

HAPPY HOLIDAYS Harrison West



Society meets Thursday, December 11, 7:30 PM at
GODMAN GUILD 321 Second Avenue
Pen Site
Traffic Traffic Traffic
Water Quality Review
Liquor License



Harrison West News

December 1997

"A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places"

VOL. 8 NO.12

Federal Hearing on Traffic Requested for Neighborhoods

The Harrison West Society, Victorian Village Society, the Dennison Place Association and the Columbus Landmarks Foundation have requested a Federal Hearing regarding further implementation of the Spring/Sandusky--670 highway project.

Spring/Sandusky is bad for Harrison West

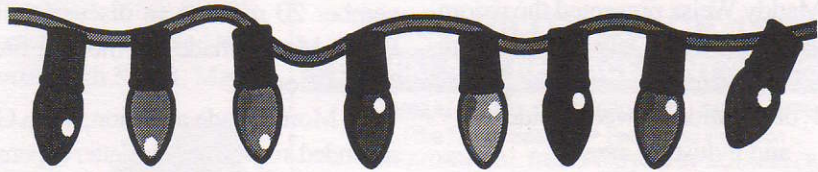
Their arguments are that the project would result in (and already is causing) increased congestion from cut-through traffic, noise, physical degradation of the neighborhood, air quality degradation, increased truck traffic and untenable aesthetic impacts on the Near Northside Historic District in which we all live.

Here's why ...

The background on this is that the project was designed in the late 70s and early 80s and approved in 82 by the Federal Highway Administration.

The Environmental Impact Statement prepared at the time claimed the project would have no adverse effects on the neighborhood.

(Continued on Page 4)




2nd Annual Harrison West
Holiday Lights Contest

Light Up the Holidays

Last call for Holiday Lights throughout Harrison West. Though the wet weather has kept us indoors, it's time to get out and string those lights for the 2nd Annual Holiday Lights Contest.

The judges will be choosing the winners during the second and third weeks of December. Winners to be announced and prizes awarded at the January Harrison West meeting.


Judges are Maddy Weisz, Gina Petruziello, Veda Gilp and Jenny and John Gable. When you see these folks around the neighborhood, put in a good word for your holiday lights. 

Liquor Permit Renewals

City Attorney Janet Jackson has sent a notice to area commissions and neighborhood civic associations concerning the annual renewal of liquor permits for bars and carryouts. Seems City Council has the right to object to permit renewal if:

1. the applicant has operated the liquor business in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or ordinances of the state or
2. the place for which the permit is sought is so located with respect to the neighborhood that substantial interference with public decency, sobriety, peace or good order would result from the renewal of the permit.

The City Attorney's office requires a letter from civic associations detailing the problems the neighborhood is having with a bar or carryout. The letter must ask City Council to pass a resolution objecting to the renewal of the liquor license.

At the next meeting, the Society will take up the matter of sending the City Attorney a resolution requesting City Council's action on neighborhood bars and carryouts. If you object to any bars or carryouts in the neighborhood, come say so at the meeting, December 11, 7:30 PM, Godman Guild corner Second and Delaware Avenues. 

HARRISON WEST SOCIETY

MINUTES November 13, 1997

Submitted by: Veda Gilp

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

President Craig Copeland presiding

OLD BUSINESS

To foster the greatest discussion of the input from the Development Committee, Craig Copeland made a motion, Tom Knapp seconded, to suspend the regular order of the meeting. Motion carried

Maddy Weisz presented the recommendations from the Development Committee. They were:

1. delineation between residential and industrial areas
2. a riverside park
3. paving the alleys
4. bus shelters
5. traffic calming
6. public art
7. improved lighting master plan

After more than an hour of discussion of the pros and cons of the suggestions, the members decided to re-direct and restate several of the proposals and to drop others from consideration. The meeting decided to submit the following to the Urban Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund:

1. new street and alley lighting that follows our neighborhood planning guidelines
2. traffic calming to ameliorate the negative impact of increased development pressures (the arena) and to route heavy truck traffic out of our neighborhood and to reinforce our southern boundary
3. purchase land for a large neighborhood park between Third and Fifth Avenues to fulfill the promise of parkland made by the City to past generations
4. permanent alley improvements.

Pastor Morris made a motion, seconded by Steve Tway, to accept the revised list of capital improvements. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Tway made a motion, seconded by Pastor Morris, to increase the funds voted at the last meeting for drawings of these projects from \$200 to \$400. Passed.

After an explanation by Craig Copeland of the traffic problems facing the neighborhood, it was voted to contribute up to \$200 to pay for an advertising flyer to notify neighbors of the November 20 meeting to discuss traffic. Pastor Morris made the motion; Steve Tway seconded.

Morris made a motion, Veda Gilp seconded, to pay the newsletter expenses.

Keith Dimoff, Third and Perry, reported that the Humko permits the Society is discussing are to cover all sources of air discharge at the plant. Humko specifically wants to cease testing emissions for its coal fired boilers. Odor emissions, which affect the whole neighborhood, could be covered under an EPA nuisance regulation, if the neighborhood brings it to the attention of the EPA.

Dimoff reported that Channel 10 recently cited Humko as the 80th largest polluter in Ohio. Copeland reported that Humko recently was recognized as the 5th or 6th largest polluter in Columbus.

Considering these negative reports, it was agreed that the neighborhood would continue to pursue the matter. Dimoff was instructed by the group and agreed to work with the EPA on these matters, because Humko's pollution, smell and noise are hampering development in that part of Harrison West.

Corrections to October minutes: the meeting did not refer to Humko discharging a smell like dead people into the river. It should have been a smell like dead people in the sewer. Also, Zeno's is at 3rd and Pennsylvania, not 2nd and Pennsylvania as stated.

Adjourned at 9 PM.



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

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Information:

Editor Veda Gilp 299-6877

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Third Friday of the month
preceeding publication month.

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Send to: Veda Gilp, Editor, 996 Pennsylvania Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43201, 299-6877 evening, 444-4532 days, fax 444-1710.

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Harrison West Society meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Godman Guild, 321 Second Avenue, 7:30 pm.

Whose Views?

The editor was asked recently just whose views the *Harrison West News* reflected.

The simple answer is that the newsletter reflects the views and the attitudes of the people who attend the Harrison West meetings. They come to the meetings, they make their voices and wishes known, and they make the decisions about the neighborhood.

For instance, at the last Harrison West meeting, the members attending debated and chose the projects Harrison West will seek funding for from the Urban Infrastructure Redevelopment Fund. The potential here is nearly \$1,000,000.

Certainly you have good ideas about how that money should be spent here in Harrison West. If you don't come to the meetings, no one knows what your ideas are, and you cannot influence decisions made about your neighborhood.

At the upcoming meeting, we'll be the Spring/Sandusky project as it affects our neighborhood, the request from the City Attorney General for input on liquor licenses and a last-ditch effort to save the Pen. If you have ideas and attitudes about these topics, better make it to the meeting.

Clean Water Permit Hearing Cancelled

There May Yet Be Hope for Our River

An Ohio Environmental Protection Agency hearing to look into the effects of Spring/Sandusky/670/315 on the water quality of the Olentangy and Scioto Rivers was cancelled by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). It seems the ODOT application offered no replacement for the 31 acres of trees on the riverbanks that would be lost to construction.

Harrison West residents have seen the river habitat destroyed in the portion of 315 constructed along the neighborhood. ODOT offered only grass seed and riprap (rocks piled on the banks) to alleviate the destruction the highway was to cause on both rivers, including the section that runs through Harrison West.

The consequence of not replacing the river habitat would have profoundly negative effects on a surprisingly robust sport fishery in the two rivers, accord-

ing to Jeff Skelding, Executive Director of Rivers Unlimited. The group is the nation's oldest statewide river protection group.

The project is on hold while ODOT attempts to comply with a 1987 Federal Law requiring wetlands delineation and remediation.

There's hope for the Harrison West river yet.

Gift Bazaar at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church

Get all your gift needs at one stop at the Gift Bazaar December 6 from 10 AM to 5:30 PM and December 7 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the church hall, 390 Buttles Avenue. Crafters and artists from Columbus and the surrounding area will be selling their wares, plus great raffle prizes from neighborhood businesses and wonderful homemade baked goods will be available. Free gift wrapping with purchase.

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Federal Hearing on Traffic Requested by Neighborhoods

(Continued from Page 1)

However, the hearing request filed with the Army Corps of Engineers by Harrison West, Victorian Village, Dennison Place and the Landmarks Foundation stated that substantial changes have been made to the project (since 1982) that would substantially adversely affect our neighborhoods, specifically the residential character of our federally listed historic district.

Back in 1982, planners were not as sensitive to neighborhood issues as they are today. (*In 82, no one was as sensitive to our Near Northside Historic District as they are now!*) Project features designed and approved then have proven to be bad for neighborhoods.

In this case, the planned highway is too small, it routes overflow traffic through historic neighborhoods (ours), and it turns our river into a rock-lined ditch, destroying wetlands and habitat.

Even worse, these negative effects were not evaluated in the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement that won the Feds' approval of the project.

Of course, no bureaucracy will voluntarily change approved plans, no matter how bad they may be.

The Spring/Sandusky project plans were not changed, nor was a new Environmental Impact Statement prepared.

Don't use Tax Dollars to degrade our neighborhoods

The neighborhoods' request for a public hearing on the 1982 plans is to ensure that federal highway dollars are not spent by the Ohio Department of Transportation and the City of Columbus in a way that is bad for our neighborhoods.

Watch the HW News for the hearing date.

Spring/Sandusky and Traffic Will Get Worse, Now That ...

... the B-4 connector has been eliminated and a segment of Neil Avenue between **Spring and Goodale will be used to provide access to and from downtown to 315.**

...the Michigan Avenue Interceptor has been changed from two way to one way, the **13,000 tractor-trailers that arrive and depart the A.C. Humko plant at West First and Perry every year will cut through Victorian Village and Harrison West.**

...the **Spring Street entrance to northbound 315 and both Third Avenue ramps have closed permanently**, the traffic has already increased on Neil, Third, Fifth and King Avenues.

...Goodale Street is one-way west ending at the Michigan Avenue Interceptor, traffic exiting I-670 at Goodale will back up from that Interceptor, and the **back up will disperse traffic into the neighborhoods by Neil and Michigan Avenues.**

...**traffic already has increased by 50 percent on Neil Avenue** since the ramp closings.

...**traffic noise levels measured recently at sample residences in the neighborhoods exceed** Federal Highway Administration criteria for consideration of noise control abatement.

...the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has predicted that **traffic volume will increase** even further following completion of the Spring/Sandusky interchange in 2004.


...and **ODOT is threatening to close down both 670 and 315 at the same time**, now that neighborhood groups and environmentalists are questioning the damage the project will do to our neighborhoods and the river.

In view of these potentially disastrous situations and events, the Harrison West Society, the Victorian Village Society and the Dennison Place Association have united to call for a public hearing regarding the effects of the Spring/Sandusky Interchange Project on the Near Northside Historic District. (*See article Federal Hearing on Traffic Sought on Page 1*)

So why does this concern you?

You live here. Your kids play here, you walk your dog here, you take an after-dinner stroll here. You drive here. Maybe the increased traffic noise doesn't bother you. Maybe you don't mind being stuck in traffic on the way to the Bear. Maybe no commuter has rear-ended your car or had a close call with one of your kids. Yet.

It could happen. And the chance of it happening to all of us gets better every day as the City and ODOT pours traffic through our streets.

It's not a glamour issue, and certainly not as much fun as stringing holiday lights around your house, but the traffic problems facing our neighborhood are serious and immediate. So make a commitment to attend the hearing when the date and place are announced and make yourself heard. 

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Neil, King, 5th, 3rd to remain major arteries Traffic Meeting With City Stalls Out

The 250 residents who packed Thurber Village auditorium on Thursday, November 21, were surprised to hear that after two years of good faith collaborative planning with the City, the preliminary recommendations of the Thoroughfare Plan are to leave the pattern of arterial streets unchanged.

This means that Neil, King, Fifth, and Third Avenues will be designated as arterial routes.

Unless these recommendations are revised, increased truck and car traffic in our district is virtually assured. These streets could also revert to 35mph.

City planners reportedly consider the use of these streets to connect major destinations (e.g., OSU and downtown) and make freeway links; to move traffic across the river to and from the northwest; and to service Doctor's Hospital and Battelle as more important than our neighborhoods.

However, residents responded that the new Spring-Sandusky links would better serve trucks and commuters, and that the preliminary recommendations made to the district directly oppose urban planning efforts and priorities to increased the vitality and pedestrian nature of downtown historic neighborhoods.

City planners noted the concerns expressed and pledged to return this spring after further deliberation to discuss their final recommendations before they are submitted. Area leaders have vowed to vigorously pursue the declassification issue in concert with all area historical societies and concerned residents. For more information, contact Craig Copeland at 299-3737.


This article was reported by Marnie Morrison.



In essence, what City Planners told the 250 angry residents packed into the standing-room-only meeting is that they are sacrificing our quality of life and neighborhood safety to make it easier for northwest suburban commuters and OSU folks to get downtown. Residents demanded better treatment. But it doesn't look like we'll get it.

Welcome New Neighbor

Pam Laycock just bought 1063 Pennsylvania. She will be restoring the home and will be an asset to the area.



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**All We
Did Was
Listen**

On Neil At Goodale

Calling Community Artists

The Godman Guild Association, a community-based organization serving the near north side of Columbus, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1998. With technical assistance from the Greater Columbus Arts Council, an exhibition is being planned for the end of February to highlight the works of artists living in the community. Artists interested in more information about the exhibit and the process for submission should call Ellen Moss at the Godman Guild, 294-6227 by December 31. ❖

Artist Mary Miller Exhibits

At the December 6th Gallery Hop, local tile artist, Mary Miller, is showing of a unique collection of planter boxes, tables, vases and wall hangings at the Urban Gardener at 940 North High Street. Mary turns found objects into art. ❖



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• AWNINGS
• ROOFING
• DOORS



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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	10:40 am	Worship Service
Monday	6:00 pm	Worship Service
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Music Practice
	6:30 pm	Little Women
Wednesday	9:30 am	Homemakers
	6:30 pm	Boys' Brigade
Friday	6:30 pm	Women's Missionary Group

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Happy Holidays Harrison West