



WEIRD OLD LAWS IN YOUNGSTOWN
TODD FRANKO, A2



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OBAMA MODEL: HONEY BOO BOO?
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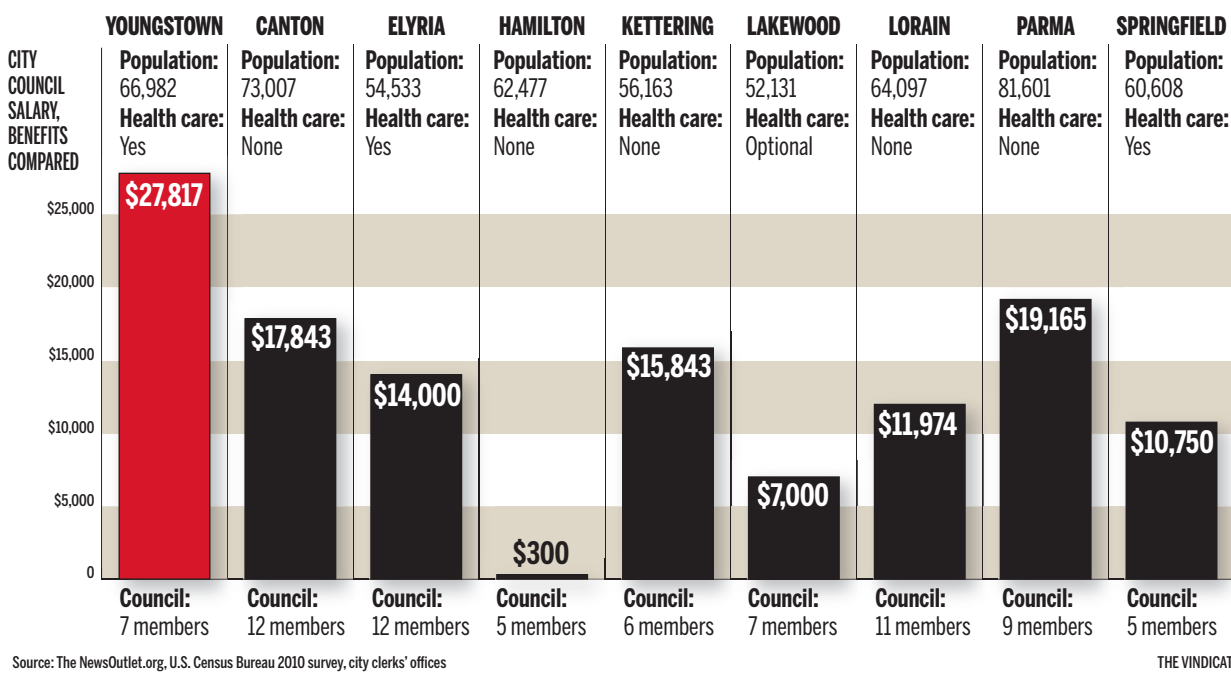
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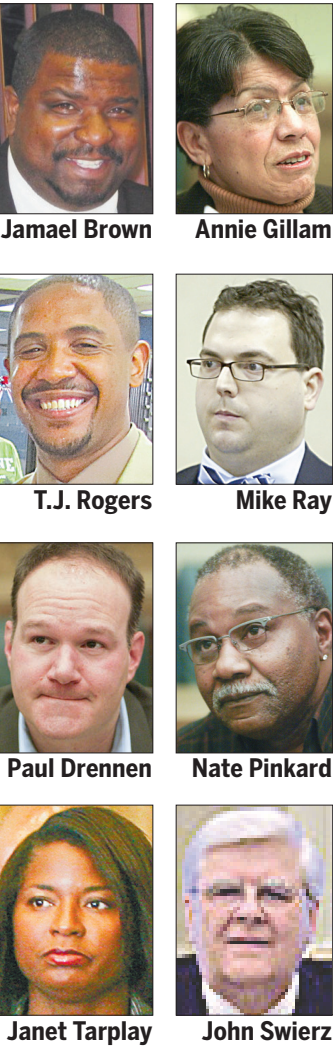
SUNDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2012
\$1.50

IN SIMILAR-SIZED CITIES, YOUNGSTOWN LEADS STATE IN CITY COUNCIL SALARIES



COUNCILS COMPARED

YOUNGSTOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS



By KARA PAPPAS
TheNewsOutlet.org

A comparison of council salaries for nine Ohio cities reveals that Youngstown council members not only earn the most but also are among the few who receive health benefits.

A look at council salaries for nine cities with similar population sizes to Youngstown – Canton, Lorain, Hamilton, Parma, Springfield, Elyria, Kettering and Lakewood – revealed annual salaries ranging from \$300 to \$27,817, with an average salary of \$13,866. The populations in those cities ranged from 52,131 to 81,601, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau. With a population of 66,982, Youngstown council members earn \$27,817 — \$8,653 more than council members in Parma, which has the second highest salary of the nine cities. Parma has a population of 81,601. Also, Youngstown council members receive a health care benefits package, which includes dental and medical coverage, worth \$16,668. Of the eight council members, only Annie Gillam, D-1st, hasn't enrolled for health care benefits. Those who have taken the entire health package are Jamael Tito Brown, council president; Paul Drennen, D-5th; L. Nathaniel Pinkard, D-3rd; and John R. Swierz, D-7th. Opting for partial coverage are Mike Ray, D-4th, at a cost of \$6,612; and Janet Tarpley, D-6th, at

YOUNGSTOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS EARN \$8,653 MORE THAN COUNCIL MEMBERS IN PARMA, WHICH HAS THE SECOND HIGHEST SALARY OF THE NINE CITIES. YOUNGSTOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS RECEIVE A HEALTH CARE BENEFITS PACKAGE, WHICH INCLUDES DENTAL AND MEDICAL COVERAGE, WORTH \$16,668.

\$331. T.J. Rogers, D-2nd, is covered under his wife's plan. Jasmine Rogers is a city employee. In May, the Youngstown Charter Review Commission, which is expected to convene every four years, presented 17 initiatives to the council. These included a salary reduction of about 30 percent for council members and changes in benefits. The council decided not to put the salary-reduction proposal on the

See COUNCIL, A4

Many GM workers yearn to go home

By BURTON SPEAKMAN
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YOUNGSTOWN
The General Motors Co. plant in Lordstown has been awash in good news recently with the company's \$200 million commitment to build the next-generation Cruze there. In addition, the Cruze was the nation's best-selling small car in August and September. Officials also have announced GM workers who were transferred to Lordstown may get an opportunity to return to a plant closer to their home. At the same time, a group of families working for GM in

Kansas City, Kan., wants nothing more than to return to their home in Ohio. Their stories are similar: They already had worked for GM for decades and did not want to risk losing their jobs by being unwilling to transfer during the company's 2008 reorganization. They left behind families — and homes they often couldn't sell — to move across the country to keep their GM jobs. The moves came with some perks — bonuses of \$25,000 or \$30,000 to relocate — but to them, the bonuses didn't offset

See RETURN, A5



ROBERT K. YOSAY | THE VINDICATOR
Jeff Schwab, a 15-year employee for Delphi Packard Electric, learned he could lose his job in January 2008. He and his wife, Kim, had purchased this home in Niles four months earlier. Schwab transferred to a GM assembly plant in Kansas City, Kan., two years ago but is hoping he can transfer to the GM Lordstown plant sometime soon.



Austintown school board hears complaints on speaking policy

By ELISE FRANCO
and ASHLEY LUTHERN
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AUSTINTOWN
How the Austintown Board of Education conducts the public comment portion of its meetings has become a major point of contention over the past several months. Austintown school board President Tom Stellers said the board allots 30 minutes for public comment for only Austintown residents who must sign in to speak. He said the board takes every comment, question or concern under advisement and is willing to meet or talk with people in private for further discussion. "If there is an issue, you contact the superintendent [Vincent Colaluca] and he'll get the question answered," Stellers said. "Or you can call one of us." During recent meetings, many people addressing the

TRUCE IN AUSTINTOWN

♦ Austintown schools chief Vincent Colaluca and board of education member Harold Porter say they will work out their differences to move toward building a better school district. A4



board have demanded immediate responses to their questions because they say the board and Colaluca aren't available for meetings. "I have never ignored anyone who has called, but my phone isn't ringing off the hook," Stellers said. "It's called public comment, not discussion or debate. The intent is for people to come and comment on the

See SPEAKING, A4

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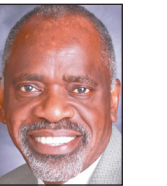
Without levy OK, city schools face \$13M deficit

By DENISE DICK
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YOUNGSTOWN
Without a levy renewal, the city school district will see a \$1.4 million deficit next school year — which will grow to \$7 million and \$13 million in the following two years, officials say. Voters will be asked Nov. 6 to renew the levy originally passed in 2008. It expires at year's end. The levy generates \$5.2 million annually and because the measure on the ballot is a renewal, that amount won't change. The millage though increases from

“WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR MORE MONEY — WE'RE JUST KEEPING IT THE SAME.”

CONNIE HATHORN, superintendent, Youngstown City Schools



9.5 mills to 10.4 mills because property values in the city have decreased since the 2008 passage — requiring additional millage to generate the same dollars. "We're not asking for more money — we're just keeping it the same," said Superintendent Connie Hathorn. "We understand the economy is not good, and it would not be fair to put that on the taxpayers, but it's also not fair

to let the school system continue to go under." Although the district isn't expected to rise out of academic watch when the official 2011-12 state report cards are released next year, the superintendent says there have been improvements. "We have made progress," he said.

See LEVY, A5

♦ Key facts on the Youngstown schools renewal levy, A5. The Vindicator presents its view on the tax issue, A18

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