

Inside: Doctors Hospital About to Become Cost Cutters Specialist?

Get the info on Doctors Hospital buyout
August 21, 7 PM, Goodale Park Shelter House
Cathy Levine, Coalition for Community Health Care,
addresses how these changes will affect Harrison West.

SOCIETY MEETS THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 7:30 PM
River Cleanup briefing by neighborhood waterman Guy
Sheafer.

Harrison West News

August 1997

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

VOL. 8 NO.8

Neighborhood Event Was Wonderful

Park Rededication Earns A+ From Guests and Neighbors

The Harrison West Park rededication brought about 100 people out on a beautiful -- and hot! -- Saturday afternoon on August 10. Neighbors strolled in from all around Harrison West and Victorian Village to share a powerful moment of community.

Harrison West was honored by some heavy-hitters, including Council President Michael Coleman, Councilmen Matt Habash and Rich Sensenbrenner, Battelle Director of Community and Education Relations Barb Sills, and City Recreation and Parks Director Gary Fenton.

Barb Sills had some particularly kind words about the park restoration and Harrison West. "I personally was delighted to see so many people come together to celebrate the rededication of the Harrison West Park. It reminded me of my childhood days when people often gathered in a similar setting in my home town for an ice cream social, family reunion, church picnic, or just plain fellowship and fun. The community park always served as the ideal place to meet.

(Continued on Page 5)

You're Needed at the Harrison West River Clean Up Saturday, August 23 9 AM

This is your chance to show the City that Harrison West can put a bigger River Cleanup crew together than any other neighborhood in town!

You'll be cleaning up the neighborhood stretch of the Olentangy from Third to King on Saturday, August 23. Battelle promises that Team Battelle's River & Stream Beautification Team will be working, too. Battelle has generously offered to provide lunch for everyone.

Meet at the east side of the Fifth Avenue bridge at 9 AM. Columbus Recreation & Parks will supply some canoes and boats so people don't have to wade. Several of the hard workers from the Brewery District cleanup in July make a Saturday AM walk along the river sound downright fun. Contact Guy Sheafer at 294-7643 to sign on.



HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES July 10, 1997

Submitted by: Joe Spinelli

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

NEW BUSINESS

A presentation was given by Bill Coursin from the Urban Infrastructure Recovery Capital Improvement Project. He explained the process Harrison West Society must take to obtain funds to "improve areas that are in the public right of way." Fixing our alleys and getting decorative street lights were major improvements discussed.

The Planning and Development Committee for this project includes: Veda Gilp, Frank Petruziello, John Cowan, Steve Tway, Maddy Weisz, Pastor Richard Morris, Mary Funk, Scott Musuraca, and Craig Copeland. A motion was made by Steve Tway and seconded by Joe Spinelli to accept the slate of committee members. Motion passed. First meeting will be held on August 7. Anyone interested in attending the meeting should contact Craig Copeland.

The approval of last month's minutes was tabled until the August meeting. Several errors were noticed, and the Secretary Spinelli will provide corrected copies at the August meeting.

The treasurer reported that Harrison West's current funds are \$4,562.00.

Membership Committee Chair Maddy Weisz handed out a list of new members to everyone at the meeting.

Maddy Weisz, Co-Chair of the Harrison West Park Rededication Committee, announced that the event is ready to go. The stone commemorating the rededication of the park cost more than expected, as reported by Craig Copeland. A motion was made by Steve Tway and seconded by Maddy Weisz to pay the \$325 balance due on the stone. The total cost is \$525, of which \$200 was approved at the June meeting. Motion passed.

A motion was made by John Cowin and seconded by Steve Tway to pay Maddy Weisz \$43 in postage. Motion passed.

Craig Copeland announced that the Olentangy river Cleanup is scheduled for August 23 at 9 AM. Battelle will be sending volunteers to help us clean up the riverbanks.

Craig Copeland announced that the Joint Neighborhood Traffic Committee amendment was discussed and passed at the last meeting.

A lengthy discussion regarding the legal fund ensued. There was a disagreement among many members regarding how this money should be used. A motion was made by Frank Petruziello and seconded by Steve Tway that Craig Copeland contact attorney Bill Loveland, who formerly represented Harrison West Society in the Morretti's Poultry mediation. Craig is to discuss the error in billing that occurred.

Scott Musuraca asked the Society why the streets are not being cleaned. Craig Copeland responded that we could request the City to provide these services.

New Business

Craig Copeland announced that the Victorian Village Society Picnic and Softball game was July 17, and suggested that we form a baseball team to play a game with them.

A motion was made by Tom Knapp and seconded by Pastor Richard Morris to pay all paper, printing, copying and distribution bills for the Harrison West Society and the Harrison West News last month. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35.



Harrison West News

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

Officers

PRESIDENT

Craig Copeland 299-3737

VICE PRESIDENT

Maddy Weisz 291-2285

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 preceeding publication month.

All ads are made in PC Pagemaker 6.5. 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

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8 col inches \$120 \$115

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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.

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**Society meets Thursday,
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The Harrison West Park is a lovely spot to spend a warm summer afternoon. The City of Columbus is cooperating with Harrison West with code enforcement and beefed up police patrols. Street trees have been planted throughout the neighborhood. Property values are going up. Crime is going down.

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Sunday: 9 and 11 a.m.
Korean Community: 1 p.m.

MASSES DURING THE WEEK

Monday through Friday: 6 p.m.

HOLYDAY MASSES Vigil: 6 p.m.

HOLYDAY: 12 noon and 6 p.m.;
7:30 p.m. (Tridentine Mass)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3 p.m.; by appointment

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PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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ComFest Parking Helps Fund Traffic Island Project

(Submitted by Peter Anderson and Kaethe Sandman)

Residents from Victorian Village, Harrison West, and Dennison Place raised approximately \$2300 for the Neil Avenue Gateway Island Project, by staffing a parking lot for ComFest attendees during the weekend of June 27. The proceeds will be used to purchase trees, planting material, brick pavers, lighting fixtures, and stone planter material for two islands to be constructed in the center of Neil Avenue, one just north of the intersection with Goodale Street, and the other between the staggered intersections with Sixth Avenue. Substantial additional funds are needed, and your tax-deductible donation may be made payable to the Martha Walker Garden Club and sent to Peter Anderson, 1061 Neil Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201.

The parking revenue was generated by charging ComFest attendees \$4 to park all day in a portion of the lot at the Thurber Village Big Bear. ComFest organizers identified the Gateway Island Project to receive the proceeds from the parking fee, provided that residents staffed the parking lot. Our thanks to ComFest organizer Andy Klein for developing the plan and to Thurber Village Big Bear manager Jeff Bundy for his enthusiasm and work to help implement the parking plan. He stressed that Big Bear is particularly interested in working with and being part of such neighborhood projects. Finally, our thanks to the following people who offered their time and skill to efficiently pack cars into the lot! David Brownstein, Donna Byrom, Julie and Neil Byrne, Carolyn Cheney, Paul Cianelli, Craig Copeland, Jack Decker, Bruce Dooley, Dorothy Fischer, Ronda and Chuck Griffith-Grubb, Andy Klein, Greg Krobot, Ann Kozliner, Miriam and Chris Perry, Jeff Polster, Theresa Schaefer, Jim Schmelzer, Ellen Stein-Krobot, Debbie Tavenner, Walt Thieman, Bonnie von Jasinski, Jo and Joe Wagner, and Sharon Young.

Sweepers Might Be Coming to Harrison West

Are street sweepers coming to Harrison West? We had a preview on Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29. Sweeping -- and towing-- for real could begin as soon as next spring.

Harrison Westers Scott Musuraca and Veda Gilp are working with the City to set it up with the least disruption possible. If you want to join the Street Sweeping Committee, call Veda at 299-6877 evenings.

Anyone who has been to German Village this summer can see how beneficial sweeping is to a neighborhood. Now Harrison West is on the way to becoming one of the select neighborhoods the City sweeps on a regular basis.

Streets may be posted by spring, alerting residents to the sweeping and towing schedule. For those who must park on the street, safety lies on the other side. Only one side of the street is swept at a time, so the parking inconvenience is slight.

Dates To Remember

August 14 Harrison West Meeting 7:30 PM

August 21 Victorian Village Doctors Hospital
Community Meeting 7 PM

August 23 Harrison West River Cleanup 9 AM

☞ 421-9767 ☞

CAPITAL CITY HOMECARE

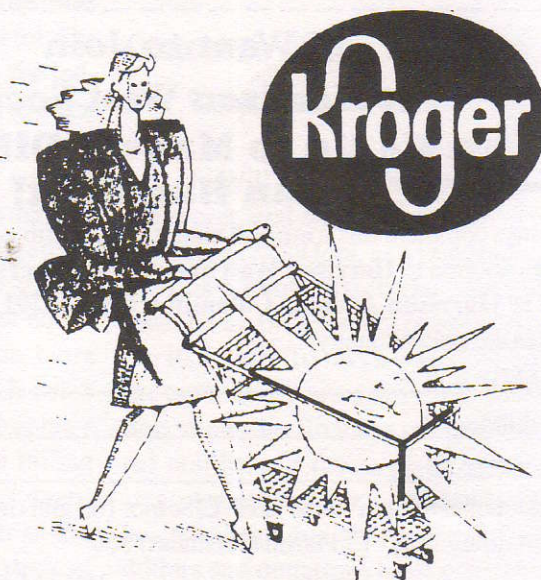
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Harrison West Park Rededication

(Continued from Page 1)


“Battelle is pleased to join with other neighborhood organizations such as the Harrison West Society and Martha Walker Garden Club, as well as the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, City Council, and the Columbus Foundation, in helping to restore the park. And we salute those whose leadership, diligence, and commitment helped put all the pieces together to make this restoration possible.”

Our special guest of honor, introduced by Mary Funk, was Byron Brandon III, grandson of Byron Brandon, who was instrumental in establishing the park in 1984 and to whom the park is dedicated.

All the guests of honor were most complimentary about the neighborhood turnout on such a hot afternoon. Columbus Recreation and Parks Director Gary Fenton said it was the biggest turnout he had seen for a neighborhood event.

Council President Mike Coleman was also impressed with the numbers of Harrison Westers, and not just Society members, who came to the dedication. You can be sure the members of City Council will remember that Harrison Westers support their causes!

After the speeches and the unveiling of the new dedication stone, it was time for ice cream and peaches and lemonade, orchestrated and served up by Maddy Weisz and her team.

The park is beautiful and much in use. Walk on over to 4th and Oregon Avenues and take a look. 



Whatever did Councilmember Rich Sensenbrenner say to get such a laugh from Penny Nichols and Grace Atheys?



City Council President Mike Coleman, looking cool and sophisticated in khaki linen jacket and t-shirt, gave our neighborhood high marks for dedication, interest and hard work.



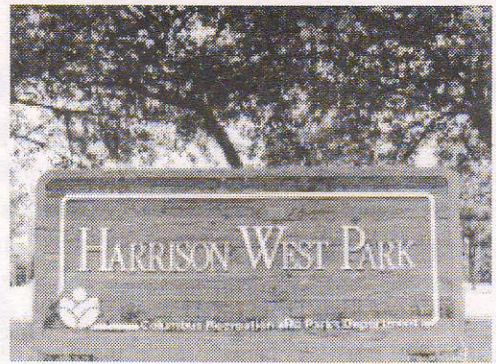
The audience enjoyed the speeches by Council members, Harrison West President Craig Copeland, and Recreation and Parks Director Gary Fenton. If you missed the event, you missed a great deal of positive reinforcement by our guests about the efforts of Harrison West and the Harrison West Society to make the neighborhood better. Coleman, Fenton, Sensenbrenner, Habash, and Sills all promised renewed support of the neighborhood. The neighborhood kids, though, were more interested in the ice cream that followed the ceremony.



Marsha Cox and former Harrison West Society President Sandy Woolard enjoy the park rededication.



Councilmember Matt Habash and Mrs. Gary Fenton admire the park.



Byron Brandon III, grandson of Byron Brandon, to whom the stone is dedicated, and Councilmember Rich Sensenbrenner unveil the new Harrison West Park. The Society funded the stone commemorating the contributions of Harrison West Parks, The Columbus Foundation, Battelle, and the Harrison West Society.

Battelle Community and Education Relations Director Barb Sills discusses neighborhood revitalization with Harrison West President Craig Copeland, Director of Recreation and Parks Gary Fenton, and Tim Wagner, President of the Dennison Place Association.



at the park originally was dedicated, and Harrison West Park Rededication Plaque. Division of Columbus Recreation and Harrison West Society.



Mary Funk, who worked with Byron Brandon to create the Harrison West Park originally, introduced Byron's grandson, Byron Brandon III, who reminisced about visiting his grandfather in Harrison West when he was a child. Even back then, he said, Harrison West was a neighborhood of caring people.



Debbie Colvin and Maddy Weisz, aided by Helen and Tom Knapp, dished up ice cream and peaches for nearly a hundred guests. Kids could hardly wait for the ceremony to be over before descending on the refreshment table for their ice cream bars. The thirsty crowd gratefully downed gallons of lemonade and ice cream, and pounds and pounds of fresh sliced peaches.

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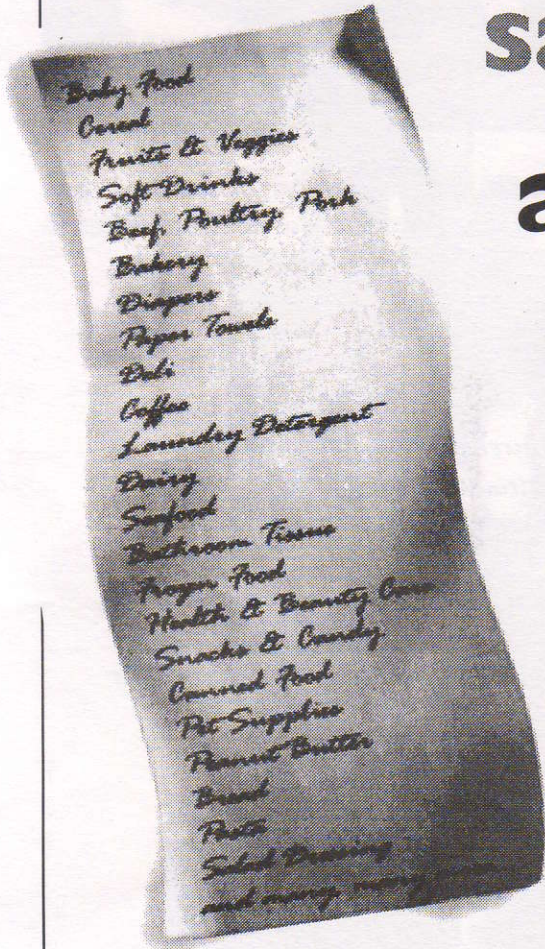
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Look What's Happening in Goodale Park!

The Shelterhouse Preservation Committee has been awarded a \$15,000 grant by the Columbus Foundation's Neighborhood Partnership Program to be used for an ornate iron fence around the caretaker's residence, new sidewalks and period lighting fixtures.

If you've been walking or jogging in the park, you already will have noticed some improvements around the Shelterhouse since the city demolished the old storage sheds and the junk trees. Volunteers from FGP and the Victorian Village Society have removed the old fence in preparation for the new one. Franklin Park Conservatory donated hostas and the Victorian Village Society bought annuals that were planted by Kent Mills and Beth Vogt around the residence.

Restoration is also underway inside the caretaker's residence. Proceeds from last September's Tour of Homes and

Gardens, along with time and energy donated by Jim Schmelzer, Donna Byrom, and Norm Dolder, resulted in the first floor windows being stripped and the old carpeting removed. Kent Mills measured and ordered wood mini-blinds to match the woodwork and will donate the installation of the blinds as well as a beautiful piece of fabric for the front door.

As soon as the City Recreation and Parks Department (CRPD) staff completes some structural, electrical and plumbing repairs, work will proceed with painting, wallpapering and carpeting by the Shelterhouse Preservation volunteer staff. Then the residence will be available for use by the community.

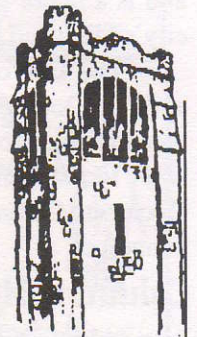
Richard Buchsieb, AIA, Chair of the Historic Resources and President of the Brewery District, created the drawing for the plans. Buchsieb's work is known to Harrison West-ers because of his help with the Third and King Avenue bridges.

Short North Sunday Jazz Series Still Hot

You still have time to make it to a Short North Sunday Jazz concert. They begin at noon in the Goodale Park Gazebo.

On August 10, swing to the big band sounds of Jazz to Go. On August 17, Gene Walker's Generations plays traditional and contemporary jazz. And on August 24, Vaughn Weister's Famous Jazz Orchestra closes out the season with cool standards and originals in the best post-bop style.

Bring a picnic and a blanket and swing and sway to cool sounds on a hot day!



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.


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something is happening to your neighborhood hospital

Doctors Hospital For Sale To Nation's Largest For-Profit Hospital Chain! Should You Care?

Yes, you should. Harrison West residents' emergency medical ambulance runs are generally taken straight to Doctors' emergency facilities and not to University Hospitals' ER unless you are the victim of gunshot or similarly severe trauma. So what happens to Doctors Hospital could affect you greatly the next time you need emergency medical care.

Doctors Hospital is a nonprofit osteopathic teaching hospital that serves the Short North. The hospital also provides a significant amount of charity care and is a major provider for the central city's Medicaid population.

The Doctors' Board of Trustees and the Doctors Hospital Foundation recently voted to sign a letter of intent to enter into negotiations to sell Doctors to Columbia/HCA in Nashville, Tennessee.

Columbia/HCA facing lawsuits and investigation into shoddy and illegal practices.

Columbia/HCA is the largest for-profit hospital chain in the country, as well as the tenth largest private employer in the country. Its efforts to buy the Blue Cross Blue Shield Mutual of Ohio was recently rejected by the Ohio Department of Insurance, which found that the purchase price was too low by 100%. The Ohio Attorney General's office sued to protect the charitable assets and to block \$19.5 million in payouts to Blue Cross executives and their lawyer.

Columbia is a \$20 billion-a-year corporation, now under investigation by federal authorities in several states for suspicion of Medicare overbilling and improperly influencing physicians. The first indictments to grow out of the massive federal investigation have resulted in federal prosecutors indicting three

executives of Columbia with conspiring to defraud the government.

The charges handed down in Tampa, Fla., are reported to be the first phase in the government's case against the nation's largest hospital company.

Separately, a group of several-dozen insurance companies and Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans have hired a law firm in Washington, DC to investigate whether Columbia overbilled them.

Hospital as Money Machine

The Wall Street Journal, on August 1, described Columbia as "the most successful machine ever devised for digging into the mountain of money the federal and private insurers hold out to those who treat the sick."

Even the local *Dispatch*, never a newspaper to sneer at companies digging money out of anyone, has run two editorials about the Columbia deal to buy Doctors Hospital. Its most recent editorial cited a July 16 FBI raid on more than 35 Columbia/HCA hospitals in six states, the July 25 ousting of Columbia's top two executives in a federal billing scandal, and the appointment as chairman and chief executive officer of Dr. Thomas Frist Jr., who has a history of IRS probes tied to allegations of unreasonable compensation of executives. The editorial continues, "Amid all these questions ... on what grounds could the Doctors' board possibly justify this sale as good for the community?"



Here's How You Can Learn What the sale of Doctors to Columbia Means to Harrison West

The Coalition for Community Health Care's representative, Cathy Levine will be at the next Victorian Village Society meeting on Thursday, August 21, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Goodale Park Shelter House to address neighborhood issues regarding the sale of Doctors to Columbia.

Concerns of the Coalition For Community Health Care

1. Will the sale process be open, not secret, and with full community involvement? Doctors, as a nonprofit hospital, is a public asset; the community must be involved in decisions concerning its future. To make wiser decisions, the community must have full information about the finances of the deal and the purchaser's future plans and promises. Arguments for confidentiality in business deals don't belong here. Our tax dollars and donations have gone to support nonprofit hospitals for years. We are owners and investors and must safeguard our interests.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Doctors Hospital Sale

(Continued from Page 10)

- The public must have full disclosure of terms of the deal and finances.

- Public hearings must be held at or near each Doctors facility to provide members of the public with an opportunity for input.

2. Will the deal be good for the community? How will the deal affect the accessibility, availability and affordability of health care to communities served by the facilities? Will any significant services be reduced or eliminated? Will some services be combined and moved to another location? Will it be harder for working people without health insurance, the elderly, the chronically ill or disabled to get medical care and related services? Will hospital employees lose their jobs, benefits, training and input at work? What effects will the deal have on medical education? Will Columbia's competitive business practices jeopardize other public and non-profit hospitals in the community? Will we lose local control over our health care resources? Will we be worse off with this deal?

3. Will the poor and uninsured get medical care? How much indigent and uncompensated care does Doctors provide now? Will Columbia make an enforceable commitment to maintain or increase the actual indigent and charity care? If more charity care or particular services are needed by the community, will Columbia fulfill the needs? Will Columbia be bound to retain facilities and services needed by the community?

4. Will the deal be fair? The community must receive full value for the public asset being sold. Will the valuation be done by independent, objective expert? Are there competitive bids from other buyers, including local nonprofits? Are officers of Doctors benefiting excessively?

Nonprofits vs. Investor Owned For-Profit Hospitals

Nonprofit hospitals were once the primary provider for the poor, training student doctors and limited by their tax-free designation. Today, with third party payers like insurance companies and the government paying for medical services, nonprofits must compete with aggressive investor-owned for-profit hospitals causing the reduction of indigent services and the expansion of higher margin services.

Charitable hospitals traditionally didn't do marketing; they delivered babies and provided acute care to the community. They simply served their constituency, the sick and the suffering. Charitable care has been traditionally associated with nonprofits.

Nonprofit hospitals' freedom from federal income tax and local property tax is based on their use of the hospital's assets for charitable or other civic purposes for which they were originally created. Doctor's Hospital was founded in 1940 by three osteopathic physicians. Today, many physicians-in-training from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine are in residency at Doctors.

The distinction between the nonprofits and the investor-owned hospitals is diminishing because third party payer insurance plans and the government are unwilling to pay inflated hospital bills that once subsidized charitable care. Investor-owned hospitals are in the business of making money for their investors, including cutting all unnecessary expenses. Nonprofits on the other hand are civic institutions, forbidden by the tax code from making a profit. If Doctors is sold to Columbia/HCA, the quality of care in Harrison West will be affected and the rules of the game will change for all hospitals in Columbus marketplace.

5. If the sale happens, will the charitable assets be placed in a fund that is completely independent? When a non-profit health facility becomes for-profit, the assets must be placed in an independent foundation reflecting the community, to avoid conflict of interest. We must ensure that the proceeds fulfill Doctors' charitable mission.

6. Is Columbia the right buyer? If Doctors needs to sell, is Columbia the right choice? Does Columbia's track record in business deals (such as Blue Cross), charity care, hospital closures, cuts in staff and services, labor relations, and other business practices make it the best

choice for our community? Considering on going federal investigation of Columbia, is this the right time for Columbia to enter the Columbus market?



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Friday	7:00 pm	Prayer Warriors (1st Friday)
	6:30 pm	Women (2nd & 4th Friday)

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