

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves visited the New World Community House (*Uue Maaailma Seltsimaja*) today – on Citizens Day.

The nonprofit association that was created three years ago unites the active people living in the Tallinn district bordered by Pärnu Hwy, and Endla, Suur-Ameerika and Tehnika Sts., who care about improving their neighbourhood.

The Head of State visited the New World Community's library, which the society runs along with Writers' Union; the cycle shed, where old bicycles are fixed; paid a visit to Uue Maaailma's first public sculpture, entitled "The Peace Cannon"; and met with the neighbourhood leaders at the community centre.

"What you are doing demonstrates the dedication and resourcefulness typical of a village society, but it is all taking place in the heart of Tallinn, only a seven-minute bike ride from the Town Hall Square," the Head of State said in recognition of the New World Community's members.

"Your communal and creative thinking destroys the notion that the only possible attitude of city dwellers is, 'Oh, I can't be bothered!'" President Ilves said. "It is moving to observe your activities, which abolish the alienation and anonymity that surround us in the city, where many people do not even know the people living in their building. The sense of community that is inherent to the New World Community enables us to escape such anonymity, and expand our space, our thinking and our communications."

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