

# HARRISON WEST NEWS

January 2005 16/01

*A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places*

## Commission Desperately Needed in Harrison West

An Area Commission, Neighborhood Commission, or Historical Review Commission will help build and protect value in our neighborhood. It will give the neighborhood some power with developers. It will mean that in the future, anyone who wants to build, repair, or renovate will need to work with the Harrison West Society to create something in keeping with our neighborhood design and housing goals.

It is time for us to determine what our neighborhood will look like in 10 years. With a Commission, our neighborhood will have the power both to stop bad development and to encourage more good development.

With a Commission, Harrison West will have the power to control its destiny and to protect the fabric of our neighborhood.

## Great Things Coming in 2005

*by David Butler, President*

2005 promises to be an incredible year for the Harrison West neighborhood! We'll begin to see the results of years of ongoing projects and improvements which will shape our neighborhood for decades to come. There is no better time than now to get involved in the Harrison West Society and support your neighborhood. Here are the highlights:

**Harrison Park Place** Harrison Park Place will become a reality in 2005, ushering in a new era for the southern portion of Harrison West. Not only will we start welcoming our new neighbors into new homes, we will also welcome a new riverfront park into our neighborhood and the Harrison West Society will have a new building and meeting room to call our own in the parkside Community House. It doesn't get much more exciting than this!

**Affordable Housing Improvements** 2005 will see the completion of the extensive renovations and landscaping that is taking place to Harrison West's affordable/subsidized housing. Every unit in Harrison West will be completely renovated (with A/C, new flooring, windows, doors, appliances, cabinets etc.); look or new landscaping as well. The Society also looks forward to working with the new landlord and tenants of these units to the mutual benefit of our neighborhood.

**Third Ave. Bridge Park** This year our Third Ave. Bridge Park that hosts the Society's "Side by Side" public art pieces gets finished. This project is the result of the neighborhood's UIRF application from several years ago and will make this area even more beautiful and inviting.

**Harrison West Neighborhood Plan** 2005 will see the completion of a neighborhood plan for Harrison West. This plan will be the culmination of nearly a year of meetings between the City, Harrison West residents and other interested business owners and stakeholders and will be formally adopted by City Council. It will shape and guide future development throughout our neighborhood.

As you can see, 2005 is going to be a huge year for Harrison West. Please join the Society or renew your membership. Also, please get involved by coming to our monthly meetings.

## Next Meeting: Wednesday,

### January 19

**2005 New Biz  
Humko Update  
Holiday Party  
Wrap Up  
Traffic Task Force  
Update  
Third Ave Bridge  
Park Update**

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be January 19 at the First Brethren Church. We'll be gearing up 2005 programs. See you there.

## NEXT MEETING

The Harrison West Society will meet  
Wednesday,  
January 19 at 7:30 PM  
First Brethren  
Church, Third &  
Oregon

## INSIDE

Join Harrison West  
Society  
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Cliff Dwellers Mural  
Affordable Housing  
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Abbracci

## Harrison Park News Is Good

“We’re ready to go when it dries out,” Mark Wagenbrenner, the developer of the AC Humko site, told the *News* recently.

Depending on the weather, house construction on the site, now known as Harrison Park for marketing purposes, will begin in March. Average frozen winter weather is something they can handle, but the excess rain and mud have kept workers out of the site for weeks now.

On a very positive note, the environmental contamination they thought they would encounter has been negligible and has all been dealt with. There is no gas left in the soil.

The largest problem has been vegetable-oil contaminated dirt in a 250 X 200 square foot area. Contractors are removing this soil to a depth of 24 feet and taking it to a landfill. “It’s not hazardous material,” Mark states, “you just can’t build on it.”

The caboose has been sold, and will be removed as soon as AEP has time to drop some lines.

You know what’s been happening with AEP, so it may be a while. Then the buyer plans to renovate it into a playhouse for his children.

The City of Columbus had determined that Wagenbrenner would pay to dig up and replace a broken 36-inch sewer line on the property. Inspection revealed that the line was in better condition than realized, and relining is all that’s needed. That process is ongoing.

Questioned about the longtime sewer smell at the site, Mark replied, “We can’t eliminate the sewer line because there’s a lift station there handling flow from Grandview. But when we’re finished, residents won’t know it’s there. It won’t smell.

“Once the contaminated dirt is removed, we’ll begin building the new sewers to serve the project and seven or eight houses on the east side of Perry Street,” Wagenbrenner finished.

For more information about the project, and to see models, go to [www.harrisonpark.com](http://www.harrisonpark.com)

### HARRISON WEST NEWS

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

[www.harrisonwest.org](http://www.harrisonwest.org)

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Harrison West Society meets 3rd

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It’s time to join or renew your membership in the City’s most highly respected neighborhood group – the Harrison West Society.

The Society’s goal is to improve our membership by 10 percent over 2004. With 256 members, that means we need to renew everyone and get 25 new members.

For 2005, the Society is offering something new: Household Memberships. For two people residing in the same household who want to be members, the cost is only \$15. It applies to spouses, partners, friends, siblings, parent/child – if you live together on a longtime basis and both want to be members, take advantage of this new membership category.

Why the big push to get members? Because the more members the Society has, the better the City treats us.



## Harrison West Society Membership

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your appropriate contribution to Harrison West Society, P.O. Box 163442, Columbus, OH 43216. Membership dues are paid each calendar year.

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2005



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## Affordable Housing Fix-Up Is Near Finish

Just before the holidays, most of the Community Properties of Ohio (CPO) affordable housing units at Michigan and Third looked as if they were shedding siding. Not to worry. The siding had been pulled off around the windows so the crews could put in new windows. The roofs are finished, and by now, the new siding in new subtle colors is all in place, too.

Before all the rain, snow, and ice, the sidewalks were repaired and fences rebuilt and repainted.

Inside, each unit is being given a new kitchen, new cabinetry, new floor coverings, new bathroom and fixtures, new wall coverings.

There's no move-in date for the Michigan and Third units yet, but Lori McKenzie is proposing a tour of the newly renovated space once they're finished. The *News* will keep you informed. And Lori and Lou Seipel are happy to take calls about the properties at 545-3023 or 545-3028.



*New roofs, new siding, new windows, new interiors and sidewalk and parking lot repair are combining to make these affordable Housing units the showplace of the Community Properties of Ohio (CPO) portfolio. Management wants them to blend seamlessly with Harrison West.*



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Harrison Park

## Go Look at the Cliff Dwellers Mural on High Street

The Cliff Dwellers mural on High Street on the side of the Burgundy Room and United Commercial Travelers building is garnering some wonderful comments. Cliff Dwellers, a copy of the George Bellows painting of a New York tenement, was painted by Curtis Goldstein and Michelle Attias, local mural artists.

Next time you're stressing about painting the living room, consider that the mural was 45' high x 60' wide (that's 2,700 square feet), required 40 gallons of paint (every drop donated by Creative Paints), two artists painting eight or nine hours a day every day for one month, and a lift truck (donated by United Rentals, thank you very much).

The project was funded mainly by the Greater Columbus Arts Council to the tune of \$7,500 and the Ohio Arts Council for \$1,585. Private donors contributed the remaining \$9,000. Funding was arranged through the BrickStreet Arts Association (BSAA). BrickStreets is a not-for-profit group that facilitates public art in Columbus through assistance with the process of producing public art. That includes assistance with fund-raising, Calls for Artists, seating juries for juried selection of artists, contract negotiation, and public interface with the process and the artists.

## Newsletter Editor Needed

Responsibilities include attending all Harrison West events and meetings; taking pictures and PhotoShopping them for the publication; writing the articles; designing and putting together the newsletter; working with the printer; selling and invoicing advertising; keeping a data base of politicians and friends of Harrison West and mailing the newsletter to them each month.

Applicants should be skilled in desktop publishing, reporting, and photography. Reasonable expenses are reimbursed by the Society. Apply to David Butler, 421-7157 or [dbutler4@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dbutler4@columbus.rr.com).

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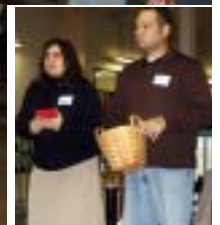
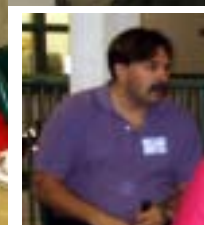


Donald J. Coon  
ext. 212

## Holiday Party at North Market One of the Best Ever

Janelle Nagy and Scott Robinson did their usual excellent work in arranging the Holiday Party at the North Market. Perhaps we should make them the Harrison West Official Party Planners!

Everyone talked, ate, drank, and had a great time in a space large enough to spread out. If you missed it, you missed a terrific party. Here are some pics taken by our own Dave Butler.



## Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Abbracci

(Continued from Page 8)

I had the sausage and bean soup, which is a country dish that Abbracci has refined into something so delicate that every delicious flavor shines.

For our main course, we ordered an 8 oz. filet mignon, a 24 oz. ribeye, Tournedos Abbracci, and New York Strip Au Poivre. When I tell you that the steaks undergo a 32-day dry aging process, that they come from Michael's Meats, and then are cooked by a master, you will understand why we were happy, happy, happy with our selections.

Unless you share, you probably will take steak home. I got two lunches from my steak go-box. Such good meat is not cheap. My ribeye, one of their most flavorful steaks, was \$30.

Steaks are accompanied by garlic mashed potatoes (very good), gorgonzola scalloped potatoes (unfortunately served lukewarm, but would be great hot), grilled

vegetables, or red sauce linguine.

If you like risotto, order the parmesan spinach risotto. It's \$4 as a side and worth every cent. I promise.

Maddy ordered as a side the sauteed garlic spinach. This is a dish that elevates spinach to gourmet status. It was one perfect step past wilted and studded with tasty garlic pieces. Unfortunately, her first serving was cold.

Of course, Abbracci offers all kinds of pasta, veal, fish, and a walnut encrusted pork loin that looked incredible.

Osso Bucco, calamari, and escargot always are available, too.

People who dine with Eadie Gourmet learn that they must have dessert, so they force themselves to take up the dessert menu. This one is easy to take up, since it's full of delightful treats.

Of course, after a meal such as we had just finished, none of us were up to a full dessert, so we shared.

In the interest of exploring chocolate offerings for my readers,

I ordered the chocolate almond silk terrine. Oh my. Pretty. Silky. Intensely chocolate. Poached cherries in a luscious sauce decorating the plate. Addictive. Order it if you love chocolate.

Just to be different, we also ordered the caramelized nut tort made with pistacios, walnuts, almonds and napped with a citrus Grand Marnier anglaise. That's orange cream sauce, I think. Sure was good. The tort was not too sweet, but rich, rich, rich.

Perhaps lighter desserts would have been in order, but after all that red meat, we just weren't thinking of our arteries.

By the way, the dining room is beautiful. Elegant. Spacious. And quiet. Finally, a restaurant where you needn't shout to be heard by your dinner companions. There's \$5 valet parking. Reservations are necessary at 224-2373. Look for Abbracci at 511 North High at Swan, underneath the Hampton Inn.

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## Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Abbracci

by Veda Gilp

During the Big Freeze, Pat Lewis, the doyenne of Victorian Village, Lynda Mahaffey, who needs no introduction, and Maddy Weisz of BrickStreet Arts fame, and I sledded over to Abbracci for a red-meat repast.

Abbracci is the new restaurant run by Ryan Stopper of the R.J. Snappers family. It's located between the Greek church and the Hampton Inn on High Street.

The first thing any restaurant wants you to do is order drinks. I found the wine list to be complete, not overwhelming, and just a bit pricy. However, it's full of big, mouth-filling red wines, perfect accompaniments to the fine aged beef dishes which are the stars of the menu.

The restaurant is beautiful, and I wanted to eat everything in sight — it all looked so tasty. Given that the kitchen staff really can cook, imagine these treats on your tongue: wild mushroom pasta with walnut cream sauce, clams casino with bacon and roasted garlic bread crumbs, beef carpaccio (yes, it's raw), asparagus and wild mushroom bruschetta.

Lynda and Pat began with the chopped salad, which is very large, uses romaine and ripe tomatoes among other ingredients, and boasts an excellent blue cheese dressing.

Next time, I'm ordering the Caesar salad, which Pat promises is outstanding.

(Continued on Page 7)

Join Harrison West Society  
Holiday Party Pics  
Commission Needed  
Harrison Park Update  
2005 Looks Good for HW  
Affordable Housing  
Cliff Dwellers

# HARRISON WEST NEWS

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