

Ward Word

2005 Board of Directors

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MARCH MEETING UPDATE

The general meeting was held on March 17, 2005 at the Brownlee Woods United Presbyterian Church. A scholarship committee was formed so that we may get the information out to the schools post haste.

Once again the situation on Midlothian Blvd. was brought to the forefront. Chris Travers made a motion to table all discussion on the topic. He also made a motion to form a committee to research what the members interested can do to alleviate the problem and to report back with a plan. The motion passed.

Anthony Traficanti bowed out as the guest speaker two days before the meeting and Anthony Kobak, the Youngstown City Planner graciously stepped in to fill the void. His presentation centered on where we go now in making Youngstown 2010 a reality. The main point of the discussion was that the City can't do it all and our citizens must step forward. Mr. Kobak stated that the first step is two-fold; to stabilize the neighborhoods that are still in good order and to eradicate the blight.

Council member, Mark Memmer, pointed out that there is a problem with using Federal money to eradicate blight as they have so many regulations. He did state that the City can get a 103 loan to do so and pay it back with interest over a 15 year period. This would "untie" the City's hands and allow them to clean up planned and targeted areas of the City rather than a hit or miss approach that did not serve to enhance any neighborhood.

Both Anthony Kobak and Councilman Memmer pointed
(continued on page 3)

YOUR BOARD IN ACTION

The Board of Directors meeting was called to Order at approximately 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2005. Under old business, Mark Memmer advised the group that the Park and Recreation Department was not moving forward on their decision about Youngstown Christian School having a football field at IPE Field. A motion was made and carried to sponsor a neighborhood meeting in order to give the people whom the use will most effect an opportunity to learn more about the project and to voice their concerns or support. Tentative plans are for April 28 at 6:30 p.m. if the church hall is available.

Douglas Nasci, Vice President of James & Sons, was present and spoke on liability insurance and directors' liability insurance for the organization. Liability insurance would cover the organization if it was sued by someone who was injured by a rake left at IPE Field on clean-up day. Directors' liability insurance would cover the Directors for misleading reports or misrepresentations, among other things.

Several committee reports were given. Letters to the schools regarding the scholarship were sent out last week and letters to the candidates regarding candidates night were also sent out. The "Ludt" committee has met and is doing some investigation prior to making any recommendations to the board. Discussion on a policy for the use of the organization's e-mail were tabled until a later date due to the guest speaker.

The Board voted to send Patti and Rick to a one-day workshop sponsored by the IRS on *Exempt Organizations*. They will attend either May 25th or May 26th. The cost will be \$30.00 each.

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21ST, 6:00 P.M.
BROWNLEE WOODS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CANDIDATES NIGHT
MAYORAL, JUDICIAL, AND PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Please note the
earlier-than-usual
starting time!

Ward Word is the monthly newsletter of the 7th Ward Citizens Coalition, published not less than ten months a year. The 7WCC is a non-partisan grassroots organization committed to better quality of life in Youngstown, Ohio's 7th ward.

Things to Do...

Mentoring from the Heart needs adult volunteers to become mentors to Youngstown schoolchildren and to meet with them once a week on school grounds. To sign up, or for more information, call the Volunteer Services Agency at 782-5877. This is our opportunity to get involved with children before they get into trouble. This is our opportunity to work with children to have an impact on our neighborhoods.

St. Elizabeth's Boardman Campus is offering training for adult, child and infant CPR. Course cost is \$35.00. For more information call 480-3045.

Youngstown Playhouse's 2006 season includes: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", "Nunsense", "White Christmas", "I Hate Hamlet", "Lend Me a Tenor" and "Chicago". Season Tickets are \$60.00, \$50.00 for Seniors for five shows. Those wishing a ticket to the sixth show can purchase it for an additional \$5.00. Call 788-8739.

"Spring has sprung, the grass has ris ..." and each year it brings with it a spate of predatory lenders and their home improvement promises. If you are looking to make repairs to your home and someone comes knocking on your door with the offer of money to help you get those repairs, be careful. A large number of mortgage foreclosures in the area are due to predatory lending, a scam aimed at the elderly and the disabled and those whose homes are paid in full. If someone makes you an offer that is too good to refuse ask them to let you have the contract reviewed. Then call 1-800-998-9454 to have a Community Legal Aid Services, Inc. (CLAS) attorney review the paperwork. Too many homes are lost to foreclosure each year because of predatory lending practices. CLAS is a non-profit law firm serving low-income individuals in an eight county area. There are no charges for their services. Remember, anytime anyone comes to your door or calls you on the telephone to sell you a loan or any other thing, you have three days to change your mind and cancel the contract.

Save the date...

May's 7th Ward Citizens Coalition monthly meeting will be Thursday May 19th at 6:30 p.m.

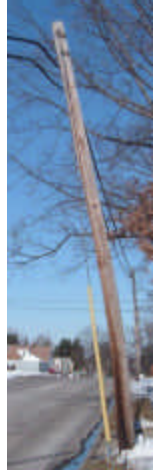
Email: info@7wcc.org

Leaning Tower of Power Update

Our thanks to Mary Krupa for discovering that the leaning utility pole on Lemoyne belongs to the telephone company (SBC) and reporting it to the appropriate people.

It's difficult — if not impossible — for the casual passerby to identify which utility owns a particular pole, but it's good to start somewhere. Any of the following numbers should be of help when reporting utility poles in our neighborhoods which may pose a potential safety hazard.

- Ohio Edison ... 800-633-4766
- SBC ... 800-660-1000
- City of Youngstown Engineering/Public Works Department ... 330-742-8800



Correction

We erroneously printed in last month's *Ward Word* the death of 7WCC director John Jerek's mother. It was the mother of John's wife Marge who passed away. We regret the error and once again extend our condolences.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead

Kudos to Mark Memmer - Prior to mailing last month's newsletter, I spoke to Councilman Memmer telling him of the potholes on Thalia and that the street needed paved. He advised me that he was turning in his list the next day and that my call was timely. He stated he would "ride the road" the next day. Two days later I came home from work to find the holes patched! Thank you, Mark, for your quick response.

-Patti Dougan

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 Youngstown 2010 comprehensive plan.

Website: www.7wcc.org

March Meeting (continued from page 1)

out that that cleaning up our neighborhoods and restoring the quality of life that we seek can be brought about only by hundreds of volunteer hours. While monies are sometimes available, there needs to be someone to do the work. Councilman Memmer asked that we join in the walk on South Avenue to help clean that corridor into the City. It was agreed that the Coalition would co-sponsor that event in return for support cleaning up Midlothian Blvd.

Committee to Submit Position Statement

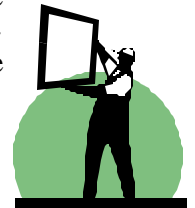
An *ad hoc* committee was formed at the last general membership meeting to address the ongoing conflict on Midlothian Boulevard involving the New Affair Lounge and an adjacent graffiti-festooned building.

The committee has met several times to investigate and identify issues related to this situation and is preparing to submit an official statement of position to the general 7WCC membership at the April meeting. The position statement, when approved, will form the basis of the 7th Ward Citizens Coalition's stance on this issue and will be the bedrock of any further action taken by the organization on this matter.

The committee's draft of the statement will first be presented to the 7WCC Board of Directors for approval. The final draft will be submitted to the general membership at the April 21st meeting for a vote to accept the statement as written.

The Broken Window Theory

If a window in a building is broken and left unrepaired, the rest of the windows will soon be broken. A single [unrepaired] broken window is a signal that no one cares. It sends the message that public order has broken down and thus windows can be broken with impunity. If broken windows — literal or metaphorical — are left unrepaired, they not only contribute to neighborhood decay, they also lead to a lack of social order that [among other things] permits crimes to flourish.



-Submitted by Kathy Mahalko
From the Boardman Crime Information Network

Primary Election is May 3rd!

On May 3, 2005, you have the opportunity to bring about change in the City. You have the opportunity to elect a Mayor, a President of Council and a judge that can change the direction of Youngstown. Don't waste this opportunity! Choose solid candidates with the City's best interests at heart and VOTE. If you need a ride to the polls, please call the Board of Elections. The polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Answers to Last Month's St. Patrick's Day Crossword Puzzle

S	T	P	A	T	R	I	C	K		E	N	Y	A
E		O		W	R					M			
A		T		O		E		G	R	E	E	N	
N		A			L					R			
		T			A		S	H	A	W		I	
	C	O	R	K		N				L			R
	E			I		D	A			D			I
	L			L									S
	T	R	A	L	E	E		A	R	M	A	G	H
	I			A			E			U			
	C		B	R	I	G	I	D		M			
		B		N			R				P		
S	T	O	N	E				U	L	S	T	E	R
		R		Y							A		
	D	U	N						K	I	L	T	S

We honor the memory of the spiritual leader held in the highest esteem by members of our Coalition and indeed the rest of the world, Pope John Paul.



We can be sure that our beloved pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that he sees us and blesses us.

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger

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From the Vice-President's Desk

At the March meeting, we were told by both Anthony Kobak, city planner, and Mark Memmer, our city council member, that any difference made in our community is going to have to be made, for the most part, by volunteers. Sound impossible? I don't think so. I am taking that statement as a challenge. I am determined that *I* can make a difference. I believe that *we* as an organization, if we are determined, can make a difference. What can we do to make that difference, to move our community forward? Let's partner with the block watches and other organizations to get neighborhoods revitalized. Let's help elderly people stay in their homes because that will help to stabilize neighborhoods. After all, if somebody's grandma still lives up the street, it isn't owned by an absentee landlord. If we truly want to move forward we need to examine our resources and determine what we need.

What do we need? Well, to start, we need money. That would mean raising funds and applying for grants. We need people. That means you and me. I know what I can do—I can help with fundraisers, write grants, seek legal remedies. What can you do? Are you a retired painter or carpenter? Can you supervise a Youth Ministry Group that is willing to fix a porch or paint a house? Do you have the skills necessary to meet with other organizations and build a partnership? Can you baby-sit while some of our younger members help in ways you can't? Can you make lunch for the worker bees? What can your do? Can you change "grandma's" screens or furnace filter, put out the trash or change a light bulb so she can stay in her house? What can you do? Below is a questionnaire about you. Who are you, what can you do, what are you willing to do. I am getting organized. I am looking at our resources and the most precious resource I see is you. Can we use you? Tommy Lasorda said, "The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in determination." *I* am determined to do the impossible. What about you?

Name: _____ Address: _____
Telephone No. _____
Best time to call: _____
What skills do you have that you can "lend" to our projects. _____

When are you available? _____
What other organizations are you aware of or a member of that we can partner with in order to accomplish good for ourselves and our neighbors? _____

Now for the big question. If there was one thing you could do in your immediate neighborhood to make a difference, what would it be and how would you accomplish it? _____

Please return to 4907 Sheridan Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44514.

Wish List

If there was one thing you could fix on your street, what would it be? _____

If there was one thing you could fix in your neighborhood, what would it be? _____

If there was one thing you could fix on your property, what would it be? _____

If there was one thing you could fix for a neighbor, what would it be? _____

Please drop your "Wish List" into the box provided at the April meeting. Bring and attach pictures if you can.