

# INSIDE: TRAFFIC UP 45% ON NEIL AVE BY 2004

Community Policing Program Presented by  
Director Tom Rice,  
Dept. of Public Safety

Thursday May 8, 7:30 PM GODMAN GUILD

SOCIETY MEETS THURSDAY, MAY 8, 7:30 PM  
Safety Director Tom Rice

Community Policing in Harrison West  
Alley Cleanup - Planning - SAT. May 10  
River Cleanup Planning - SAT. May 31

Elections Thursday, May 8  
GODMAN GUILD 2ND & DELAWARE AVENUES

## Harrison West News

May 1997

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

VOL. 8 NO.5

### "All politics are local" Stadium/Arena Vote On May 6th

No one issue could have a greater effect on Harrison West than Issue One, when voters are asked countywide to pass judgment on the stadium/arena proposal May 6. The Board of Elections estimates the vote to draw only 21% of the registered voters in Franklin County. Central city neighborhood voters could decide the outcome.

At its last meeting, the Society resolved to oppose the stadium/arena project as it is currently proposed. The concerns expressed were that the effects of noise, traffic and parking could be expensive and difficult to fix (See related text on pages 5 & 6).

Franklin County Convention Facility Executive Director Bill Jennison represented proponents for the stadium/arena. Mark Higdon, Co-Chair of the grassroots organization Voters Against Stadium Taxes represented the opponents.

Discussion at the meeting included the potential stadium effects on Harrison West. The outdoor facility's use as a major rock concert venue is described on handbills distributed in the Short North along High St. and the OSU campus.

(Continued on Page 6)



### PRESERVATION BEGINS AT HOME

Preservation Week May 11-17, 1997  
National Trust for Historic Preservation

### "Preservation Begins At Home" Is A Call To Activism

Whether you became interested in preservation by touring a restored home or by coming to live in an historic Victorian in Harrison West, Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, has much to say of interest to you. He'll be speaking on Sept. 24, 1997, as part of the lecture series "Growing Inward," in part sponsored by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation. For further information call 221-0227.

See Preservation article on Page 9

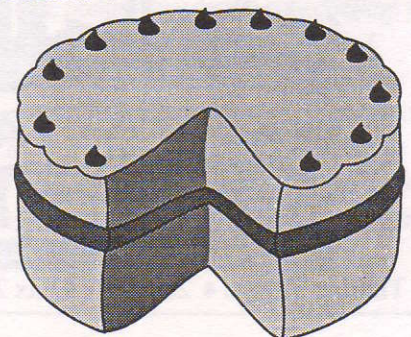
Good Food, Good Times

### Membership Potluck is Sunday, May 18

The First Annual Harrison West Membership Potluck will be Sunday, May 18, 5 PM at 1219 Harrison Avenue. Call Maddy Weisz at 291-2285 to tell her you're coming and to sign up for a category of food.

Whether you're a long-time Harrison West Society member, a new member, or even just thinking of becoming a member, please join us for good food, great conversation, and outstanding neighborhood networking.

It may be that this membership year is the most exciting ever for Harrison West. You know what we've been saying for months now, membership in the Harrison West Society is the way to give yourself muscle when it comes to our neighborhood. If you want a say in Harrison West and what goes on here, better join now. Complete the Membership Form, send your check, and be counted. ♦



# HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES April 10, 1997

Submitted by: Joe Spinelli

Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m.

## NEW BUSINESS

President Craig Copeland announced that the meeting's agenda for the evening would be a presentation and a question/answer session regarding the proposed Stadium/Arena Sales Tax that voters are being asked to vote on in May.

Tax proponents Bill Jennison, Director of the Franklin County Visitors and Convention Bureau, and Bill Welch, Citizens for Downtown's Future, gave their presentations as to why the Stadium/Arena Sales Tax would benefit Columbus.

Tax opponents, Mark Higdin and Joe Motil, were with Voters Against Stadium Taxes (VAST). Their presentation explored why the Stadium/Arena Sales Tax is not good for Columbus or our neighborhood.

The Q & A session was long and loud, with vigorous discussion by the

residents and non-residents at the meeting. Traffic and noise problems were discussed at great length, with most people concerned about the negative impact of Stadium noise and traffic on the neighborhood.

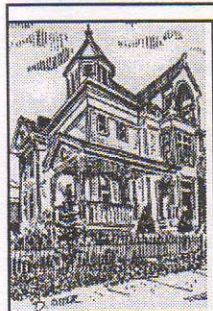
Residents who thought the Stadium would positively impact our neighborhood were equally emphatic, though they could not give any substantive reasons why the Stadium would be positive for Harrison West, other than "it would increase our property values."

Channel 4 filmed part of the presentation and the ensuing question and answer session, and used the film as background for their 11 PM news article on the stadium issue.

Joe Spinelli made a motion for the Harrison West Society to adopt a Resolution to oppose the Stadium/Arena Issue as it currently stands. Pastor Morris seconded. The motion passed by a substantial majority.

Pastor Morris motioned, Steve Tway seconded, to pay the Harrison West operating expenses. Passed.

Meeting adjourned  
9:00 p.m. ♦



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## Harrison West News

is the monthly publication of the Harrison West Society, Inc.

### Officers

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#### VICE PRESIDENT

Richard Morris 861-3003

#### SECRETARY

Joe Spinelli 294-3637

#### TREASURER

John Cowin 291- 7063

### Editorial and Advertising

#### Information:

Editor Veda Gilp 299-6877

Editorial and Advertising Deadlines:

Third Friday of the month preceding publication month.

All ads are made in PC Pagemaker 5.0. Send your ad on floppy disk, as hard art, or a sketch showing design. Please send originals of all photos and logos. These originals will not be returned. Ads are 3.25 inches wide by a multiple of 2 inches deep.

Ad rates 3 X 12 X

2 col inches \$ 30 \$ 25

4 col inches \$ 60 \$ 55

6 col inches \$ 90 \$ 85

8 col inches \$120 \$115

full page \$300 \$290

HWS Notice Tags monthly, 3 month min. \$ 75

Send to: Veda Gilp, Editor, 996 Pennsylvania Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201, 299-6877 evening, 444-4532 days, fax 444-1710.

Terms Payment for ALL ads is due by the 15th of the month the ad runs. Ads not paid within 30 days will be dropped until payment is made. Prepayment for 12 months earns the gratitude of the Harrison West Society. Make checks payable to Harrison West Society and send to Harrison West Society, 1269 Michigan, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Ads which are created by the Harrison West News are the property of the Harrison West News and cannot be used in other publications.

The Harrison West News reserves the right to decline any advertising which does not meet editorial and advertising guidelines.

The Harrison West News is produced by an all-volunteer staff, and while accuracy is paramount, the reader is advised the Harrison West News or the Harrison West Society, Inc., is not responsible for errors.

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Harrison West Society meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Godman Guild, 7:30 pm.

Society meets Thursday,  
May 8, 7:30, Godman Guild

# More IMPACT Than You Thought Possible for only \$10 and some of your spare time

So you think the Harrison West Society does wonderful things for the neighborhood.

Your neighbor thinks the Society is headed so far in the wrong direction, it won't see light in this Century.

Or maybe it's the other way around.

You both should join the Society. You, so you can help the HWS proceed and succeed with its plans.

Your neighbor should join to lend counter arguments to the Society business and to try to bring the Society back onto the path he or she thinks is right.

The impact the Society has on our neighborhood is the desire of the majority of the membership. If you're not an active member, your voice just doesn't get heard because the Society doesn't know what you want.

If you don't join, you can't influence the direction the neighborhood goes. If you don't join, you don't get to participate and vote on the most pressing issues facing the neighborhood. If you don't join, you'll be a bystander in your own neighborhood.

Join the Harrison West Society right now. ♦

# Harrison West Society Election May 8

HWS elections of officers will take place at the meeting on Thursday, May 8 at 7:30 PM.

Ken Wightman, Chair of the Nominations Committee, announced the slate of candidates. Running unopposed are Craig Copeland for President, Maddy Weisz for Vice President, John Cowin for Treasurer, and Joe Spinelli for Secretary.

You must be a member in good standing of the Harrison West Society to be eligible to vote.

Harrison West is experiencing a revival that all of us can be proud of and excited about. Now's the time for everyone to get involved with the Society and work to keep the neighborhood moving forward. ♦

## I Want to Join the Harrison West Society

### Sign Me Up for All the IMPACT I Can Handle!

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your appropriate contribution to Harrison West Society, Membership Committee, 1219 Harrison Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Membership dues are paid annually.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Select one:  Individual \$10  Senior (60 and over) \$5  Sustaining \$25

Patron (Business) \$30

1997 Membership Year

## Welcome New Advertisers

Thanks to these new advertisers for supporting the Harrison West Society: Aniara, an awarding-winning team of hair stylists on 3rd Avenue, and the King Avenue Church on King and Neil.

Society meets Thurs. May 8, 7:30,  
Godman Guild

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Stop in and see our newly renovated office.

## FREE BAGELS

WHEN YOU JOIN HWS

Your membership includes a card that gets you 19 free bagels from the new Manhattan Bagels in Thurber Village

# Replanting the Harrison West Park

A ton of purple coneflowers, a truckload of daisies, and a Spring's worth of daffodils exited the now-defunct park at 3rd and Perry and put down new roots at the Harrison West Park at 4th and Michigan, thanks to a hard-working crew of Harrison Westers.

On April 4, our tireless President, **Craig Copeland**, and his crew of **Rob Wagner**, Earthcare Landscape; **Del Smith**, Chair of the Park Committee; **Stan Huck**, **Mary Funk** and others dug up and replanted what they conservatively estimated to be about \$800 worth of flowers from the former park, which had been a joint effort between the Martha Walker Garden Club, Battelle and the Society.

The site, on Battelle Memorial Institute land, was renovated as part of Battelle's parking lot expansion.

Battelle's expressed plans are to create a different type of pocket park in the space. They will supply their own land-

scaping plants and materials. Joining the newly replanted flowers in the Harrison West Park will be about \$400 worth of pygmy barberry shrubs, to be selected and planted by Earthcare Landscape's Rob Wagner. The Harrison West Society will buy the shrubs.◆

## Scioto Sees 204 Different Bird Species Ever Year

### Riverfront Walking Tours

Join the Columbus Audubon Society, Columbus Recreation & Parks and Metro Parks in observing International Migratory Bird Day, a recognition of neotropical migrant birds and their habitats on Saturday, May 10, 1997.

In Columbus, there is no better place than the Greenlawn Dam Area of the Scioto River to see a wide variety of neotropical birds and no one knows more about this area than Adam Goloda, who has documented 204 different spe-

cies of birds in this one site. Renowned local birder, Goloda will be leading the 7 AM and 9 AM tours. The river represents one of the most important habitats for migrants: the riparian corridor flyway for birds that have been wintering in the tropics and are now returning to Ohio and points north.

Mr. Goloda is one of the leading proponents of the Urban Oasis Coalition, a local grassroots organization seeking the preservation and restoration of natural habitat along the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. The Urban Oasis Coalition also includes members of the Harrison West Society, Victorian Village Society, and Dennison Place Association, among other neighborhood civic organizations in proximity to the rivers.

The series of guided walks will begin every half-hour in the Lower Scioto Park off West Whittier Street from 7 AM to 9 AM. The 8 AM walk will be specially for beginners. Participants should meet at the kiosk between the boat ramps at the desired time. Walks will occur rain or shine. For more information contact the Columbus Audubon Society, 451-4591.◆

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More Lines and Broken Promises from the City

## Power Lines Marching Through Harrison West Again

They may be dangerous because of the excessive electromagnetic fields they generate. They certainly are ugly. They're not carrying our power. They don't even belong to the real power company -- Columbus Southern/AEP.

So why are these industrial electrical lines carrying 7,200 volts in clusters of 4 lines held in place with an ugly Hendrix insulator being installed on Michigan and Dennison Avenues?

Because the City of Columbus thinks of Harrison West as a dirty spot in the middle of the road to someplace better and more important.

In this case, the more important place is the OSU substation.

Here's the background. A few years ago, Harrison West fought the City Division of Electricity to keep it from running 138,000 volt high tension power transmission lines on 90 foot poles through our neighborhood.

Residents didn't want to live with the excessive electromagnetic fields generated by the lines. They also felt the 90 foot high industrial poles were totally out of place in the heart of an historic neighborhood.

Harrison West residents mobilized. Get an old timer to tell you about the TV cameras in the neighborhood.

Because of pressure from residents and City Council, the Division of Electricity finally agreed not to install those industrial power lines and to keep residents informed of any and all plans for the Historic District.

The Division of Electricity has decided to ignore this agreement.

Victorian Village resident Kelly Allen reports that he contacted the City Division of Electricity about this latest intrusion. The City Division of Electricity expressed a total lack of concern about previous discussions and agreements on the power line issue.

Mr. Allen then fired off a memo to City Council members in part stating, "Many of us in the Near Northside Historic District find it ironic during this time when certain Council members would like us to accept their assurances that they will not allow a stadium/arena complex to have an adverse impact on our neighborhoods from traffic, parking and noise—that Council is not taking a more active role in helping us deal with the latest assault on our area from the Division of Electricity...."

If you are disturbed by this turn of events, (and you should be), call Terry Sherburn's answering machine, 443-5675, to organize against these new high-tension power lines and public servants who seem to serve only themselves. Leave your name and telephone number. And if you have E-mail, send your name, telephone and fax and address to: timwagner@iwaynet.net.

**Society meets  
Thursday,  
May 8, 7:30,  
Godman Guild**

## Olentangy TOFT

### Adopt-A-River Program

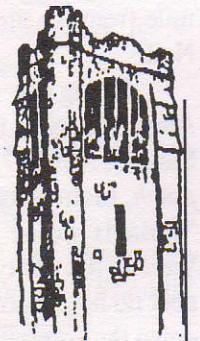
This Thursday, The Harrison West Society will consider adopting the Olentangy River between King Avenue and the confluence with the Scioto for the purposes of cleaning up the riverbanks.

Toft is a term designating a homestead; since the area in question is part of our home, it seemed appropriate. The Adopt-A-River Program is run by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Arguments for and against the proposal are welcome and expected! We must ensure that enough people are interested to carry through with a two-mile riverbank cleanup twice a year.

If the Society decides to go forward with the project, a tentative date for our first cleanup of the river is Saturday, May 31, 1997.

Suggestions and questions can be directed to Guy Sheaffer at 294-7642. ♦



## THE LITTLE DOOR

*Inside the stone church at the corner of King and Neil, there is a small door. If one is not looking for it, that door may not be seen.*

*Each Sunday morning, Jeff or Pete or someone from the neighborhood opens that door and begins to climb the steep steps to the first level of the bell tower.*

*Once there, he or she will pull the large wooden handles, each a different note, and each attached by a long leather strap to one of the bells high in the tower of the church.*

*The one ringing the bells on Sunday morning is really calling the neighborhood to worship.*

*Stop by and experience the bell tower. You may want to become a ringer, perhaps to stay and worship with your neighbors. At King Avenue, there is a place for everyone.*

**KING AVENUE CHURCH  
CORNER OF KING AND NEIL  
WORSHIP 10:45 EACH SUNDAY**

# Stadium/Arena is our local issue

(Continued from Page 1)

Seating for the large scale concerts is planned to be 40,000 persons, according to the Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority Work Group Report, page 60.

## Polaris Still a Bad Neighbor

Last month, the Harrison West News reported that Polaris neighbors are still sending letters to the Columbus City Attorney asking for relief from the noise, complaining that the concert music carries into their homes two miles away during the spring, summer and fall outdoor concert season. Harrison West's northern boundary, Fifth Avenue, is about one mile from the proposed stadium site on Neil.

Living near the 20,000 seat Polaris Amphitheater is front page news. In the Sunday, April 27, 1997, *Columbus Dispatch*, Metro section, the headline reads "Polaris noise hits sour note with Westerville - City officials say they expect no help from Columbus in turning down the volume on concerts."

The story begins, "As the Polaris Amphitheater fires up for another concert season, residents of neighboring subdivisions are starting their annual campaign to turn down the volume."

As one Polaris neighbor told the *Harrison West News*, when asked if the windows on his house rattled from the concert noise, "It's not the windows that bother me, how about the pictures vibrating on the walls? It's the sound checks of the bands setting up for an evening concert, that start at 12 noon and go on through the afternoon that are really annoying."

## 61,000 seats-3050 parking spaces

The 61,000 seat stadium/arena proposal provides just 3050 new parking spaces, mostly for the use of "Preferred Seat Holders, coaching staff, VIP's and others." See page 35 of the Work Group Report.

## Central City Neighborhoods Oppose Stadium/Arena Proposal

The Harrison West Society is joined by the Victorian Village Society, Victorian Village Commission, Dennison Place Association, University Area Commission and the Council of Historic Neighborhoods in opposing the current proposal.

## Suburban Newspapers Opposed

On April 24, the *Suburban News Publications* joined our neighborhoods in opposing Issue One. The chain includes *The Upper Arlington News* and *The German Village News*. Central city-oriented newspapers *Columbus Alive* and *The Other Paper* have declined to support the issue, also, citing poor planning, among other problems. ♦

### Resolution of the Harrison West Society Regarding the Proposed Stadium/Arena Project on the Historic Ohio Penitentiary Site

WHEREAS, there has been no impact study of the stadium/arena project and its effects on downtown and the surrounding historic neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, the public is being asked to vote on the project before it has been designed and before budgets for impact remediation have been developed; and,

WHEREAS, there have been no definite design or plan to incorporate the five most historic Penitentiary buildings in the project; and,

WHEREAS, the design of the Spring-Sandusky Interchange (FRA-670-1.25) was completed in 1981 and is inadequate to handle the high volume of traffic that will be created by a stadium and an arena on the historic Penitentiary site; and,

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods affected by the project had repeatedly, over the past two years, asked to be included in the planning process; and,

WHEREAS, a sales tax to fund this venture has a disproportionate impact on the many low-income and fixed-income taxpayers in the downtown neighborhoods and all of Franklin County;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Harrison West Society opposes the stadium/arena project as it is currently proposed.

Passed April 10, 1997,

Joe Spinelli, Secretary to the Harrison West Society

Harrison West Society Elections  
Thursday, May 8  
7:30 PM  
Godman Guild

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## Victorian Village Society Opposes Stadium/Arena

The Victorian Village Society held its regular April meeting at Westminster-Thurber Tower at the corner of Neil and Goodale. The meeting room at the 10-story high-rise condominium building which would overlook the proposed stadium was attended by about 200 people in a standing-room-only four hour question and answer session.

Sound from the stadium's concerts and other proposed events, including motorsports, were chief among the concerns of many of the residents, who individually own their condominiums at the high-rise.

Stadium proponents receiving a barrage of skeptical questions included chief spokesman Doug Kridler and public officials including Franklin County Convention Facilities Authority Executive Director Bill Jennison, the Mayor's

Chief of Staff Richard Browning, City Public Service Director Tom Merritt and the Trade and Development Department's Kathy Kerr.

State Representative Amy Salerno was in the audience, asking for assurances from the officials for minimum traffic impacts from the stadium/arena complex on the residential neighborhoods.

Another questioner thought it was unconscionable that the stadium would be built by the year 2000 and yet the Spring-Sandusky freeway project would not be completed until 2002.

After three hours, the V.V. Society took a short recess, then returned to pass the resolution below. ♦

## Neighborhood Clean Up May 10

Next Saturday is the Citywide Neighborhood Cleanup. In Harrison West, Mary Funk is running our efforts. She's looking for block cleanup captains to mobilize their individual blocks to clean alley and street.

If you have not been contacted by your block cleanup captain, call Mary at 291-9545 for information.

Last year, our Alley Cleanup Group scoured four blocks. This year, with all of us working on our own block, we should be able to do even better. If you don't have your block organized, do it now.


So get out to your alley at 9 AM on Saturday, May 10 and work for a cleaner neighborhood. ♦

## Junteenth Festival Has the Blues...


and rythm, jazz and hip-hop to entertain you June 14 and 15 at Franklin Park. Call 470-0229 for info.




### Resolution of the Victorian Village Society Regarding the Proposed Stadium/Arena Project on the Historic Ohio Penitentiary Site


Because there has been no comprehensive traffic study, no noise study, and no neighborhood impact study, no one knows how the stadium/arena complex will affect the vitality of downtown, the Short North, and the historic neighborhoods. Moreover, there is no evidence that funds will be available to remedy any negative effects revealed by future studies. In short, the lack of information and the number of unanswered questions require that we oppose the stadium/arena complex as currently proposed. Passed April 17th, 1997.



**The Helpful People**



 Susan Dworkin 538-5297	 John Miller 538-5270	 Jan G. Looman 538-5274
 Mike Moreland 538-5150	 Peg Monigold 538-5774	 Mary Raysa 538-5118



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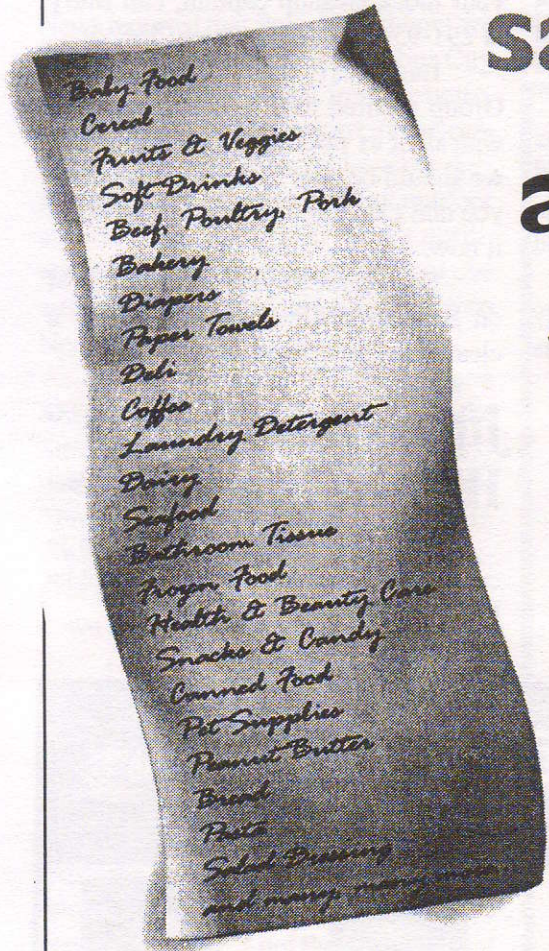
## **Custom Meats,**

## **Deli, Wines**

## and Beer.

# **BIG BEAR**

on Neil at Goodale





Preservation Week May 11-17, 1997

## “Preservation Begins At Home” Is A Call To Activism

*From Richard Moe, President, National Trust for Historic Preservation*

The 1997 Preservation Week theme, “Preservation Begins at Home,” celebrates the role of historic preservation in saving and enhancing the buildings where we live.

For many people, tours of restored homes offer a first introduction to the very concept of historic preservation in saving and enhancing the buildings where we live. For others, renovating or maintaining their own older home—whether an apartment building or a farm house, an urban row house or a suburban bungalow—represents the first step towards hands-on involvement in preservation. And for still others, the preservation of older residential, particularly in inner-city areas blighted by dis-investment and the impact of sprawl, is a remarkably effective tool for providing

affordable housing and bringing new life to historic neighborhoods.

“Preservation Begins at Home” is also a call to activism. Implicit in the theme is the notion that our communities—the places where we live and work—are extensions of our homes and are worthy of our best efforts to fight threats that can destroy them or diminish their livability. Every community, whether its history is measured in centuries or decades, has landmark buildings and neighborhoods that help define its character. If we are to be successful in saving these special places, we must be vigilant in identifying threats to their continued existence and imaginative in developing strategies to keep them alive. We must also take an active, informed role in the discussions and decisions that shape the future of the communities that we call home.

Since the real work of preservation happens at the grassroots level, our hometowns provide the best setting for celebrating our accomplishments. Use

the theme “Preservation Begins at Home” as an opportunity to highlight preservation’s role in enhancing the appearance and livability of residential areas in your own community and lay the foundation for an even greater role in the future.

Don’t miss the opportunity to hear Mr. Moe on Sept. 24, 1997, as part of the lecture series “Growing Inward,” in part sponsored by the Columbus Landmarks Foundation. For further information call 221-0227. ♦

**Society meets Thursday,  
May 8, 7:30, Godman Guild**



**St. Francis of Assisi  
Roman Catholic  
Church**

(in Victorian Village)  
386 Buttles Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
299-5781

**WEEKEND MASSES**

Saturday: 4 p.m. (Tridentine (Latin) Mass)  
Sunday: 9 and 11 a.m.  
Korean Community: 1 p.m.

**MASSES DURING THE WEEK**

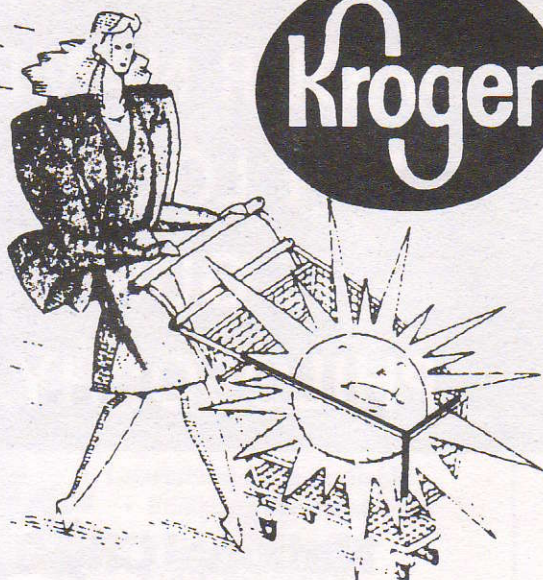
Monday through Friday: 6 p.m.

**HOLIDAY MASSES** Vigil: 6 p.m.  
HOLIDAY: 12 noon and 6 p.m.;  
7:30 p.m. (Tridentine Mass)

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3 p.m.; by appointment

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



**4:30 PM TO 6:30 PM  
ALL CHECK OUT  
LANES OPEN  
MONDAY THRU  
FRIDAY**

**AND THAT’S NO LINE!**

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD KROGER FOOD & DRUG AT 7TH AND HIGH**

# Losers, Urban Sprawl and Reclaiming Our Neighborhoods

Here's a book that might interest you in Harrison West, considering the stadium/arena on our doorstep. You can get the book from the Northside Branch of the Columbus Public Library at 1423 North High Street.

*Major League Losers: The Real Cost of Sports and Who's Paying for It* by Mark S. Rosentraub. Basic Books: Harper Collins \$27.50

**Mark Rosentraub**, an urban policy professor at Indiana doesn't soft-pedal his theory that sports teams and their owners are taking local governments for a ride costing tens of millions of dollars. Playing off voters' emotional ties to a beloved team has created "...a welfare system...in this country that transfers hundreds of millions of dollars from taxpayers to wealthy investors and their extraordinarily well-paid employees".

### Arena or No Arena?

Rosentraub has his own new sports arenas in Indiana to view and compare with similar cities such as St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati and Columbus. His verdict: even with the 17,000 seat Market Square Arena and the new \$18 million Victory Field baseball park, Indianapolis didn't fare any better than the aforementioned cities without sports arenas.

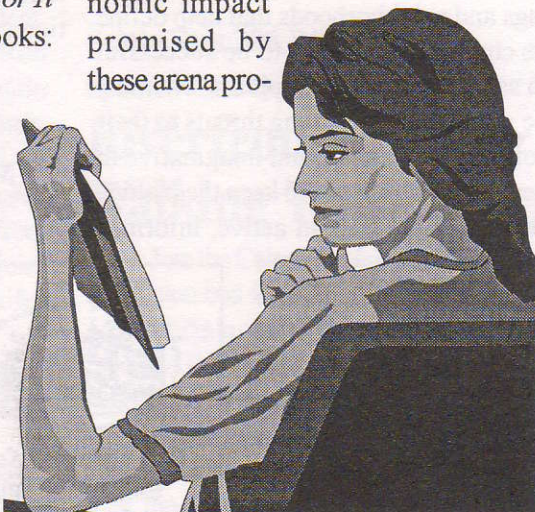
### Have Cash, Will Buy Team

In Rosentraub's view, sports franchises are much wealthier than they admit, and a university has a far greater impact on an urban economy than a sports team. His solution: let anybody with cash start their own sports team. He thinks Major League Baseball can

support 35 teams (7 more) and pro football could easily handle another 12 (for a total of 42).

### Stadium Economic Impact Inflated

Scheduling fiascoes and finding all this new team talent aside, Rosentraub makes a valid point criticizing the economic impact promised by these arena pro-



moters. He charges that the monies promised are inflated by as much as tenfold.

### Out of One Pocket, Into Another

He also points out that money spent at the arena would instead have been spent at the neighborhood movies or restaurant. Team players spend their enormous salaries elsewhere. Jobs: after the arena's completion, how

many pop-and-peanut sellers need be hired?

### Five Case Studies

Whatever your views on the proposed arena, *Major League Losers* is quite pertinent to Columbus residents. Although it's easy to become bogged down with local concerns such as arena parking (or lack of it) and the impact of increased traffic on Victorian Village and Harrison West, Rosentraub brings a focus to the big picture by citing five case studies and critiquing team owners' economic projections. A must-read for everybody. ♦

Society meets Thursday,  
May 8, 7:30, Godman Guild

**NATIONAL  
MAY BE PART  
OF OUR NAME,  
BUT LOCAL  
IS OUR  
PHILOSOPHY.**

**National City.**

# Joint Neighborhoods Traffic Committee Report

We have determined that the best long-term solution to the traffic problems besetting our neighborhoods is to resolve the design flaw of the future I-670. This deficiency is the inability of the planned system to adequately convey traffic between the Central Business District (CBD) and SR-315.

## Severe Congestion

We believe that severe congestion will occur at the many signaled intersections of this route and thereby encourage motorists to travel north on Neil and Michigan Avenues in search of a quicker throughway. We feel that the designers of this system failed to accurately assess traffic loads on these neighborhood streets for the following reasons:

## Booming Counties

For the six years from 1990-1996, Delaware County was the fastest growing county in the state, experiencing a 24% growth rate. During this same period, Union County grew 17%. Commuters from these two counties rely heavily on SR-315 for their daily transportation needs.

## Intense development on Olentangy River Road

The entire strip from Third Avenue to Kinnear Road is undergoing total rejuvenation, and the Lennox Center has proven to be wildly popular. This adds totally unanticipated traffic to the surrounding street grid.

## Access to OSU Docs

The quality of OSU's medical center has generated rewarding demand for its services. However, patients experience baffling confusion when trying to find their way there. OSU has hired an international consultant to help solve this problem. Sasaki and Associates concludes that without the two additional SR-315 ramps, OSU's access problems are unsolvable. Currently much of this traffic travels through the neighborhoods.

## Feds Asked to Reasses Traffic

Endeavoring to address these oversights, the committee requested the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to update the 1981 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for this project.

## Feds Declined to Help

On April 18, 1997, FHWA decided to ignore our concerns and the antiquity of the EIS. While many of the issues covered in an EIS are outside the scope of our concerns, traffic impact on this residential Historic District is a critical element.

## Can't Trust the City to Help

We consider that the City's assurances that post-construction traffic in our neighborhoods will improve are without merit and completely unsubstantiated.

## Neil Traffic 22,100 Daily in 6 Years

For instance, the Ohio Department of Transportation projects traffic on Neil Avenue in the year 2004 to be 22,100. The 1995 construction detour levels were measured to be 15,200. This is a 45% increase and cannot be characterized as an improvement.

The population census of the Near Northside Historic District has remained stable from 1980 to 1990. Therefore, the only source of these existing and projected traffic increases is from vehicles traveling through the District because of deficiencies in the surrounding freeway system.

## Asking City for Help Again

While we proceed independently with the FHWA, we have requested the City's assistance in acquiring data and analyses of that data regarding traffic throughout this reconstructed freeway system and the neighborhood streets of the Near Northside Historic District.

## Facts About the Roads and Traffic

Prior to construction, the primary route for the traffic between the Central Business District (CBD) and SR-315 was Spring and Long Streets and the associated ramps. On June 21, 1997, these ramps will be permanently closed. After completion of the project, this traffic will be expected to traverse this distance between the CBD and SR-315 via Neil Avenue and the Goodale-Nationwide Connector, otherwise known as Segment B-2. Prior to considerations of the stadium/arena, the plan included Segment B-4 which essentially was a ramp between Front Street and Neil Avenue at B-2.

Trying to provide alternatives to Segment B-4, the City and MORPC commissioned a study that has come to be known as the Cambridge Report.

Unfortunately, the study examined traffic flows at a very limited number of intersections and, therefore, failed to produce a comprehensive view of the surrounding street system. It did not show the impact on the streets of the Near Northside Historic District.

To understand how these design alternatives will affect these neighborhoods, traffic counts and corresponding analyses are necessary at 16 intersections which were not included in the study and two intersections only partially analyzed.

Furthermore, to better understand the Cambridge Report and to more fully understand traffic movements between the CBD and SR-315, an in-depth look at eight critical intersections is necessary.

Only with this information can this highway system and its impact be fully understood. Hopefully, there will be adequate time to design and implement solutions for serious deficiencies.


Of particular concern is the movement of heavy trucks to the A.C. Humko plant at First Avenue and Perry Street from southbound SR-315. Every year, 13,000 of these 65,000 pound trucks arrive at this plant. We have requested an analysis for efficiently routing these vehicles to the plant and keeping them from wandering through the neighborhood streets.

## Return the Spring Street Ramp

Finally, one additional option needs to be studied. Since the most severe traffic peak is in the afternoon, rebuilding the Spring Street entrance ramp to northbound SR-315 would solve a host of problems. We have requested some preliminary design concepts and associated cost estimates.

To learn more and to voice your concern about needed traffic planning, attend the May 15 Victorian Village meeting to hear Public Services Director Tom Merritt on this issue. For more info, call **Tim Wagner** at 291-3337. ♦

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