

HARRISON WEST NEWS

February 2006 17/2

A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places

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Harrison West Society Prioritizing Ideas on How to Spend TIF \$Millions

The TIF funds will be available to Harrison West Society soon, and the Society is working to prioritize spending plans.

First on the list is reimbursing Wagenbrenner Realty for purchase of the Compton property for Harrison Park and for the design and construction of the park.

Other priorities:

1. Decorative streetlights throughout Harrison West
2. Dressing up street corners
3. Public art
4. Rebricking our streets

The Society must lock down its TIF spending priorities within the next month, so this will be a big issue at the February 15 HWS meeting.

Time to Join the Harrison West Society – the Best \$10 You’ll Ever Spend

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 2005. With 160 members, that means we need to renew everyone and get 16 new members. So, renew your own membership, and bring in one new member yourself.

Don’t forget 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 handy membership category.

Why the big push to get members? Because the more members the Society has, the more influence we have.

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.

NAME(S) _____

PHONE _____ EMail _____

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RENEWAL NEW MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$10 Household \$15 (2 persons)

Senior \$5 (60 and over) Sustaining \$25



Next Meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 15

TIF Priorities
Conservation District
30th Anniversary
Truck Traffic
Avenue One Lofts

NEXT MEETING

The Harrison West Society will meet
Wednesday,
February 15 at 7:00 PM
First Brethren Church, Third & Oregon

INSIDE

TIF \$\$
High Tech Corridor
Call 311
Garden Tour?
Light Spa
HWS Calendar
Block Party
Rossi

HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES

January 18, 2006

Submitted by Veda Gilp, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with a quorum of voting members present (25.5); Vice President Rob Harris presiding.

Routine Business

Minutes Rick Kobe motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting; Passed.

Treasurer's Report Treasurer Tom Maxwell reported a balance of \$5,224.13, with current bills paid.

Old Business and Committee Reports:

President's Report Rob Harris reported that the planning for 2006 is underway, and that the standing committees would establish what's going well and what needs improvement in 2006. Harris wants more interaction with other neighborhoods to share information for our common good.

Audit Report Chair Chris Ruder reported that the Society should be making plans for the non-Park part of the TIF. He motioned that the Society delegate the Audit Committee to undertake such planning and to follow-up with the Wagenbrenner Company and the City to discover the current status of the TIF and how the payout is being structured; Passed.

Civic Relations Chair Pastor Richard Morris reported that the Council of Historic Neighborhoods is working on the I-70/71 split proposals.

Communications Committee Chair Stephanie Tresso was not in attendance. Jim Slone reported that the HWS website is being upgraded, and that he needs the current boundary map. Chris Ruder will provide a jpg of the map. Jacob Sukosd motioned that the Committee select a palette of colors, a 30th Anniversary logo, create membership cards and window clings; Passed.

Community Housing Chair Pastor Richard Morris reported that the Senior Citizens Center has run out of Bingo gifts, that few people actually are playing bingo, and that based on how many are playing, they should have a year's worth of gifts. Rob Harris reported that Mary Funk has another box of gifts to bring to Pastor Morris. Harris promised to investigate what the Seniors are doing with the truckload of gifts the Society already has delivered to them. It previously has been agreed that the gifts are for the Harrison West Senior Center only. Harris proposed an outreach to the children living in Affordable Housing in Harrison West. The Members present agreed, without a Motion. To be explored.

Conservation Committee Chair Seth Rothly was not present. Rob Harris reported that the 4th Draft of the plan is in the works, and that the Council of Historic Neighborhoods has signed off on it. This bodes well, because the CHN refused to accept previous Draft versions because they lacked enforcement language and penalties, among other deficiencies.

Elections Committee Chair Rick Kobe reported that the Short North Neighborhood Foundation is still looking for a delegate from Harrison West. Steve Weed from SNNF, was present and will discuss the new requirements with Kobe. After discussion, Kobe motioned to send a letter to Stan Sells stating that the Harrison West Society declined to be represented on the Friends of Goodale Park Committee without representation, and that the Friends' restrictions do not fit the Society's transparency efforts; Passed.

Membership Report Chair Tony Celebreeze was not present.

Parks Committee Chair Bob Mangia reported that the Harrison Park design is beginning again; Side by Side remains unfinished, though the benches and trash receptacles are in; and that Deb Colvin is handling the garden tour.

Planning and Development Chair Jacob Sukosd reported that Gowdy Field was awarded \$2.7 million in cleanup money and that the Wagenbrenner Companies is working on the permit process for Gowdy. Site clearance will begin by the end of February. The Joe Armeni apartments on Perry are under renovation; will be called Courtyard of Harrison West. Sukosd reported that 10 homes in Harrison West recently sold for an average price of \$236,000. The Albert Higley Company is moving its offices, leaving the only rentable property in Harrison West, a commercial vacancy rate well below the City's. The Santer development at First and Thurber is up for permitting.

Traffic Report Craig Copeland reported that the Wagenbrenner truck traffic on Michigan is creating problems in the neighborhood. Two neighbors, Marty Griffith and Jon Benner, were present to discuss the increased truck traffic on Michigan from the Wagenbrenner development. Barb Kobe motioned to have the Traffic Committee investigate the truck traffic situation on Michigan and Oregon, then get Wagenbrenner Companies to commit to a timeline and deadline for removing the trucks; Passed.

Social Report Tim Bledsoe reported that the Holiday party cost the HWS only \$16.63 total out of pocket because so many companies contributed gifts and the Wagenbrenner Companies purchased the food. Veda Gilp motioned to send letters of thanks to all contributors; Passed.

Crime Report Community Liaison Officer Steve Smith reported that the City will be removing 40 percent of the police personnel in our neighborhood and the surrounding precinct because crime in Precinct One is so low. He reported that last month there were only 3 burglaries, 3 malicious destruction, 2 car break-ins and 1 misdemeanor theft in the neighborhood during December. Steve Weed reported from SNNF that the group is doing crime tracking, working with the police for neighborhood policing. SNNF is planning to draft letters to the Police department about policing and the staffing draw down.

New Business and Announcements

Planning and Development will meet Monday, February 6, 2006, 6 PM.

The Harrison West Society will meet February 15 at 7 M.

Adjourned at 9 PM.

HARRISON WEST NEWS

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

www.harrisonwest.org

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Harrison West Society meets 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:30 PM.

**Affordable Housing
TIPS Line 722-SAFE**

Block Party on Your Block?

Time to plan the summer Harrison West Block Party. At the meeting on February 15, we'll discuss which block and make other plans. If you'd like the block party on your block, let us know at the meeting. If you wouldn't like the party on your block, better let us know that, too!



Stroll Through the New Side by Side Park

It's almost finished. Benches and trash cans are placed, the pretty

curved walk is laid, and the contractor says the lights will be working any day now.

It's an oasis of serenity in a busy world, just as the Harrison West Society planned it more than five years ago.



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WEEKEND MASSES

Sunday: 9 AM and 11 AM

MASSES DURING THE WEEK
Tuesday through Friday: 6 PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Friday at 5:30 PM

www.sfacolumbus.org

New meeting time is 7 PM.

Truck Traffic on Harrison West Streets Presents Big Dirty Problem

The lumbering, noisy big trucks and the mud and debris they are leaving on Michigan, Oregon, First and Second are making neighborhood life somewhat unpleasant this winter. The neighborhood welcomed and continues to support the Harrison Park development, but will this truck traffic ever end? That's the question residents on Michigan and Oregon are asking.

The City Development Services Engineer Andy Beard, writes, "Due to the rainy conditions this winter, they are not able to run the dump trucks internally on the site. Once the soils dry out and they can get a road base in, they should be able to keep more of the trucks off the adjacent city streets. Once the bulk dirt work gets completed early this spring, the truck traffic should drop off significantly. There still will be occasional trucks as new basements are dug and construction materials are delivered...the most effective route for the trucks is to use I-670 to Goodale/Vine/Neil to Michigan Avenue...."

This still does not answer the larger question, "When will the trucks get off the streets? In five years when Harrison Park is finished? This spring, when the ground dries out? Next fall, when most of the houses are completed? The neighborhood wants to know.

The Traffic Committee is working on the issue with the City and with the Wagenbrenner Companies.

City Council Creates and Funds Conservation District Position

Finally the Conservation District process is moving again. On February 6, the City Council provided funding for a person to manage the Conservation Districts which are coming to Columbus. This is good news for Harrison West, which has seen inappropriate demolitions and construction while waiting for the City to move on the Conservation District legislation.

Harrison West at the Table for Olentangy River Road Tech Corridor Design

Harrison West has been asked to be part of the committee charged with creating a "design" for the Tech Corridor from Goodale to OSU.

The Society is asking its members what they want Olentangy River Road to look like. Should it be parklike? Should it be futuristic looking? A blend of both? Should Route 315 be ignored or incorporated into the design?

Lots of questions, little time, and the potential to create something that will be in place for the next 50 years, so it's worth our best shot.

They're Drilling for What on Gowdy Field?

The drilling that's been going on in Gowdy Field on Olentangy is to sink wells that will burn off methane gas in preparation for site preparation. Do not believe the rumors that oil has been discovered.

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Garden Tour or Not? You Decide

Harrison West is a great neighborhood, and we want to showcase our gardens. Please take a moment to respond to the questions below by e-mailing Debby Colvin at dcolvin@ameritech.net. We really need your support and input! Each person's response will help us add to the 30th year celebration!

1. Would you be willing to have your garden on a summer garden tour this year?
2. If so, what is your name and how can we contact you?
3. What month(s) would be ideal for your garden?
4. Do you know someone else in Harrison West who might want their garden on the tour?

If you do not have e-mail, please call any officer (see phone numbers in newsletter), or Debby Colvin at 299-7434 with your responses. Harrison West has beautiful gardens and our 30th anniversary is a great time to revisit the summer garden tour. Call or email now.

What's Happening When in HW

Harrison West Society Monthly Meetings, 7 PM, First Brethren Church, 3rd & Oregon

February 15
 March 15
 April 19
 May 17
 June 21
 July 19
 August 16
 September 20
 October 18
 November 15
 December 20

Executive Committee Meetings, 6 PM, First Brethren Church

Feb 27
 March 27
 April 24
 May 22
 June 26
 July 31
 August 28
 September 25
 October 30
 November 27
 December 18

Parties & Socials

Summer Block Party July 8
 Marathon Party Oct. 15
 Holiday Party Dec. 20

Refuse Problems? 300 Gallon Containers Need Work? Code Violations? Call These Numbers

The City has added a solid waste inspector who actually answers his own phone and helps you solve problems such as broken trash containers, missed routes, illegal dumpers, and the like. He's Bob Tolbert at 645-1533. Call him.

Also, to make it easier to report Code violations, the City has installed the 311 line. Pick up the phone, dial 311, and press 1 for water, sewer, or electrical problems, press 0 for a 311 Call Center operator, who will help you solve your Code violation problem -- or at least take your report.

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New meeting
time is 7 PM.

Kick the Winter Blahs at the Lotus Light Spa

AlphaState, corner of Third and Michigan, wants to help you make it through February and March in their new Lotus Light Spa. Each \$10 45-minute session includes full spectrum light exposure (10,000 lux), uplifting seasonal essences and music, satisfying herbal teas and very hip reading material. You just sit back and enjoy. (They temporarily confiscate all cell phones & techno devices.)

Call Lori Guth Moffett at AlphaState or email Lotus at www.doyoulotus.com. for more info and to schedule your session. Cost is \$10 per session; 3 sessions for \$25. The room accommodates two people, so you can take advantage of the "Bring-a-Friend Special" at \$15 per session, 3 for \$45. (This requires both people to use the same session.)

The lights are available for sale.

Real Good Real Estate News in Harrison West

At the last Harrison West meeting, Jacob Sukosd reported positive news for homeowners. If you thought Harrison West was hot right now, you are absolutely right.

1. Property values still are rising, as 10 homes in Harrison West sold late last fall for an average price of \$236,000.

2 In January, 6 houses sold at an average of \$184,583 each.

3. At month end, there were 9 houses on the market at an average asking price of \$237,300.

4. Commercial rentable vacancies are nonexistent, at least until the Albert Higley Company moves out. This is a commercial vacancy rate well below the City's.

5. The Santer development at First and Thurber is up for permitting, so there will be condos on that vacant lot before long. It looks as if those condos will follow the design submitted to and approved by the Society.

6. The Joe Armeni apartments on Perry (the one-story units) are under renovation and actually may not look too bad. They seem to be building front doors in the units facing the street, at least. They are called Courtyard of Harrison West.



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Harrison Park

Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Rossi

(Continued from Page 8)

The tuna was very mild and delicate. The pistachio crust added a bit of sweetness.

The broccoli rabe was more bitter than either of us cared for. Tastes vary, of course. It's a very trendy veggie now.

My grilled filet mignon with bleu cheese mashed potatoes, creamed spinach, and seasonal mushrooms was outstanding. Perfectly cooked -- or not -- as I ordered it very rare. The potatoes were good, but the star of the meal was the creamed spinach.

Who could imagine an unassuming little vegetable such as spinach could achieve such sublime heights? Unfortunately, you reach sublime only with the addition of great quantities of cream and butter, somewhat ruining the good health qualities of the spinach. But the taste ... the taste was worth the fat grams and calories.

It was so good, we ordered a side of spinach to share. For some reason, the chef delivered our "dessert" spinach himself.

Rossi makes New York-style pizza, including my favorite -- margherita.

Of course we ordered dessert (even after that extra serving of calorie-laden spinach). The chocolate mousse is dense, not fluffy, not as sweet as we expected, and incorporates very dark chocolate. It's good, but the spinach is richer and more satisfying, if you can believe it.

Rossi, 895 N. High, 299-2810, food 'til 1 AM, bar open 'til 2:30 AM.

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Donald "DJ" Coon, ABR, ext. 212



Matt Finefrack, ext. 107

Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Rossi

by Veda Gilp

Pat Lewis, the Duchess of Victorian Village, and I dined wonderfully at Rossi recently. Contrary to common belief, it is possible to get in, get a table, and get a meal -- but you must go early on a weeknight. At other times, the place is so mobbed by hipsters and 20-somethings in jeans and belly button rings that you cannot get in the door or hear yourself think if you did.

By early, I mean about 6:30 or so. By 8, the place is full to the door.

Pat had dined here before, and suggested we skip appetizers. We shared a salad - the arugula and spinach with grilled tofu, sprouts, and peanuts with honey lime vinaigrette. It was sweet-tart with an appetizing crunch. The grilled tofu is very creamy.

You can get five sandwiches at Rossi -- grilled ham and gruyere cheese with fried egg, portabello and eggplant, BBQ chicken and a burger. The people at the next table were raving about their burgers and the ham with the fried egg. Pat said she has had the ham sandwich, and though the combo is unusual, it is quite good.

Pat ordered the Pistachio crusted salmon, farm raised with broccoli rabe, lemon cous cous, goat cheese and pomegranate vinaigrette.

The lemon cous cous was very good -- buttery and lemony, but would have benefitted from the use of large pearl cous cous rather than the tiny "seed" cous cous.

(Continued on Page 7)




HARRISON WEST NEWS



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