

Harrison West Society Meeting
Thursday, January 12
Next HWS Meeting
Thursday, February 9

HWS Meeting Agenda
• Vote on Constitutional
Amendment
• Initiate Membership Committee

Inside on Page 4
• Text of New Article III
• Seniors Celebrate Season
with Grand Buffet

Harrison West News

JANUARY 1995 • Volume 6, Number 1

THE YEAR IN REVIEW / FROM THE PRESIDENT CRAIG COPELAND

The Good, the Bad, and the Merely Ugly

This year was no exception to Mary Funk's axiom, "Nothing ever comes easily to Harrison West." Looking back at the neighborhood's accomplishments, this has arguably been the most decisive year since Battelle divested its rental properties and the new M/I homes were built at the beginning of the last decade. For the first time, a M/I home was chosen for the 1994 Victorian Village Tour of Homes and homeowners Tim Bledsoe and Rob Harris celebrated in the annual recognition of the historic architectural significance of our neighborhood. However, on Michigan Avenue one more home fell to the bulldozer last year and another vacant lot awaits future development.

The specter of 90-foot power poles being erected the length of Michigan Avenue, then turning east along Fifth

Avenue, was last year's first call to muster. The City's Division of Electricity could only see the beauty of their high tension lines running through our neighborhood at a height three times taller than the average roof peak. The Division's engineers' pooh-poohed citizen's concerns about electromagnetic fields and if esthetic impact was your issue, 'well, friends, this is progress' was their attitude. Dennison Place resident Tim Wagner deserves the lion's share of the credit for getting the City to look for alternative routes. However, the project has yet to be sited and the route through Harrison West is, unfortunately, still not dead and buried.

The case of the perennially problematic poultry processing plant's, "portable building, without a special permit," namely the semi truck trailer

that was parked on the south side of the building, finally arrived in Judge Richard Pfiefer's Environmental Court. The issue before the court seemed to be was the rickety refrigerated trailer a portable building or a road going highway trailer? In June, the trailer was registered with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for the first time since as far back as records are kept and was later towed away. In 1992 and 1993, the Department of Development favored the conversion of the adjacent vacant residential lots for parking trucks, with a driveway curb cut on Michigan Avenue, for which the Society hired an attorney at staggering expense to oppose. This past year, the Department came down in opposition to expansion of the original 1971 City Council variance, in regard to the issues surrounding the trailer. Now that's progress.

On June 6th, last year, the Columbus Dispatch broke the biggest story ever written on Harrison West proclaiming, "Lawman wins back neighborhood for some North Side homeowners," on the front page of the Metro section. The story reported how 60 homeowners had contributed \$5 a week, since April, to hire a Columbus police officer to work special duty patrolling their neighborhood as a last resort to combat problems stemming from some bar patrons. In the two months, since he began patrolling the Dispatch stated the officer, "has tallied 35 arrests, 16 citations, 217 impoundments and 471 parking tickets. Now most of his time is spent handling problems of disorderly conduct."

In July, the Alliance for Cooperative Justice, a City of Columbus agency, in recognition of the issues facing residents

November Election Contested

By Jim Slone for Harrison West News

On November 8 the neighborhood voted by a large majority against Issues 46B and 47C. The vote count was 110 for and 144 against on Issue 46B and 115 for and 142 against on Issue 47C. These counts include the absentee ballots. The vote made Precinct 33-I dry. The issues were worded to allow the sale of liquor, wine, and beer by the glass and off premises. Since the issues failed the sale of alcohol is not permitted within the precinct. Zeno's and Da'Cota's (formerly known as Rosco's) are the establishments affected by the vote.

There was an Election Contest Petition filed in the Franklin County Common Pleas Court to have ballot issue Nos. 46 and 47 (the vote to make the precinct dry) annulled. Mr. James B. Kennedy Jr. and Ms. Deborah Rambo-Foley filed the petition on December 6. This is the last day on which the petition could have been filed. The petition names the Franklin County Board of Elections, the Ohio Department of Liquor Control, and Mary Funk as Respondents and Contestees.

The petition was signed by 25 people; the minimum number of people needed to present such a petition according to Ohio Revised Code §3515.08, *et seq.* However, five of the petitioners have sworn an affidavit stating that they were misled as to the contents of the petition.

Please see **CONTESTED ELECTION** on page 6

Please see
1994 IN REVIEW on page 6

SUBMITTED BY HWS SECRETARY KEVIN ROUCH

Harrison West Society Minutes for Thursday, December 8, 1994

The meeting was called to order by President Craig Copeland.

The first topic of discussion was the proposed Constitutional changes concerning membership in the Harrison West Society and the dues structure associated with membership (which changes were described in the December 1994 edition of the *Harrison West News*):

1. There was concern from the floor concerning the proposal to have a requirement that members be of good character and of good standing in the community. Those speaking were wary of the standards to be used for that requirement. Craig stated that he was concerned that there was a possibility of influence being garnered from outside of the community and that this was simply a mechanism to guard against such influence. After more discussion, Craig stated that he was not married to the idea and that he did not now think that it was the best guard against the influence to which he had alluded earlier. The consensus was then that this requirement should be dropped from the proposal.

2. The dues structure was then discussed. By consensus, the categories of membership were modified from those set forth in the earlier proposal to the following:

Individual Members; Senior Members (individuals over the age of 60); Sustaining Members; Patron Members (non-resident property owners, business, churches, and other institutions); and Honorary Members.

The subsequent discussion determined that the dues for each category should be determined by the membership (as was stated in the proposal) and that the new dues structure should be published for a period of 60 days prior to a vote on the change. The initial dues should be published in the January edition of the *Harrison West News* for the January meeting. That initial dues structure, which was approved by unanimous vote of the members present at the meeting, was as follows: Individual Members: \$10; Senior Members: \$5; Sustaining Members: Individuals Giving More than \$10; Patron Members: \$25; Honorary Members: \$0.

3. Craig stated that the official year for the Society should run from May to May so that we can get started this year with enough time for notice and votes on the Constitutional changes.

4. It was the consensus of the membership that the Secretary of the Society should collect membership applications and that the Secretary should decide on behalf of the Executive Board under which category each application should be placed.

The next topic of general discussion was with respect to the contesting of the November vote on the local liquor options. It was pointed out that there was an investigation ongoing by the contesting parties.

Please see **MINUTES** on page 4

Harrison West News

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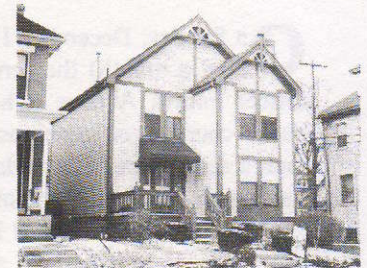
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HWS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Proposed Text Of Article III

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership shall be open to all residents, non-resident property owners, businesses, churches and other institutions in Harrison West. Each member is entitled to one vote. Business, churches and other institutions are limited to one vote. Non-resident property owners are limited to one vote per entity (e.g. corporation, company or partnership) and not one vote per property. Entities that share a common member or relationship shall be considered to have the interests of the whole represented by that one member and are limited to one vote. Members must be present at Society meetings to cast votes; no proxy votes shall be permitted.

1. Individual Memberships are open to those individuals, 18 years or older, interested in the aims and principles of the Society and live in Harrison West.

2. Senior Memberships are open to those individuals, 60 years or older, interested in the aims and principles of the Society and live in Harrison West.

3. Sustaining Memberships, or other similarly named memberships, are open

to those who qualify for Individual or Senior Memberships seeking to contribute to the Society at a greater level.

4. Patron Memberships are open to those non-resident property owners, business, churches and other institutions interested in the aims and principles of the Society and that are located in Harrison West.

5. Honorary Memberships may be conferred by the Society upon persons who have contributed outstanding service to the community or have a substantial interest in the Harrison West neighborhood. Honorary members may attend all meetings, serve on committees in an advisory capacity and participate in discussion, but are not entitled to vote or hold office.

B. Applications and registration renewals shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Society and the Executive Board shall have the right to determine into which membership classification any application or registration renewal belongs.

C. Membership in the Society is to be maintained by regular annual renewal of registration and payment of dues for all members, on May 1, to the Secretary. The dues schedule is to be determined by the membership. Any change in the dues schedule must be presented to the membership, through publication or at a meeting, no less than 60 days before any vote on such change. The Executive Board may waive dues for cause upon request. Applicants for membership in the Society must submit dues with application and shall receive voting privileges sixty (60) days after membership is offered by the Executive Board. For the 1995 election, there shall be not sixty day waiting period for voting privileges if the initial payment of dues is made on or before Thursday, May 11, 1995. Every reference in the constitution to March elections shall be changed to May or advanced one or two months as required in preparation and these last two sentences shall be deleted from the permanent record of the Constitution after their purpose is served.

Seniors, Neighbors Share Christmas Dinner

By Betty Crockpot

Special to Harrison West News

On Sunday, December 18, (and for the second time in less than a month) the seniors who make their home at the former Fourth Avenue School were treated to a stupendous buffet courtesy of generous Harrison West neighbors. More than a score were in attendance. Penny Nichols and Charlene Funk were the event's organizers.

The vast repast of food included deviled eggs and a relish tray provided by Charlene and Orville Funk, while Margaret Lambright provided baked beans. Tim Bledsoe and Rob Harris brought mashed potatoes and Irma Smith provided the terrific ham. Kathy Sherman roasted the enormous turkey. Maryanne Olsen, of Harrison House Bed and Breakfast, brought a unique bread pudding. Penny Nichols said her greens were a first time effort, but they tasted like they were made by a pro. Dwight Phelps provided cheesecake, one of many fabulous desserts.

Among others, we need to thank Slo Bolden for the generous use of her kitchen and Bobby and Brandon Funk for helping with the setup and moving tables and chairs. Helping to brighten an already festive occasion were Irma's grandchildren, Sarah and Ashley; and Penny's granddaughter, Ashley.

A very special thanks to the unsolicited generosity of the teachers at Fifth Avenue Alternative who donated \$70 to help provide gifts. The gifts included coffee mugs, homemade booties (house boots) and handkerchiefs.

Easter is the next scheduled holiday event.

HW Minutes *Continued from page 2*

The next topic concerned the incorporation of the Society. It was pointed out that the incorporation should provide limited liability to the Society and its members and officers.

Next discussed was the buying of trees for the area by Battelle and the need to look for grants to obtain more.

The next topic was the fliers that had been passed out by Jerry Emerick, campus area landlord, concerning the Society's plans to become an historical commission. The fliers were clearly opposed to such plans. Craig noted that members should read the fliers closely and analyze the facts.

Craig reported that Neighbors Improving Community Environment (NICE) was dissolved after the November election.

President Copeland then adjourned the meeting.

A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM

Ken Wightman, Harrison West Realtor

As we enter the new year we can all take pride that Harrison West is emerging as one of the best neighborhoods in Columbus. It has been a long road filled with diversity and much hard work by many.

As a long time resident of Harrison West, I like to think that I have made a contribution through my work as the neighborhood Realtor. I have pressed to raise property values to enhance your home by showcasing the virtues and benefits of our neighborhood.

At the same time I, along with many others, have had to fight against the challenges that have been thrust upon our neighborhood from the expansion of Morretti's, or the high power lines that were to bisect our neighborhood, to the hazardous waste storage at Battelle, and the struggle with neigh-

borhood bars. I am proud to have taken leadership roles in these issues and fought hard for our neighborhood.

Many other Realtors would like to lay claim to Harrison West, but I am the only Realtor who not only works here, but actually lives in Harrison West. Although I have renovated four homes in our historic neighborhoods, the one I choose to live in is right here in Harrison West. I have committed myself to our neighborhood — real estate for me is not just a job, but a way of life, and one that I love.

As we enter the New Year I wish to thank all of you, my neighbors, for your support of my Real Estate business over the years and to thank the *Harrison West News* for using this space to acknowledge a neighborhood business. May we all have a successful 1995, together.

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In Memorium

As with most close knit neighborhoods, ours consists of many long time residents and some fairly new residents. Regardless of their tenure all are our friends in some form. When a neighborhood loses a resident, it brings sadness to the area. We had the misfortune of losing two of our dear residents within a month.

Mr. Ivan King, who lived on Pennsylvania Avenue, passed away on November 30, 1994, having lived here for the past 13 years. He is survived by his wife Vernetta and two children at home.

Mr. Lawrence Loftus, who lived on Harrison Avenue for more than 32 years, also passed away. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, three sons and a daughter.

I know these two true neighbors will

be sadly missed by all neighbors in our area. — *Mary Funk*

Birth Announcement

Tina Dotson is the proud mother of a baby boy born on December 16. Bryce Kameron weighed in at 8 lb., 2½ oz., and was 20¼ inches long. Helen Dotson is Bryce's dotting grandmother.

Kevin C. Rouch
Attorney at Law

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1994 Year in Review *Continued from page 1*

living in proximity to the liquor establishments on Third Avenue, made an award of \$4,850 to the Pennsylvania Neighborhood Coalition to aid the community in crime prevention. Dan Downing did a great job in putting the grant proposal together and Mary Funk got a break from the grinding month after month of weekly door to door collections to sustain the special duty officer.

By the middle of August, the special duty patrol had netted 152 arrests, misdemeanor citations and summons, 359 vehicles had been impounded, and 814 parking tickets were issued. Mary Funk circulated a petition that was certified by the Franklin County Board of Elections to allow the voters to decide for themselves if liquor should be sold by the drink in the neighborhood, Precinct 33-I.

Voters in Precinct 33-I soundly voted their neighborhood dry for the sale of alcohol by the drink in November. Civics class could not have prepared one for the reality; it's not over till the election is appealed and their neighborhood stays wet for as long as that takes.

Just before Christmas, outraged neighbors demonstrated their strong support of Mary Funk to help her refute allegations of submitting fraudulent affidavits to the Franklin County Board of Elections and to uphold the results of the election. The case is now before Judge O'Grady, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas.

As if Mary Funk's plate were not full enough, she initiated a Thanksgiving banquet this past year at the Fourth Avenue School Senior Center. At Christmas, Penny Nichols and Charlene Funk, continued what no doubt will become a Harrison West tradition organizing a holiday celebrations at the Senior Center. They were both a grand time. HWN Editor Dwight Phelps' cheesecakes at the Christmas dinner were reputed by some

to be the best in Harrison West. Here no doubt is another dispute in the making.

Last year Harrison West Society was awarded \$8,000 from the Columbus Foundation for planting trees from Third Avenue to the south this spring. Here is your chance to make a difference where you live in 1995; watch for next month's organizational announcement.

Our neighborhood has turned a corner, but uncertain development still awaits our historic neighborhood. If not 90-foot power poles or potentially inappropriate future development on the vacant lots next our homes, who knows what will be next? How many tractor trailers could the former Moretti's parking lot proposal have held? Now is the time for Harrison West to get the recognition as a residential neighborhood we deserve. We will be better able to protect property values, have more clout with City Council on planning and zoning issues, have more say in preventing illegal conversions to boarding houses, have the ability to ensure that the new buildings are compatible with our neighborhood, and foster appropriate commercial development on our neighborhood streets already zoned commercial, if we join the Historic Resources Commission. We would be joining 11 other protected districts; Old Oaks, Hamilton Park, Bryden Road, East Town Street, Jefferson Avenue, Iuka Ravine, Northwood Park, North Market, New Indianola, Indianola Forest, and Old Beechwood. Now that would really be progress if we had a City agency looking out for our neighborhood for a change.

And if we are lucky, this year we can look forward to Battelle's hazardous waste storage facility, now located in Harrison West, being moved across Fifth Avenue to Dennison Place if the Hazardous Waste Facilities Board approves the relocation plan.

Contested Election

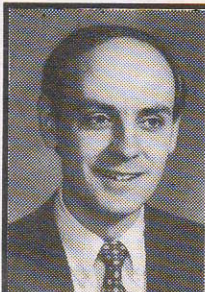
Continued from page 1

Two of the people, who could not read or write, relied on the person circulating the petition as to its content. They have stated they were told that the petition's only purpose was to keep the bars open for 30 days. Further, had they known that the purpose was to contest the election they would not have signed the petition. All five have signed affidavits stating that they were misled about the contents of the petition. The Election Contest petition alleges that the ballot petition was presented to voters in a manner inconsistent with the law. In addition, the petition alleges that the affidavits submitted were fraudulent because they were not made under oath and were not signed or acknowledged in the presence of the notary named thereon. Finally, the petition alleges that the absentee ballots cast were not marked by the voter and were marked contrary to the voter's intent.

However, the Board of Election already ruled that the ballot petition was valid and authorized the issues to be on the ballot for the November 8 election.

Attorney Paul Stehura has been retained to represent the respondent Mary Funk in the petition. He has filed a response to the petition denying the allegations and asserting that the Franklin Common Pleas Court has no jurisdiction since the decisions of the Board of Election are final according to statute. In addition, the Response alleges that the Contestors have failed to get the proper number of signatures for the petition and have obtained some signatures "through fraudulent misrepresentation." The Response asks for the dismissal of the Election Contest Petition, the election results affirmed, and all costs, including attorney fees, be paid by the Contestors of the vote.

Ms. Rambo-Foley was asked to comment for this article but declined.



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