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Harrison West News

Feb. 1996

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

VOL. 7 NO. 2

Good News Bad News I-670 Public Forum

Freeway Cap or Short North Gap

Thanks to a coalition of neighborhood organizations led by Columbus Landmarks Foundation, over 350 interested residents sat and stood through a 2 1/2 hour public forum at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral last month, to witness the city's long awaited unveiling of its plan to demolish and reconstruct the Goodale Expressway.

The good news

Only four buildings in Italian Village are set for demolition: on Kerr St. south of Russell (the four family facing Kerr and the Salvatore garage across the street) and at E. Poplar and Pearl Sts. (the two-building, 3 family residence at the end of Poplar).

The only other building set for demolition is a single family residence on Armstrong west of Park St. Several other structures in the way of the ten lane expressway got torn down over the decades since plans for the expansion were



\$3,300 Award to Harrison West

Columbus City Councilman Michael Coleman (right) and Columbus Foundation President Jim Lucks (left) presented the Harrison West Society's Mary Funk with a Neighborhood Partnership Program Award totaling \$3,300 for park benches in the Harrison West Park at 4th and Oregon Avenues.

(Continued on page 6)

announced, but the limited number of building takes, none on High, Goodale or Park, truly represents good news from the highway engineers.

Goodale Park will remain intact - barely - as a portion of the park will be suspended in air at its southeast corner, the intersection of Park St. and Goodale Blvd. This corner will be part of the Park St. bridge as the 10-lane expressway slices below.

(Continued on page 5)

Neighborhood Matters

The Harrison West Society is looking for poets, artists, photographers and other creative types to contribute to the Society Newsletter. Call Craig Copeland at 299-3737. And get those juices flowing!

Harrison West Society Minutes

Monday, January 15, 1996

Submitted by Sean Conway, Secretary, Harrison West Society

With an unanimous vote of the Harrison West Executive Board, the traditional 2nd Thursday of the month Society meeting was postponed to the following Monday so that Mr. David Dobos of the Columbus School Board could speak to the Society about the 4 proposed school redistricting plans.

Mr. Dobos's stated purpose of attending the HW meeting was to gather information from the neighborhood. He said the final proposed plan would probably be a mixture of the two most popular plans 3 & 4, but that they were looking to fine tune a few of the details.

After his short introductory speech, Mr. Dobos called for questions from the floor. The first question was about the division of Harrison West into two school districts. In all the plans, this division would run down Pennsylvania to Third. Residences on the south and west sides of this zone would attend East high school and the residences on the east and north sides of this zone would attend Centennial. Members claimed that this division would take away a common bond that everyone in the neighborhood presently has. Dobos stated that he would take this concern back to the school board.

After the long discussion, a member asked about the upcoming school levy and the merit of it considering the recent Dispatch series. Dobos explained why the article made the Columbus schools

look poorly run. First, the district looked top heavy with too many administrators because the school district uses the broader state guidelines which many other school districts do not use. Second, the Columbus school district was designed with the concept that more, smaller schools were better than fewer, large ones. He said that the Dispatch did not address this when it compared Columbus to the other major districts.

Dobos went on to say that capacity limits looked low due to two factors: the numbers that the Dispatch received were incorrect, and special education classes and special-use rooms (music) make the percentages look deceptively low. He urged members to vote for the issue, which had not been dropped at that time.

Many questions followed, and Mr. Dobos patiently answered all of them. He elaborated that the Board was looking to make a swift change because many parents were frustrated with the current system. He also explained that Balko and Haybaker were the primary architects of the plans. He finished the session by stating that parents may call 365-5400 with questions about the plans.

After the presentation, the Society voted to pay for printing and paper by an unanimous vote, and it adjourned immediately afterwards. Mr. Dobos stayed around to answer farther questions as members enjoyed the fresh coffee. See you next meeting!

Harrison West News

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

Letters to the Editor are always welcomed.

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HAIR • NAILS • SKIN CARE • COSMETIC APPLICATION

The Harrison West Kitchen and Garden

Berries on Trees Will Bring in the Birds



By Marsha Cox, Pre'parateure Emeritus, La Belle Pomme
School of Cooking at Lazarus

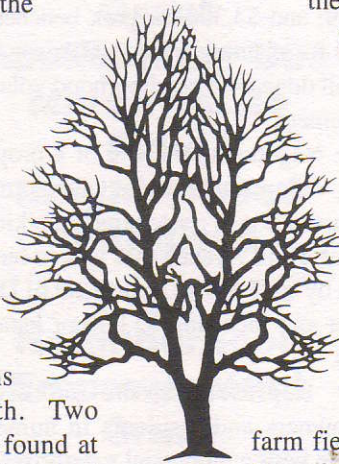
Craig Copeland describes the fruits of grant writing and tree planting.

Colorful berries on trees this time of the year will attract birds as other food sources diminish in supply. Two of my favorites are the Washington hawthorn and the patented 'Winter King' hawthorn, each with bright red berries on convoluted branches contrasting starkly with the snow. Other trees to plant with berries that will fill the bill include mountain ash, pyracantha (firethorn), certain crabapples and dogwood. Cardinals have been hungrily picking off the red berries on the seven Washington hawthorns in the Vermont Place park this past month. Two examples of Winter King hawthorns can be found at the corner of 4th and Oregon Avenues, in the raised planting bed of Harrison West Park. They are rapidly getting picked clean of their luminous red berries.

Aside from the satisfaction of watching the hawthorns grow, another part of planting these trees was consulting with and getting a quick education on the different virtues and characteristics of each variety from the Recreation and Parks Dept.'s City Forester Jack Low and Landscape Architect Molly O'Donnell. They were great recommendations and with each season's change a different, interesting phase begins.

Crataegus phaenopyrum, Washington hawthorn is a tree that grows 25' to 30' high and equally wide, forming a dense, thorny, somewhat rounded tree. Birds love to perch among the thorns for the protection they offer from other predatory birds. The foliage is dark green and turns to orange-scarlet or purplish color during the fall. In early June, dense clusters of white flowers bloom and last about ten days. These are often followed by heavy bunches of 1/4 inch green berries that turn red in the fall when the leaves are getting their color. The small berries persist until the birds eat them or the weather blows the remainder away.

The tree makes an excellent specimen and because of the unusual habit the branches exhibit for growing in a somewhat contorted twisting fashion are quite interesting when mature. A way to exploit the effect of this habit is to plant



them in clumps of three to five. The tree requires full sun and a site with good drainage, but tolerates many soil conditions. The thorns can be a problem and maybe snapped off the trunk and lower branches as they grow.

Crataegus virdis, 'Winter King' hawthorn grows 20' to 35' high with a dense rounded vase-like shape and a smooth grey bark. The habit appears a little more open and graceful than that of the Washington type which looks to be very similar to the wild hawthorns found in abandoned farm fields or along fence rows. Displays of white blooms are also about three weeks earlier. The most immediately obvious difference between the two types is the fruit is on the 'Winter King' is a brighter, cherry red and slightly larger than the Washington hawthorn. The thorns are also fewer and smaller on the 'Winter King' and the tree makes an excellent specimen planting.

These hawthorns described were purchased with grant monies applied for and the trees planted by Harrison West neighbors as part of a group effort. Monies came from the City of Columbus Recreation And Parks Department and Colour Columbus to improve the streetscape. Several grant application opportunities are now available with the Columbus Foundation's Neighborhood Partnership Program and the United Way's Community Empowerment Program. Now is the time organize your block and improve the streetscape in your part of Harrison West. While the hawthornes are best in a park setting or yard, there are many other flowering trees with superb autumn color. For further details on the who, how and why of making a grant application to plant trees on your street contact Craig Copeland, 299-3737.

Attention - We are looking for Harrison West cooks with recipes to share or gardener's favorite plants to feature each month. Please contact Marsha Cox, 299-1452. Thanks!

Freeway Cap: Now for the Bad News

(Continued from page 1)

The Lashutka administration continues to be inattentive to concerns about the Short North expressway and the need for a cap. While City Council had several representatives at the meeting, including newly elected Councilperson Peggy Fisher, no one from the Mayor's office or any city division other than Public Service attended the forum.

State Rep. Amy Salerno delivered more good news with her announcement that ODOT will kick in \$1 million dollars towards a cap. ODOT representative Jack Marchbanks expressed ODOT's support of the concept of a cap and willingness to explore funding alternatives. Rep. Otto Beatty also expressed his interest and sup-

port, pointing out how the East Side continues to suffer from 1970s expressway construction which effectively isolated that community from the rest of the city.

The best news of the night was the interest and expertise expressed by audience members who addressed the panel of MORPC's Bill Habig, SNBA's Cleve Ricksecker, Public Service Director Tom Merritt and neighborhood representative Andy Klein. Over thirty community members eloquently addressed the need to re-knit the urban fabric, and several architects, landscape designers, and other professionals offered their services at no charge, in the hope they can improve their community.

HARRISON WEST GARDEN TOUR

Scheduled For

SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH

Gardening impresarios and tour organizers Gene Roe, 299-1073 and Sandy Woolard, 461-5083 are planning the event. Everyone who works in their yard is eligible to participate. Let's have Harrison West blooming in all its glory this June!

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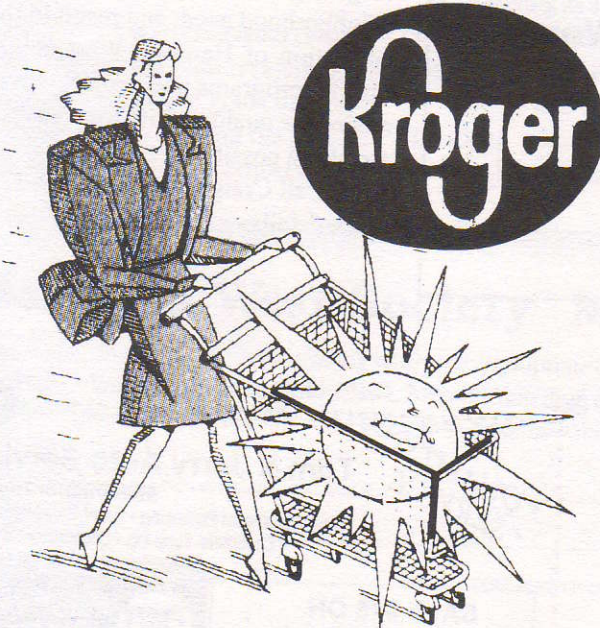
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How Would You Spend \$450,000 ?

Grant Applications Due March 1st To Fund Neighborhood Initiatives

Here's a run down of the grants that could be coming to our neighborhood.

The **Neighborhood Partnership Program** has invited community organizations to submit applications for \$450,000 in grants to be awarded this year. The Harrison West Society is seeking neighbors with ideas for projects to improve the community or enhance the quality of life here.

The **Columbus Foundation's program** to enable neighborhood initiative has awarded more than \$1.1 million to 94 neighborhood projects during the past three years. The Harrison West Society has received \$11,300 or about 1% of this total amount distributed throughout the city. The projects included the planting of 90 street trees and park benches in Harrison West.

Last year the **Columbus Foundation** received \$30.1 million in philanthropic gifts, making 1995 the fourth year in a row that the foundation has received more than \$30 million from generous Columbus community supporters.

Key to the concept of every project must be a "significant matching contribution" from an outside source in cash, donated goods or volunteer time, according to Dona Watterson, program coordinator for the Columbus Foundation.

Grant Applications Due March 1st To Fund Neighborhood Initiatives

Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Applications Due End of Month

United Way Ready With Up To \$20K

Applications must be submitted to the foundation by 5 p.m. March 1 and the projects that will receive funding will be announced in May. For more information call Craig Copeland at 299-3737.

Neighborhood Empowerment Grant Applications Due End of Month United Way Ready With Up To \$20K

The Neighborhood Empowerment Grants Program funded by the United Way of Franklin County deadline for applications is fast approaching at the end of the month. 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 the collaboration of Harrison West neighbors. Special programs and projects involving raising the quality of life for area residents are also a possibility.

Call Craig Copeland, 299-3737 for more details.

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

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor;

I have met one of my new neighbors. I do not know his name nor which house he lives in, but I do know he is my "Knight in shining armor." On Jan. 8, 1996, one of the first big snows, I arrived home at 12:30 a. m. unable to park my car. My "Knight" came to my rescue. He and another unknown neighbor arrived to shovel me a place to park. On Monday, our street was a total mess and the sidewalks were unwalkable. My neighbor, Charlie Smith, brought out the big gun, a snow blower. Charlie, along with Bub and Roy Funk, took the snow blower and cleaned both sides of the street and our sidewalks were in great shape. They also cleaned as much as possible off our streets. Neighbors began to pull together as usual on our street. For days my neighbors shoveled clean, pushed and pulled to help each other. On Jan. 10, 1996, I couldn't get out of my parking spot, and Jason Funk along with my "Knight" came to my rescue again. The ladies on our street also got involved. Charlene Funk, Marsha Cox and Beth Vogel pushed many neighbors who were stuck either on the street or in their parking spots. I would like to thank everyone who helped me and my other neighbors survive this blizzard. As for my "Knight in shining armor," I say THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! And my son Bryce, 13 months old, thanks you too!!!

P.S. I really do live on a great street — PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

Tina Dotson
Pennsylvania Avenue

\$3,300 Neighborhood Partnership Program Award

(Continued from page 1)

Craig Copeland and Mary submitted the proposal as part of an overall rehab program.

The original park resulted from the efforts of Mary, other Society members, and the Columbus City Council back in the late 1970s. Last year the Columbus Foundation provided the Harrison West Society with \$8,000 for street trees along 2nd, 3rd, and Bradley Avenues.



Beautiful Benches!

Victorian style benches planned for Harrison West Park at Fourth and Oregon Avenues. Bids for eight Victorian era cast iron benches to be purchased with a grant from the Columbus Foundation's Neighborhood Partnership Program are due soon.

Bench manufacturers from as far away as the Boston Bench Company to Custom Iron Works Inc., Union, Kentucky are bidding to supply the Society.

The seniors at the Michigan Ave. School Senior Center had expressed their desire to be able sit in the park this past summer, but the existing slab bench seating had deteriorated badly and lacked backs, so they weren't comfortable.

The benches will be installed in Harrison West Park this summer along with new plantings provided by the Recreation and Parks Department



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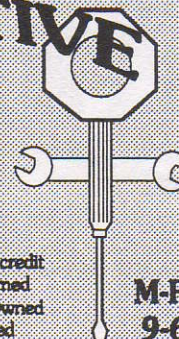
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