

HARRISON WEST NEWS

April 2006 17/4

A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places

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Sign on the Line to Support the TIF

Before long, HW Society members will be asking all property owners in Harrison West to *Sign on the Line* to support the Neighborhood TIF.

The Society is aiming for 100% support, since the TIF is a Win-Win deal for the neighborhood.

What's at stake is 100% of the TIF money vs. 90%. If the neighborhood cannot get enough signatures, the City will skim 10% of the TIF money. Over the 30-year life of the TIF, this could amount to a million dollars or more lost to the neighborhood.

So *Sign on the Line to Support the TIF* when your neighbor comes to your door.

See the related article "TIF is Win Win for Harrison West" on Page 5.

Year Overview 2005-2006

by Rob Harris

Here's what the Harrison West Society has worked on in the last year:

- Tax Increment Finance expenditure
- Area Commission
- Conservation District
- Constitution and By-Laws
- HW Executive Committee structure, communication, and ratification
- Tax Increment Finance secured
- First and Thurber condominium recommendation and support
- Summer Block Party
- Harrison Park changes to parkland, development
- Gowdy Field conversion to development
- Gowdy Field agreement with Recreation and Parks on \$1 million grant
- Harrison West plan, revision to the Harrison West Reach
- Gowdy Field council support, signage and zoning agreement, good neighbor agreement
- Conservation District meeting with City, Chief of Staff call for support
- Friends of Goodale Park liaison discussion
- Marathon Party
- Traffic Calming agreement, verification of bid proposal
- 1018 Pennsylvania Avenue proposal to build condominiums and curb cuts
- Officer planning and procedure document
- North Central Community Mental Health demolition proposal
- Winter Party
- Membership drive letter
- Short North Neighborhood Foundation liaison appointed
- Olentangy Boulevard Design process begun
- UIRF proposal
- Traffic Calming letter of support based on COBAC concerns
- Constitution and Bylaws open forum
- Garden Tour established



**Next Meeting:
Wednesday,
April 19**

NEXT MEETING

**The Harrison West Society will meet
Wednesday,
April 19 at 7:00 PM
First Brethren Church, Third & Oregon**

INSIDE

**Minutes
SNNF Rep
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Banana Bean**

New meeting time is 7 PM.

HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES

March 15, 2006

Submitted by Veda Gilp, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM with a quorum of voting members present (22); Vice President Rob Harris presiding.

Routine Business

Minutes Tony Celebreeze motioned to approve the minutes of the last meeting; Passed.

Treasurer's Report Veda Gilp reported for Treasurer Tom Maxwell a balance of \$6,504.83, with current bills paid.

Old Business and Committee Reports:

President's Report President Mary Funk was not present. Rob Harris reported the Wagenbrenner Companies will repair the sidewalk for James and Fannie Cowan on West First Avenue. Solicited discussion of possible UIRF projects. Veda Gilp motioned to send a letter telling Victorian Village that Harrison West was going to go after its own UIRF grant, and therefore could not support the Victorian Village UIRF grant; Passed.

Audit Report Chair Chris Ruder reported that the Committee is ready to present procedures regarding the TIF and the Society to the Ex Committee.

Civic Relations Chair Pastor Richard Morris reported that the Council of Historic Neighborhoods has decided to remain neutral in the 70/71 split issue. There was no decision as to whether the Society should seek a presentation from either side of the design debate.

Communications Committee Chair Stephanie Tresso was not in attendance. It was stressed that 30th Anniversary planning must commence.

Community Housing VP Harris reported that more bingo prizes are needed for the Seniors. Steve Cross from Trendy Thriftique has sold the Society bingo prizes at cost.

Conservation Committee Chair Seth Rothly reported that the City has approved a budget for a Conservation District administrator. Mary Funk will get a copy for the Society.

Elections Committee Chair Rick Kobe reported that the Short North Neighborhood Foundation wishes to present to the Society at the April meeting about the SNNF. Steve Cross from Trendy Thriftique will be the HWS representative.

Barb Kobe requested that the April and May *Harrison West News* publish a call for candidates for Society officers and that officer candidates should submit their intent to the Elections Committee and the *News*.

Membership Report Chair Tony Celebreeze presented a list of 137 members, an 88% renewal rate. Wants to mail more letters.

Parks Committee Co-Chair Debby Colvin reported that the Garden Tour will be June 11,

and will be combined with the City-wide Open Garden Tour.

Planning and Development Chair Jacob Sukosd reported on his meeting with Rec and Parks Alan McKnight and that the first \$500,000 is waiting for the Society to find parkland to buy. The Santer Avenue One Lofts will be breaking ground in May.

Social Tim Bledso had no report. *Traffic* Chair Craig Copeland reported that the islands on 3rd and 5th are to be put out to bid in April. The Battelle crosswalk has moved to the corner. Third Avenue will be built first. He reported that the Tech Corridor design was funded with only \$20,000, about enough to put banners on light poles.

Crime Report Community Liaison Officer Steve Smith reported that most of the crime in Harrison West occurs in the CPO properties and the deep south apartment complexes. Crime in the neighborhood is sporadic and incidental. In February there were three burglaries, one malicious destruction, two street robberies, one theft from auto, one theft from building and trespassing at Heartland, and one report of voyeurism. Lock your doors, he says.

New Business and Announcements

Mark Wagenbrenner was present to discuss the TIF money stream.

Chris Ruder reported that 545 West Third Avenue is up for Sheriff's Sale.

Executive Committee will meet Monday, April 27, 2006, 6 PM.

The Harrison West Society will meet April 19, 2006 at 7 PM.

Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

HARRISON WEST NEWS

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

www.harrisonwest.org

P.O. Box 163442, Columbus, OH 43216

Officers

PRESIDENT

Mary Funk 291-9545

MFunk50@sbcglobal.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Rob Harris 297-8388

rharris@archall.com

SECRETARY

Veda Gilp 299-6877

Editor@vedagilp.com

TREASURER

Tom Maxwell 297-7663

Editorial and Advertising

Information:

Editor Veda Gilp 299-6877,444-4532(w), fax 444-1710, vedagilp@vedagilp.com
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- Tuesday 6:30 PM Bible Study
- Thursday 6:30 PM Youth Group
- Friday 7:00 PM OPen Prayer



**Our church is open to all.
Please come.**

**The new Community
Housing phone is 298-6250.**

New meeting
time is 7 PM.

New Short North Neighborhood Foundation Representative from Harrison West

Steven Cross is the new Harrison West Society liaison to the Short North Neighborhood Foundation. At the last Executive Committee meeting, Steven received unanimous support for his decision to apply for the position of liaison. At the April 19th general meeting, members will be asked to vote to support Steven Cross as the HWS representative.

Stephen is one of the owners of the Trendy Thriftique on Third next to the Subway.

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) _____

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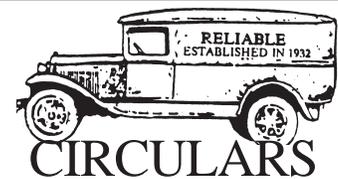
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New meeting time is 7 PM.

Early Bird Open Garden

Come view a garden and get ideas for Harrison West's upcoming neighborhood garden tour.

The garden of Debby and Jerry Colvin, at 492 West Fourth Avenue, will be open as part of the Columbus Recreation and Parks' Open Garden Tour on Sunday, April 23, from 1-

6. See lots of colorful spring bulbs in bloom, as well as Redbud, White and Pink Dogwoods, and tall bearded iris, among other items. Everyone who attends may take home a free plant, while they last!



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Harrison West Open Garden Tour June 11

The Harrison West Open Garden Tour will be part of the Columbus Recreation and Parks' Open Garden Tour on Sunday, June 11, from 1-6 PM.

You still have time to add your garden to the list. The Open Garden Tour is part of the Harrison West Society's 30th anniversary celebration this year.

The Columbus Recreation and Parks Department advertises the Tour in the Columbus *Dispatch*, and on www.columbusrecparks.com.

Call Debby Colvin, at 299-7434, or e-mail her at dcolvin@ameritech.net for more details, or for the Park and Rec's sign-up sheet.

You can be a part of the Harrison West Society's anniversary celebration by touring these gardens, and meeting your Harrison West neighbors. And before or after the event, stop by the 2006 Columbus Rose Festival at the Whetstone Park of Roses, 3923 N. High Street (same day 1-8 PM.).

Harrison West Society Elections Slate

The Executive Committee has endorsed the following slate to the membership for election:

- Rob Harris President
- Mary Funk Vice-President
- Barbara Kobe Secretary
- Becky Borlaza Treasurer

Nominations are eligible from the floor at both the April and May meetings. You must be a member in good standing (paid up) since March, 2006 to vote.

Home Sales in Harrison West

Here's another reason why the TIF is bringing money into Harrison West. In February, 6 homes sold at an average price of \$259,000 each. This is extraordinary. For March, 3 homes sold at an average of \$264,000 each. There are 8 homes for sale at an average of \$228,000 each, not including Harrison Park or Courtyard on Perry.

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TIF is Win-Win for Harrison West

Developer Mark Wagenbrenner attended the last meeting to explain how the Neighborhood Tax Increment Financing (TIF) process works. The Harrison West Neighborhood TIF was put into place in February, 2004, on a basis of 770 properties. The first proceeds will be coming to the neighborhood in December, 2006.

What this means to Harrison West is that every year, the tax

increases on neighborhood properties go to the TIF (after the Columbus Public Schools gets their percentage) to come back to the neighborhood for capital improvements.

The first TIF monies will be used to buy land for and to develop Harrison Park. After that, all the *increased* tax revenue generated because Harrison West is prospering will come back to Harrison West.

For neighborhood property owners, there is no downside to the

TIF. The County will continue to assess higher property taxes as properties in Harrison West increase in value. The TIF has no affect on this assessment. The only difference to Harrison West is that because of the neighborhood TIF, the *increase* (minus what the schools get) returns to the neighborhood for capital improvements. Currently the list of improvements the Harrison West Society is considering include:

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

In the next few months, Society members will be asking property owners for signatures supporting the TIF. The goal is to get 100% support of the TIF to show the City how strongly Harrison West supports the TIF.



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New meeting time is 7 PM.

Tea Ceremony at Inner Connections Holistic Bodywork Center

Looking for a unique, energizing, refreshing, enchanting, and lively change of pace? Join Suzi Wilkoff and Lisa Balogh of Holistic Bodywork Center for a traditional tea ceremony on May 13 from 1 to 3:30 at 1196 Neil Avenue. Reservations are \$25 per person by calling 614-299-7638. Your hostesses, along with Zen Cha tea salon, will transport you to Asia for an authentic tea house experience.

Bike Path Spruce Up June 3

Battelle, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) and Harrison West are sponsoring an Olentangy River Bike Path spruce-up and cleanup (Litter Pickup, Weeding, Mulching, and Planting) on June 3, from 9 am to noon, **rain or shine**. We will have a small cookout for the volunteers at noon.

Meet at the Battelle Warehouse parking lot by the Fifth Avenue Bridge (southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and the Olentangy River) at 9 am for sign-in and work assignments.

Please bring your own weeding, mulching and planting tools, and gloves. Call Adam Wagenbach from Battelle at 424-7927 for more information.

What's Happening When in HW

| Harrison West Society Meetings, 7 PM, First Brethren Church | Executive Committe Meets, 6 PM, First Brethren Church |
|---|---|
| April 19 | April 24 |
| May 17 | May 22 |
| June 21 | June 26 |
| July 19 | July 31 |
| August 16 | August 28 |
| September 20 | September 25 |
| October 18 | October 30 |
| November 15 | November 27 |
| December 20 | December 18 |

Parties & Socials

- River Cleanup w/Battelle
June 3
- Summer Block Party
July 8
- Marathon Party Oct. 15
- Holiday Party Dec. 20



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Harrison Park

Discover the Treasures of Camp Mary Orton

Camp Mary Orton will be hosting its 2nd Annual Open House Treasure Hunt and Silent Auction on Sunday, May 7. Call 614-885-1023 for more information or visit www.campmaryorton.org.

Treasure-hunters that brave the expedition will have the opportunity to uncover all the riches that Camp has to offer: first-class adventure facilities, modern meeting accommodations, a friendly and supportive staff, an impressive silent auction and hourly raffle drawings! The event will take place from 1:00 PM. to 6:00 PM. at Camp Mary Orton, located at 7925 North High Street. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for an outdoor challenge.

Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Banana Bean

(Continued from Page 8)

Pat ordered the roast pork tenderloin, which boasted an excellent smoky flavor, though it was a bit on the dry side. The mashed sweet potatoes kicked Thanksgiving up a notch, in our estimation. Chef Kevin said it was the dark Karo syrup that added the depth of flavor. The banana chutney and curry-mango butter displayed excellent, if original, flavor groupings.

My grouper was a large piece of perfectly-prepared fish resting on three big, tasty deep-fried balls of mashed potatoes, corn and crab. Lovely, but the accompanying scotch bonnet-pineapple chutney and mango drizzle were the stars of this plate.

The sauces, jams, chutneys and drizzles here are inspired, excellent, fun, fresh. Unique flavor combos turn good food into edible art. Chef Kevin has achieved a great balance of hot, sweet and tart.

Also good are the sandwiches, muffettas, tacos and appetizers. One lunch I had the best-ever fish taco with grilled orange-cilantro shrimp, mango habanero ketchup, shaved cabbage and onion in a grilled tortilla.

The key lime tart was great, but the thai basil syrup that came with it was OUTSTANDING! See what I mean about the sauces? In fact, you should always ask for extra sauce for everything because they all are that good.

Now for the not-so-great news -- the ventilation is terrible, so everything you wear there comes out smelling like whatever they were cooking. The roasted corn salsa is not successful -- too chewy and dry. Also avoid the sweet potato french fries -- they are an innovative idea whose time should never come.

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Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Banana Bean Cafe

by Veda Gilp

The Diva of Victorian Village, Pat Lewis, and I recently dined wonderfully at Banana Bean Cafe on Whittier in German Village. The food earned raves, but the ventilation needs work.

Banana Bean Cafe calls its food style "Floribbean" with the patina of Key West. They even have a Key West bar live on the television. While Pat and I were bundled up in wool and sweaters, the folks on the TV were in flip flops and shorts. Were we jealous!

Back to the Floribbean style -- it means Caribbean ingredients such as conch, black beans, mango, plantains, stone crab, and jerk seasonings combined with Key West-y fishes, fruits, nuts and veggies. Chef and owner Kevin Caskey adds a definite imaginative approach which brings the combos to new heights of flavor and satisfaction.

Pat and I both thought the crispy ginger calamari with tomato chili jam was some of the best we had ever had. Fresh not fishy, light not greasy, and set off perfectly with the sweet-hot jam. Yum!

Every day, they make up a pot of Bahamian conch chowder and Cuban black bean soup and several different salads. Based on the quality, taste, and fun of the rest of the food, these must be delicious. But we didn't try them. (Not enough stomach room.)

(Continued on Page 7)



HARRISON WEST NEWS



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