



# Up Front

## Newsletter of the Finneytown Civic Association

### FCA Officers and Board of Trustees

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**Vice President**

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**Recording Secretary**

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GREGORY HOPKINS

BILL McMAHAN, Land, Use Zoning

Jeff Dean, Land, Use Zoning

NANCY MCGUIRE, Membership

Contact: Joe 325-5202

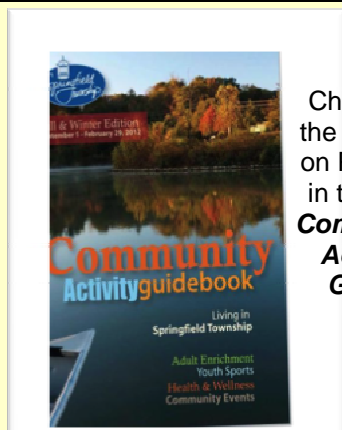
### 2011 MEETING DATES:

**GENERAL FCA MEETING:**

Monday, September 26 7-9 pm  
Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Dusty Rhodes, Guest Speaker

**MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM:**

Sunday, October 16, 7-9 pm  
Township Senior Center, Rm. C



Check out the **FCA ad** on Page 20 in the new **Community Activity Guide**.

### ILLEGAL SIGNS RECYCLED FOR SCHOOLS... By Bill McMahan

Approximately 200 community-degrading "snipe signs" have been removed by FCA volunteers. Many of these have been recycled into "Graduating Seniors" yard signs. The rest will be used in the Finneytown Theater's upcoming production of "Larceny and Old Lace."

Our residents should be aware of the **Springfield Zoning Resolutions** regarding temporary sign placement, available on the Township web page, and that sign placement cannot be within the street or road right-of-way. This distance is generally 10 feet from the street curb toward the private property in residential areas and 20 feet from the street curb toward commercial properties. This "non-sign" area includes all utility or public poles. *If you see one of these signs you have the right to remove it as if it were litter.* Bench Billboards are, for the most part, illegal but there are some legitimate ones usually adjacent to Bus Stops.

### FCA WORKS TO MAKE FINNEYTOWN BETTER... By Joe Gorman, President

It has been a wild weather year in Finneytown, which seems to be the norm now. Snow and cold in January, heavy rains in the Spring, serious lightning storms, really hot stretches, extreme stuff. Add to the uncertainty of the stock market, slow economy, worries about housing valuations, and the recent push for a "self-serve government," many of us are worried.

Most homeowners want to support the schools, but wonder how much tax can be extracted from our homes to pay for them. Our roads need serious repair, but Springfield Township is facing huge cuts from the State of Ohio.

*What is cool about Finneytown remains a huge gravitational pull on us: Nice neighbors, tall trees, safe, walkable streets, good schools, an active business district, unique houses.*

The Finneytown Civic Association continues to work to make our community a better place. Our volunteers pick up litter, remove illegal signs, monitor events, participate in planning projects, and help the Township with Housing Block Watch updates. The FCA also sponsors a Candidate's Forum in October to get to know the candidates.

Please consider joining the FCA. Working alongside your neighbors provides a chance to get to know them, and to grow roots here.

**Join us for our next general FCA meeting Monday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at Northminster Church, 703 E. Compton. Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes will be our guest.**

### FCA Membership Reminder:

Annual Dues are: Family \$20; Individuals \$10.

Mail to: Finneytown Civic Association, P.O. Box 317696, Cinti., OH 45231.

**ODDS & ENDS**

**Congratulations** to Finneytown resident **Gail Karle** of Long Lane. Gail teaches at South Elementary in Mt. Healthy. Gail received The Distinguished Teacher Award presented by Springfield Township.

Finneytown Boys Soccer Team loves the wings at **Buffalo Wings & Rings!** They took 1st place in a BWR wings-eating contest. Congrats to *Finneytown residents Kim and Si Rose* on their new venture!

Do you know any **exceptional parents**? The FCA would like to recognize them. Forward nominations to Jeff Decile at [cinlaw22@aol.com](mailto:cinlaw22@aol.com) before Sept. 24th. FCA will recognize 3 parents who have excelled in educating their child or children in a unique way with a plaque and \$100.

**FINNEYTOWN SCHOOLS: School Priorities** by Supt. Dr. Alan Robertson

1. **District facilities.** The demolition of Cottonwood will save the district approximately \$200,000 per year in maintenance, renovation and utility costs. A revised 5-year Capital Improvement Plan will be developed this school year.
2. **Reducing the 2011-12 district budget** in response to the loss of about \$900,000 in state funding. This was accomplished by: A) the reduction of 9 staff positions; B) entering into a *shared services agreement* (transportation/fuel) with the Winton Woods City Schools; and, C) negotiating agreements with teachers and support personnel for a 0% base salary increase and that staff members will remain at their 2010-2011 salary step level for the next two years. Such measures will enable the funds from the last levy to last for a minimum three years.
3. **Attaining higher levels of student achievement.** The district achieved "Excellent" ratings earned by Whitaker ES and Finneytown Secondary Campus on the recent state report cards. The district maintained an "Effective" rating which reflected the best overall performance by the district since the advent of the current report card format. Our Board of Education and district staff are committed to making Finneytown Schools a great place for students. Good things are happening. Please visit [www.finneytown.org](http://www.finneytown.org), for more information.

**KIDS CLOSET – A "FREE CLOTHES" MISSION** By Cathy Zimmerly

Finneytown resident Karen Hug's latest mission, **the Kids Closet at Northern Hills United Methodist Church on Winton Road**, is off to a great start. Anyone in need of clothing for their children can come any Thursday between three and six and Karen will outfit them as best she can for FREE! Families requesting clothing are asked to sign in and provide an address and are encouraged to bring back any outgrown clothing on future visits.

Karen works closely with other area churches to help those in need. Karen said it would be great if area churches and organizations would network together and each "specialize" in one particular area rather than duplicate efforts. Karen is hoping that other Finneytown churches or organizations will step up to provide for what she feels is a very necessary ministry; that of serving the elderly.

Karen noted that many senior citizens in our community have many special and unique needs and most are on very fixed incomes that don't allow for items like walkers, canes, hearing aid batteries, etc... Karen thinks it would be great if seniors in our community had a place to turn to similar to what she is providing to young families at NHUMC.

For more information, contact Karen Hug at [hugjewelers@fuse.net](mailto:hugjewelers@fuse.net).

Finneytown Civic Association  
PO Box 317696  
Cincinnati, OH 45231  
[www.fcaontheweb.org](http://www.fcaontheweb.org)

**FCA General Membership Meeting**

Monday, Sept. 26, 7-9pm

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**