

Harrison West News

Jan. 1996

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places" VOL. 7 NO. 1

Freeway Cap or Short North Gap?

Ten-Lane Expressway to Split Short North From Downtown

The City and State plan to widen I-670 from 4 lanes to 10 through High and Park/ Front Streets, creating a massive gap between the Convention Center area and the vibrant Short North.

The Freeway Cap Public Forum about the impact this mammoth highway project will have on our neighborhood is Wednesday, January 17, 1996, 7:30 p.m. at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Goodale and N. High Streets. It's our neighborhood's last chance to be heard on this destructive, divisive project.

Widening I-670 will require demolition and reconstruction of High Street and Park Street bridges. Initial plans indicate that about 17 buildings along the right-of-way would be demolished.

Originally the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) considered adding a Freeway Cap on the High Street bridge over the expressway. The 1,000 ft. long Cap would have created a space where

buildings could have been built, effectively erasing the large gap between the Short North and Downtown.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) ranked the Short North Freeway Cap its #1 project in an application for ODOT Transportation Enhancement Funds, submitted February 1994.

However, in May 1994, ODOT notified the Short North community that the agency decided against the Freeway Cap to fund other projects, most specifically the New Albany bypass.

In July 1994, the Columbus City Council responded by funding a design study of the I-670 cap to preserve the option of building it as I-670 went into final design.

Also as a response, when it became apparent that the estimated \$10 million 1,000 ft. Cap was too expensive to build, Short North representatives encouraged the consideration of less costly options (e.g., a smaller, less elaborate Cap).

On July 7, 1995, Tom Merritt, Public Service Director, recommended to Mayor Lashutka that the Cap proposal be eliminated from the I-670 planning because the loss of ODOT funding meant the project would be entirely at city expense. This recommendation was made without considering smaller, less costly alternatives.

The Freeway Cap Forum will be moderated by Bill Habig, Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Presentations by Tom Merritt, Columbus Public Service Director, an ODOT representa-

tive, and alternative cap proposals from the community will be made.

The Columbus Landmarks Foundation is sponsoring the forum, with a host of other organizations including the Harrison West Society, Citizens for a Better Skyline, Short North Business Association, North Market Development Authority, Victorian Village Society, Italian Village Society, Dennison Place Association, the University Community Association, and the Council of Historical Neighborhoods.

Be There!

Freeway Cap/

Short North Gap Forum

January 17, 7:30 p.m.

Greek Orthodox Church.

Hear all about the Short

North Gap and the Cap!

Find out what buildings

will be tom down.

Learn what the Gap means

to the neighborhood.

Tell the City how you feel.

SPECIAL MEETING

Where Will Your Kids Go to School?

Assignment Plan May Split Harrison West In Half At Third Avenue

Six possible school assignment proposals were announced January 11, by the Columbus Public Schools. There are four plans for students kindergarten through eighth grade. Two plans have been prepared for high school students. One proposal calls for splitting high school assignments in Harrison West along Third Ave. Students north of Third Ave. would be assigned to Centennial High School and those to the south would go to East High.

School Board member David Dobos will attend the special Harrison West meeting Monday, January 15, 7 p.m. to explain the various plans, the numerous options within each plan and take comments in regard to plan modifications from interested parents.

The school board is expected to adopt a plan at a special meeting Jan. 30, after several more community forums.

Goals of the plans include either assigning students to schools closer to home or allowing students to choose their schools. The plans also maintain alternative schools and open enrollment.

Several parents familiar with the high school plans have expressed the desire to have the southern half of Harrison West included with the rest of the larger neighborhood in the plan.

NEXT HW SOCIETY MEETING

Monday January 15,
7:00 p.m.
Fourth Avenue School
Senior Center

OSU- Battelle Deal

Both sides work on financial analysis

By Alan D. Miller

Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

A decision on Battelle's possible move to Ohio State University's research park near Rt. 315 won't come this month (December) as anticipated.

That means a delay in the related proposal that OSU buy Battelle's 58-acre, 20-building complex immediately south of King Avenues and the OSU campus. Both proposals were revealed in September after Battelle and OSU had discussed them informally for about three years.

"OSU and Battelle are still working on a financial analysis," said Robin Yocum, a Battelle spokesman. "Perhaps we underestimated the size of the job. We hoped to have it done by the end of the year, but it just didn't happen."

A decision is likely by the end of March but could come earlier

OSU officials also are trying to determine how and whether the university can afford to buy the Battelle complex. They have a strong interest in the deal because it may be their last chance to buy so much property next to campus at one time.

Battelle opened at 505 King Ave. in 1929. The research institute's 1.6 million square feet are about 600,000 more than it needs, and it already leases three floors of its 10-story main building to Ohio State.

It plans to reduce and modernize its facilities, and Battelle officials have indicated

a preference to build. Remodeling the current building is an alternate if a deal cannot be struck with OSU.

If Battelle sells the King Avenue complex, the profits would help build a new site for its 1,875 employees. A 40-acre site on OSU property at the southeast corner of Ackerman Road and Rt. 315 is Battelle's top choice. OSU land at Lane Avenue and Kenny Road is its second choice.

OSU would be facing large capital commitments on all fronts if it buys the Battelle campus. Already under way are a sports arena on the west, a business college complex on the north and the revitalization of an entire neighborhood east of campus.

It's too soon to say whether OSU can find away to finance what would be a multi-million dollar deal, said Edward F. Hayes, OSU vice president for research.

There are other issues to resolve, too. Environmental matters are chief among them because a variety of chemicals and low-level radioactive materials have been used at Battelle for more than 60 years.

"We want to be certain that there are no problems that would be transferred," Hayes said.

Because of the complexity of the deal, Hayes said, OSU officials aren't rushing to a conclusion.

"We're talking about well over a million square feet," he said. "One doesn't enter into this kind of discussion without very carefully doing the homework."

Reprinted with permission from the *Columbus Dispatch*, December 19, 1995

H.W.S. Minutes 12/14/1995

The Harrison West officers asked that there be an abridged session to meet Holiday obligations. The chair recognized Sandy Allen, who read the letter she had sent to the Harrison West News that was not published in the News. Sandy's letter addressed the history and the role of Zenos in Harrison West. She drew on Harrison West's past and reflected on its future, and after reading the letter she answered questions from the floor.

In old business, President Craig Copeland asked the floor about their feelings dealing with trucks in the neighborhood. In the past, issues have been raised about the number of trucks and the damage done by truck traffic to Harrison West streets, curbs, and trees. Now we can add to that list damage done to a house. Joe Spinelli's house was damaged by a truck servicing Moretti's. Joe had scheduled a meeting with Columbus Safety director Tom Rice to address the situation and see if there were any solutions.

The next topic was the Third Ave. bridge. The intention of the County is to build a merely functional bridge, thereby ignoring the historical design of the current bridge as a means of cost cutting on materials. Sean Conway asked on what issues was a compromise possible. Craig Copeland replied that there was not much hope of any compromise.

The last order of old business was Harrison West Park. Mary Funk stated that most of the plans for park renovation are finished. Construction can begin as soon as approval is given by Parks and Recreation.

In new business, a letter to be sent to the Graphics Commission protesting the lack of Society involvement in the recent granting of ABITEC's variance/special permits for ten signs plus watertower graphics was read and approved unanimously.

Submitted by Secretary Sean Conway

Harrison West News

is the monthly publication of the Harrison West Society, Inc. Letters to the Editor are always welcomed. Editorial and Advertising Deadlines: 1st working day of the publication month 299-3737.

President Craig Copeland 299-3737
Vice President Richard Morris 861-3003
Secretary Sean Conway 291-0013
Treasurer John Cowin 291-7063

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Up to \$20,000 Available to Harrison West Grant Writers

The Neighborhood Empowerment Grants Program was announced this month by the United Way of Franklin County. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to grassroots projects that are geographically defined and initiated by residents of the community. Capital improvement projects should provide a public benefit to the neighborhood; address a demonstrated neighborhood need; and result in collaboration among Harrison West neighbors. Special programs and projects involving raising the quality of life for area residents are also possible. Call Craig Copeland, 299-3737, for more details.

OSU Plans for Battelle

At OSU's quarterly staff breakfast December 7, President Gee stated about the rumored OSU/Battelle land swap that he wants this property for a central Ohio medical facility which, through a consortium of hospitals and medical providers, would be Ohio's premier facility.

While nothing would be built this century, plans include leveling the entire Battelle facility, constructing a stand-alone medical facility, using it with the existing hospital for some time, and ultimately closing down the existing facility. In the short term, OSU would use Battelle buildings for offices and an auditorium. - *Tim Wagner*



957 Neil Ave



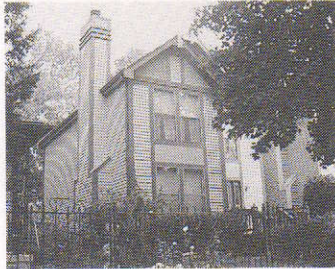
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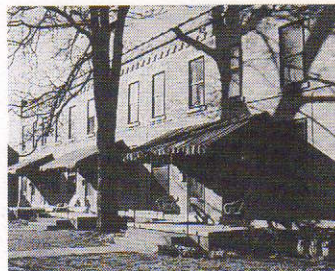
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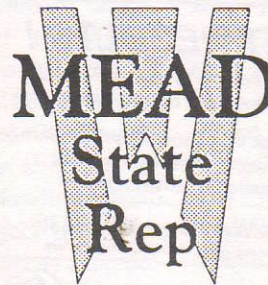
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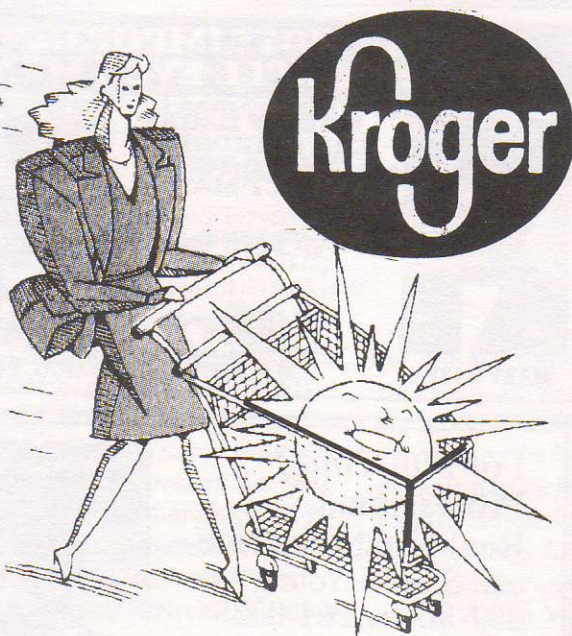
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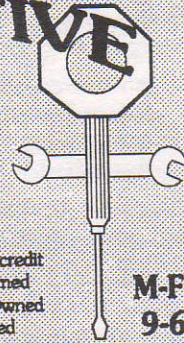


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Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Monday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday Little Women K-12 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Boys' Brigade 1-12 6:30 p.m.

1st & 3rd Thursday Women's Group 6:30 p.m.

1st Friday Prayer Warriors 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Richard Morris



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Sunday: 9 and 11 a.m.

Korean Community: 1 p.m.

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