, are one of the many who are not taking your prescription or not taking it as you are supposed to, check out this web site.

http://www.nami.org/Content/ContentGroups/HelpLine1/Prescription_Drug_Patient_Assistance_Programs.htm.

WELCOME

Let's extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Gwen Lewinsky-Welsh
Kellie Rabiega
Hector Colon & Family

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.

ALTERNATIVE TO EMERGENCY ROOM CARE

The recently renamed Ohio North East Health Systems, Inc. has the ultimate goals of providing quality, comprehensive primary health care services, and to improve the overall health of the communities it serves by reducing barriers to health care, including: ability to pay, transportation and language. As a Federally Qualified Health Center, it has a firm commitment to provide care to all people and will never turn patients away based upon their finances, insurance coverage or ability to pay.

The team approach to medical care is practiced demonstrating compassion and cultural sensitivity. A sliding fee scale for the uninsured and the underinsured is used. Translation services for Spanish speakers and hearing impaired individuals is provided upon request.

The clinic is located at 726 Wick Avenue. Call (330) 747-9551 for more information.

—*excerpted from **The Vindicator Letters to the Editor**, October 12, 2004, author William G. Addington III, Chief Operating Officer*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Dear Members,

One of my goals when I became president was to set up a meeting with the presidents of the three other citizens coalitions in our city. I believe it is time that our organizations begin to work together on citywide issues and other issues of commonality.

Among our organizations, there is a large number of citizens working to make our city a great place. Each organization has accomplished many positive things towards that goal. I am pleased to state that on Tuesday, September 21st, a meeting took place. Representing our coalition were Mary Krupa and myself. Absent from the meeting was the president of the Westside 4th & 5th Wards Citizens Coalition. Everyone in attendance offered ideas for future meetings and reasons why we must unite on common issues that affect all sides of our city. A second meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 27th.

In closing, let me turn to our upcoming Candidates Forum and urge you to attend and let the candidates see that our ward counts.



Respectfully,

John R. Swierz, President

NICHOLAS DURSE, OUR 2004 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Nick Durse is a likable young man, easy to talk with. He graduated from Lowellville High School earlier this year. The senior class had 52 students and Nick was one of the two valedictorians having achieved a 4.0 average. During high school, Nick was active in many activities including varsity football, the National Honor Society, weightlifting, the Italian Club and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), to name a few. Nick explained that some of the activities of SADD were to inform fellow students about the dangers of drinking, drugs and driving especially during prom and homecoming events. He also worked part-time during his high school years.

Nick, who lives on Wayside Drive, is the son of Nicholas and Stella Pitkiewicz Durse and older brother of Deanna. He attended grade school at St. Matthias.

Currently, Nick is attending his first semester at Youngstown State University majoring in mechanical engineering. He really likes meeting all the different people on campus and is energized by the sheer size of YSU particularly in contrast to the small schools of St. Matthias and Lowellville High. He also likes the technical and computer-related aspects of studying engineering.

Nick has met with the Dean of Engineering, Cynthia Hirtzel, who has hired Nick as a material research assistant in the William Rayen College of Engineering and Technology. Nick commented that there are lots of opportunities for student internships in his field in the Youngstown area. Being aware that Youngstown has one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation, he may have to leave town when he graduates but would prefer to stay here because of his family. He feels that the Youngstown area really needs to focus on switching from being manufacturing-based to more of a research and development and technical jobs base.

We want to wish Nick the best of luck on his endeavors—thanks for making the 7th Ward shine!



Nick Durse addressing the membership on September 16th.