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Mini Chapbook Edition
Cover photo by DJ, age 11.

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Thanks for reading!

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Youngstown, Ohio.

*Nancy strives to live a peaceful
creative life on the south side of*

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POETS

Construction,
Deconstruction,
New construction,
More construction.
Is
your building
slightly out-dated?
Parking lot not big enough?
Tear it down!
Build a new one!
Give yourself more space.
Move across the street.
Even fast food
gets in on that action.

This must be
what they call
urban sprawl.

Oh, how convenient:
The Hospice House is
located near nursing homes.

I caught myself
holding my breath
to avoid the scent of death
while my mind took
a little detour
following a sequence
from history:
intake
showers
cremation
elimination
As if the pits of Treblinka
were located just off
Western Reserve Road.

I focused on a grand home
that came into view.
Who toils their own life away
for a bigger, better mortgage?

What is normal?

This? Or that
parallel universe located
just south of Youngstown
with manicured lawns
and polished white faces
Jones'n to keep up
with the Jones?

Which is better?
Brand new buildings?
Or old buildings carved
with names and history?

Youngstown

I took a ride to the other side,
hopped the WRTA in front of the
courthouse on Market Street
armed with a transfer and a bus
map of the Boardman Loop.

I told the driver that I'm going to
Southwoods because the loop
only turns towards the new
surgical center on request.

I should have been more specific.

She assumed I meant
Southwoods Imaging
on Market Street.

So I ended up riding the Loop,
the entire loop,
from the mall
to the Wall
to the back
and, to the mall again,
observing the passing view
like a tourist in a foreign land.

Well, lookie there.
Jared the Galleria of Jewelers,
just opened a spanking new
showcase in a spiffy new
building right there
in front of the mall.

I wonder how many rocks
they had to sell just to pay
for the blueprint.

The new give way
to mill grit and urban decay
and boarded up windows
along the way
up the South Avenue artery
towards a downtown renewal
where a vibrancy, a beat,
a thump thump beat,
the pulse, the energy,
a driving beat, the
beeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee...

Oh.
Flat line.
That's it.
There is no beat
on the other side.
It does not feel so alive.