

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

NOVEMBER MEETING UPDATE

Our November meeting was held on Thursday, November 18th back at Brownlee Woods Presbyterian Church. Patti Dougan read the required second reading of the proposed revised Articles of Association. These will be voted on at the December general meeting.

Members were encouraged to run for positions as officers and trustees. These positions will be elected at the December general meeting, also. Councilman Mark Memmer fielded questions from the membership as well as giving an update on occurrences in the ward.

Following the meeting, City Law Director John A. McNally IV was our guest speaker. He spoke about the state of the city and county and answered numerous questions from the audience.



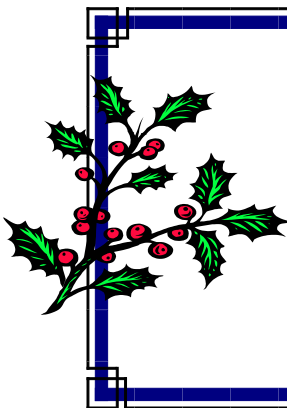
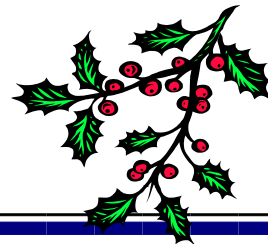
YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, December 7th at Brownlee Woods Presbyterian Church. Some actions taken or proposed are outlined below:

- Motion was made and passed to have the Ipe Field Committee write down future 7WCC plans for the park. Subsequently, the 7WCC would meet with the parties interested in using the park as a ball field for Youngstown Christian School and discuss the future of Ipe Field.
- Patti Dougan will call Jamael Tito Brown of *Youngstown 2010* to discuss marketing the 7WCC to citizens in the 7th Ward.
- John Swierz reported that after 3 meetings with the other city coalitions, the Northeast Homeowners Coalition wants to wait until after the May primary to decide on participating.

"There can be no daily democracy without daily citizenship."

—Ralph Nader



DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 7:00 PM
BROWNLEE WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ELECTIONS AND CHRISTMAS PARTY
 ENTERTAINMENT BY *THE YOUNGSTOWN CONNECTION!*

THIS AND THAT

Please come to the December 16th meeting and **holiday party**. We are looking forward to being entertained by **The Youngstown Connection** after the elections. Refreshments will be served and members are welcome to bring holiday goodies to share. Please join us for this festive occasion even if you have never come to a meeting before. We'd like to meet you!

This year's **downtown Christmas tree** was donated by 7th Ward residents Mr. and Mrs. Condrige Smith of 586 Cameron Avenue. It is the first Christmas tree to be used on the re-furnished Central Square. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Take a trip downtown to see the tree, the new square and the holiday lights.



Happy Hanukkah!

Treasurer Rick Swan and his wife Laoretta and President John R. Swierz distributed 3 **Thanksgiving food baskets** this year. The baskets included a turkey and a

plentiful amount of other "fixins" that were enough for several meals. Recipients were very surprised and thankful. Thanks to the many members who shared their bounty this year.

The Urban Land Institute recommends municipalities provide 25.5 acres of **park land** for every 1000 residents. In New Castle, this equates to about 600 square acres but they only have 113 square acres of park land. Does anyone know how Youngstown stacks up?

Burning candles contribute to a festive holiday atmosphere. But, lit candles are an open flame and even though small, can light a fire that can spread faster than you might think. Once fire activates a smoke detector, you have about 90 seconds to get out safely. So, **never** leave a burning flame unattended! Also, **never** leave home with your **clothes dryer** on. Don't do it ever! Between 1994 and 1998, clothes dryer fires accounted for the most appliance fires.



THREE QUESTIONS WHICH MAY SAVE A LIFE

SUBMITTED BY KEN STANISLAW

This might be a lifesaver if we can remember the three questions! Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, this could spell disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

1. **Can the individual smile?**
2. **Can the individual raise both arms?**
3. **Can the individual speak a simple sentence?**

If the individual has trouble with any of these tasks, call 911 immediately. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.

Regarding heart attacks,,if you suddenly start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw and/or your heart is beating improperly and you begin to feel faint, you are probably having a heart attack and have only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, you can help yourself by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing squeezes the heart and keeps the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. Seek help immediately.



*Happy
Holidays
to
All!*

2004 IN REVIEW

BY JOHN R. SWIERZ

Membership:

- Both regular and business memberships were increased this year to 126 regular members and 46 business members. Last January membership was 115 and 31 respectively.

Community Projects and Partnerships:

- Cleaned-up Coalition projects at Powers Family Cemetery and the Mt. Vernon cul-de-sac garden in the spring.
- Partnered with St. Matthias School on vegetable garden bunkers at Cornell Gardens.
- Became a charter funder for the new Children's Museum of the Valley.
- Entered a car in the 2004 Greater Youngstown Area Soap Box Derby and had several members volunteer.
- Became a button package sponsor for *First Night Youngstown 2005*.
- Partnered with Lansingville Block Watch and Rolling Thunder for a 2005 clean-up of the I-680 Shirley Road exit.
- Held the 2004 Ipe Field Yard Sale.
- Continued receiving grants for Ipe Kids World.
- Began meeting with other citizens coalitions in the city to unite on citywide projects

Coalition movement to become a Community Development Corporation (CDC):

- Adopted (December meeting) revised Articles of Association that make our coalition a CDC which allows us to receive monies for community projects.

FOIL THOSE CAR THIEVES!

SUBMITTED BY KATHY MAHALKO

Thefts from vehicles occur regularly and not always in a specific area. Follow the tips below:

- ANYTHING of value, large or small, should be taken with you, placed under the seats or locked in the trunk. "Out of sight, out of mind" is an old but applicable adage here. NEVER leave vehicle keys inside the vehicle. Cover CD players, cassette players and stereos with a towel or piece of clothing or remove these items, if possible, and place them in your locked trunk.
- ALWAYS lock your vehicle and trunk.
- Park in well lit areas, both in parking lots and at home. Light DOES deter crime.
- Remove any outside antennas from your vehicle so as not to draw attention to your vehicle.
- When parked at home in the garage, always close the garage door when you are not in the immediate area. Make sure the garage is closed before going to bed. CHECK IT!
- Install a vehicle alarm and use it. The first 5 tips still apply even with a vehicle alarm.
- Call the police if you see someone suspicious loitering. You may prevent a crime just by calling.

Thefts from vehicles are very preventable crimes, but YOU must prevent them!

**Happy
Kwanzaa!**



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



The 7WCC supports the citywide comprehensive plan.



**Happy
New Year!**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

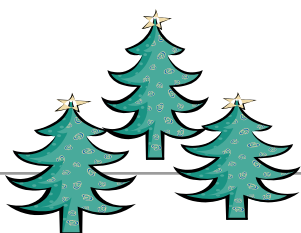


Dear Members,

As we draw near to the end of another year, I hope that we each reflect on the good that has occurred in our community. This holiday season brings us closer to our families and friends and I believe that our Coalition is like a family that is looking out for the betterment of our ward.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president this year, and I would like to thank the officers and board of directors for their service to our Coalition.

On behalf of my family, I would like to wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!** See you at the meeting!



Respectfully,

John R. Swierz
President



WHAT IS "PEACE ON EARTH" ?

BY PETER GRIFFITHS, *RURAL ROOTS* COLUMN 2001

The message, "Peace on earth, goodwill to men" is popular at Christmas. But, what is peace on earth? How can we have peace on earth when people are actively killing each other this Christmas in many parts of our world? How can we have peace when some "religious" people say it is justifiable to use violence in the name of one's religious beliefs? How can we have peace when our first thought is to retaliate when we are hurt? How do we have peace when in many places, both in developing countries and in our own, people entrusted with power use it for their own ends, rather than to meet the needs of the people they are supposed to be serving?

We want to feel warm and fuzzy at Christmas. We want to feel good. The story of the birth of a special child, with all the myths that have grown around it, is one way to try to do this. That child was born to bring justice and peace to our world. It hasn't happened yet. Why?

Where does peace begin? Where can you find peace?

The person whose birth we celebrate at Christmas was born into war and conflict. Israel was an occupied land. He advocated peace, and ended up thirty years later suffering death in a very inglorious way, as a criminal. Yet, his life was given as a gift for peace. To our knowledge, except for one brief temper tantrum in the temple, he was never violent.

Some people he attracted hoped he would become a political leader, but they soon lost faith or interest in him. Others saw him as the Messiah, the promised one who would bring power and glory to Israel again. He didn't bring political power. He brought the spiritual power of a special relationship with God.

What can we do to promote peace in this world? It has to begin with ourselves. We need to recognize that peace is not always a normal human response. When someone hurts us, the human tendency is to want to hurt back. Finding peace means giving something up. It means giving up the natural instinct to want to get even when someone hurts you. It means recognizing and accepting these very human instincts, and looking for guidance and help to overcome them. We can't create a world that is free of violence. We have to learn how to live in non-violent ways within a world that is by nature, very unjust and very violent. It means looking at our material possessions not as property, but as gifts, which need to be shared with the rest of the world.

Christmas offers us a chance to recognize and relate to that higher power, Creator, God or Allah, (whichever term you feel most comfortable with) and to discover the real message of Christmas. I believe this message is that we are called one by one, day by day, to struggle with finding and creating peace in a world, which unfortunately still rejects it today, as it did 2000 years ago.

That peace must start within ourselves, for only if we are at peace and respect ourselves, in true humility and honesty, will we be able to show peace and respect to others. My prayer to all this Christmas is: "May you discover peace within yourself, and then share it with others, even when things may not be peaceful around you."