

HARRISON WEST NEWS

A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places

Since 1976

Vol. 19 Issue 7 July 2008

CITY HOP LANDS IN HARRISON PARK



By Eric Casto

On the sunny Saturday of June 14, the Harrison Park development welcomed visitors as a stop on the Columbus Landmark Foundation's City Hop, an annual tour of downtown and metropolitan-area condominiums. This was the first year that the non-profit foundation, established for the needs of preservation and community action in historic areas, expanded the boundaries of the tour beyond the Downtown Development District.

An estimated five hundred people took the opportunity to view and compare Harrison Park to the other 15 entrants on the tour. The comments by many indicated that Harrison Park maintains a uniquely strong community connection, not only within its 16 acre boundaries, but also with the contiguous neighborhoods in Harrison West, Victorian Village and the greater Short North area. These features, in addition to the unique amenities exclusively available to Harrison Park residents at the development's Community Center—a fully equipped fitness facility, community-event areas and a swimming pool—make it a can't miss opportunity for those seeking a metropolitan location with an affordable price tag.

To capitalize on the event and to express appreciation to residents and neighbors, the developer, Wagenbrenner Development, threw a post-Hop



party at the Harrison Park Community Center. The local band, Sharp Circle, provided an eclectic and cheerful mix of familiar rock-n-roll hits at the pool for the duration of the celebration. Based on the turnout and positive feedback among participants, the event as a whole was quite a success.

BLOCK PARTY A SPLASH!



By Tim Bledsoe

This year's annual neighborhood block party will be held poolside at the Harrison Park Community

Center, located at 575 W. First Ave. Festivities will run from 6 until 10 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

Please join us for a summer evening with your friends and neighbors. The Harrison West Society will provide hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks for all to enjoy.

Bring your own adult beverage, but for safety reasons, **glass bottles and containers are not permitted around the pool.**

Feel free to bring your favorite side dish to share with your neighbors. And if the heat overwhelms you, take a dip in the pool or retire to the air-conditioned club room.

We hope to see you all there!



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NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be this Wed., July 16, 2008, 7 p.m. at the Harrison Park Community Center, 575 West First Avenue.

We will be getting updates on current activities and discussing summer activities.

JUNE MEETING MINUTES

By Tim Bledsoe, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m. Quorum (20 members) present. Bob Mangia moved to approve May's meetings minutes. Seconded. Passed unanimously. Membership now 284 members.

Treasurer's Report: \$7,045.99 in checking; \$2,773.52 in savings; \$2,621.25 in CDs.

Newsletter: Newsletter committee reported a productive meeting. Committee is seeking new people for various tasks relating to newsletter. New ideas on how to publish the newsletter discussed. Intern is being sought through journalism classes of local schools. Web master still needed.

Wheeler Dog Park: Construction slated to begin late July. Upgrades and all extra amenities approved and funded.

Side-By-Side Park: Bench and fence damaged by car driving through park. Bench removed by neighbors to Fortin's for repair. Rob Harris moved that HWS pay for bench repairs and reinstallment. Seconded by Bob Mangia. Passed unanimously. Bollards to be placed at both entrances. Damaged section of fence has been repaired and replaced. Mulch delivered and installed. Bob Mangia moved that HWS buy an additional \$200 in mulch from Martha Walker. Seconded. Passed unanimously. City checking lights and looking for water leak.

Harrison West Park: Two benches refurbished by a city volunteer and ready to be reinstalled.

Harrison Park: Demolition of the building at Second Avenue and the Olentangy River to be voted on by city council on June 23. Demolition complete within thirty days of approval.

Recreation Path: Battelle employees and Harrison West residents joined together to clean up recreation path and surrounding river bank.

Social: Harrison Park hosted successful City Hop tour and after-tour party. Neighborhood yard sale well-organized; participation appeared large. Summer

block party to be held July 18, 2008, 6-10 p.m. Planning and details to come.

Traffic: Drowning at the Fifth Avenue low-head dam discussed. Rob Harris reported that K. Shepherd from city said that King Avenue traffic island to be redone; materials are on order. Four-way stop at Perry Street and First Avenue still not in place. Request for a second four-way stop, this one at Perry Street and Second Avenue.

Civic Relations: Third Avenue our main thoroughfare; needs attention. HWS needs overall plan for the spruce-up of Third Avenue. Former B. Hampton building has a proposed new use. The Victorian Village Commission has approved plans. Battelle to proceed with construction of child development center. No curb cuts on Third Avenue or Perry Street. Construction is under way. Rob Harris, Mary Funk, Pastor Morris met with Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy. Harrison West needs to become an area commission. HW boundaries are very clear. City would like all neighborhoods to be under an area commissions. HWS to run articles in newsletter about becoming an area commission. HWS would remain the same. HRC brochures are being printed.

Short North Foundation: Rob Harris presented sign proposal to other areas of Short North. Other areas, except the Special Improvement District (SID), very receptive; SID does not feel that HW is part of Short North. HW does fall into historic boundaries of Short North. Chase Park needs repairs. The United Commercial Travelers monument to be returned to Goodale Park. HWS supports monument's replacement on its original foundation.

Crime Report: Very active month. Several arrests have been made in four burglaries. Two malicious thefts; one theft from an auto.

From May 2008 report by Columbus Police Division.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Harrison West News

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P.O. Box 163442, Columbus, OH 43216
www.harrisonwest.org
newsletter@harrisonwest.org

Officers

President Rob Harris
President@harrisonwest.org

Vice President Mary Funk
VicePresident@harrisonwest.org

Secretary Tim Bledsoe
secretary@harrisonwest.org

Treasurer Dick Montgomery
Treasurer@harrisonwest.org

Editorial and Advertising

Editor/Advertising Contact: Pastor Morris
newsletter@harrisonwest.org

Third Friday of the month preceding publication month.

Ad Rates	3x@	12x@
3 col inches(2 3/8 w X 3 h)	\$ 30	\$ 25
6 col inches(5 w X 3 h)	\$ 60	\$ 55
1/2 page (7.5 w X 5.5 h)	\$160	\$155
Full page (7.5 w X 9.7 h)	\$300	\$290

Inserts \$150 each time if preprinted; inserts not pre-approved will be \$300.

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Send ads as PDF or TIF files in grayscale.

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Harrison West Society meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m. at Harrison Park Community Center, 575 W. 1st Ave.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

By *Jim Slone*

Below is a list of important contacts for state and city government offices and elected officials.

Remember that the City of Columbus Call Center (645-3111) should be your first call for almost all your non-emergency needs.

Feel free to cut this out and hang on your refrigerator or other visible location in your home or office.

EMERGENCY – Police/Fire **911**
City Call Center at 3-1-1 **645-3111**

Non-Emergency Police 645-4545
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Sewer Emergency (after-hours) 645-7102

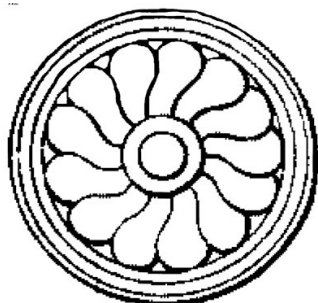
Mayor's Office

Mayor Michael Coleman 645-7671
Mayor's Action Center 645-2489
Columbus City Attorney 645-7385
City Auditor 645-7615
Columbus City Council 645-7380
Recreation and Parks 645-3300
Refuse Collection Division 645-7620
Bulk Pickup Scheduler 645-3111
NAIL-A-DUMPER 871-5322

City Website www.columbus.gov
City Call Center Website 311.columbus.gov

Governor's Office

Governor Ted Strickland 466-3555
State of Ohio website www.ohio.gov



VOLUNTEERS SPRUCE-UP BIKE PATH

By *Adam J. Wagenbach*

Congratulations to the Battelle and Harrison West volunteers who participated in our annual Neighborhood Community Bike Path Spruce-Up. The group really did great work on Saturday, June 14. No doubt they could run a successful landscaping business on the side!

The group weeded, cleaned up, and trimmed the Fifth Avenue Bridge bike-path islands, removing three pickup-truck loads of weeds and shrub and tree trimmings. In addition, they collected litter from and trimmed shrubs and trees along the bike path between Third Avenue and King Avenue. The team also removed a downed tree that was on the bike path and filled one

trash bag with recyclables and another with other litter from the area. Thanks to Bob Geoghegan, Steve Shaffer and Gary Hattery, a wheelchair and a large City of Columbus street sign were also removed. As a result of these efforts, the bike path in this area is now more beautiful and safer for all bike path users.

Thanks again to the volunteers for their community service and a special thanks to our contributors and co-sponsors: ARAMARK (lunch), Battelle (refreshments and giveaways), Buckeye Landscaping (mulch), Keep Columbus Beautiful (work tools, trash bags and gloves), Battelle Rivers and Streams Team, FLOW and the Harrison West Society.



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CITY LEADERS UNVEIL \$1.66 BILLION 2008 VOTED BOND PACKAGE

This November, voters can support a plan to drive new investment into neighborhoods and to create thousands of new jobs in construction and in growing private industries.

On June 19, Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Auditor Hugh J. Dorrian, City Council President Michael C. Mentel and President Pro-Tem Kevin L. Boyce joined residents and neighborhood leaders to unveil the \$1.66 billion, 6-issue, 2008 Voted Bond Package that will appear on the November 4 ballot.

"This is a sound investment that strengthens neighborhoods and creates jobs," said Mayor Coleman. "Voter approval of these six issues will allow us to stimulate our economy and bring our city's infrastructure to a whole new level—while saving more than \$28 million."

Voter approval will allow the city to borrow money through the sale of city bonds to finance large capital projects over an extended period of time. Columbus is the only large city in the United States that has a AAA bond rating from all three major bond rating agencies. Combined with voter approval, this excellent rating allows the city to finance more projects with fewer dollars and no new taxes.

"This is another opportunity for Columbus to achieve major savings in our capital improvement efforts," said Auditor Dorrian. "Columbus voters have been very supportive of these efforts for the past fifty years, and I encourage all of our citizens to take advantage of these savings again by voting in favor of these bond issues."

From the \$1.6 billion bond package, \$1.1 billion will be invested in public

utilities projects to protect Central Ohio's drinking water supply while also cleaning up local rivers and streams and putting the city into compliance with consent orders signed with the State of Ohio that mandate improvements to reduce sanitary and combined sewer overflows. In addition, the city will invest approximately \$432 million in key neighborhood projects such as new sidewalks, road re-

surfacing, new and existing fire stations, new health centers and new and existing recreation centers. An additional \$124 million of the bond package will leverage private sector investment of \$702 million and create new jobs in key job centers including Children's Hospital, Techneglas, the Airport Economic Development District and the Kinnear Road Technology Campus.

"This bond package will allow Columbus to responsibly plan for growth, create jobs and improve neighborhoods," said Council President Mentel. "Our residents will see real results when they support these initiatives."

The city's last voted bond package was in 2004 and allowed for many neighborhood investments including new fire stations, miles of new sidewalks near schools, new construction of sewers to prevent neighborhood flooding prevention and many other neighborhood projects.

"In tough economic times it becomes even more critical to strengthen and maintain our basic infrastructure," said President Pro-Tem Boyce. "With voter approved bond capacity, we can protect and improve our infrastructure at the lowest possible cost to the tax payers."

An analysis performed by the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce estimates that this bond package will support an average of 5,500 regional jobs each year over the next five years and generate \$3 billion for the local economy. For every \$100 million invested by the City, \$181 million will be generated for the local economy.

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Sandy Woolard,
ABR, ext. 119



Patrick Jones,
ext. 102



Sharon Young,
ext. 104



DJ Coon,
ABR, ext. 212



Regina Acosta Tobin,
Hablo Español ext. 107



Equal housing opportunity

BLAST FROM THE PAST

By Chris Ruder



5 Years ago in Harrison West

Studio 16 had a photography exhibit by "Lonesome Ash," and the neighborhood was invited to a "Humko Disclosure" meeting at the Northside Public Library. (The site had been officially sold, and many residents and neighbors wanted to know what might happen to the property.)

10 Years ago in Harrison West

Problems continued with the traffic plans. (Plans were made to convert Neil Ave. into a four-lane arterial by 2010.) Battelle invited neighbors to help plan landscaping along the river trail. An eight-page spread of pictures from the Garden Tour ran in the newsletter.

*From the Harrison West Newsletter
Issues 9.7 and 14.7.*

BOND PACKAGE (CONTINUED)

The six issues that will appear on the ballot are: safety and health (\$86.1 million), streets and highways (\$345.6 million), water (\$524.7 million), refuse collection (\$32.2 million), sanitary sewers (\$551.9 million) and recreation and parks (\$124.2 million).



DISTINCTIVE URBAN LIVING IN HARRISON WEST.

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by *Chris Ruder*

Some neighbors have been asking why the Harrison West Society is not an area commission and whether or not it's time to pursue such a designation. Below are some points to begin a discussion about becoming an area commission.

BACKGROUND

The City of Columbus is the largest city in the world that does not elect any of its legislators from districts. Our unique system has positives and negatives. City councilors, for example, are responsible to the entire city, and many would consider this to be a good thing. The negative side of this circumstance, on the other hand, is that no one has the duty to speak for a particular neighborhood and its sometimes very local needs.

HISTORY

In the 1970's, neighborhoods complained that they had no vehicle through which they could formally offer input to the city government. In response the city decided to establish groups that it would use for local consultation—the area commissions. The University Area Commission was the first to be established, and it was followed by the Clintonville Area Commission and some 12 others. Things got quiet by the end of the 1980s, but recently, interest in area commissions has resurfaced both in the neighborhoods and downtown.

DESCRIPTION

It is important to note that an area commission has no actual powers; they are simply communication channels between neighborhoods and city council. Architectural review boards are sometimes also called “commissions,” which, unfortunately, causes quite a bit of confusion. An architectural review board is established to control aspects of development; an area commission is set up to advise the several departments of the city. An area commission is an independently elected

local group (although it may include appointed members).

The mayor appoints an architectural review board. Area commissions get a seat at city council meetings and are notified of city actions in time to submit comments before the city takes those actions.

ENVIRONMENT

Currently, area commissions border Harrison West on our south, north and west; Victorian Village forms our east border.

ACTION

If Harrison West decides to establish an area commission, what needs to be done?

1. We would need to decide on the area's exact boundaries, which would not need to match the Harrison West Society's boundaries.
2. We would need to agree upon organizational bylaws.
3. We would need to and appoint five or so persons to serve as a “task force” to represent us.
4. We would need to obtain five hundred signatures from residents or property owners in the proposed area.
5. City council would have to approve the area commission by adopting a law.

If you are interested, favor or oppose establishing an area commission for Harrison West or if you have further questions, come to our next society meeting or e-mail Harrison West Society President Rob Harris at president@harrisonwest.org.

By *Bob Mangia*

On May 30, one of two benches in Side-By-Side Park was damaged.

Neighbors and police suspect that a vehicle drove through the park either intentionally or after mistakenly missing the turn where the alleys adjoining Bradley Street meet the park path.

The bench has been removed and is currently in storage for safekeeping. The society voted in June to hire Fortin Ironworks to repair and replace the bench.

In hopes of preventing this from happening again, the society is now considering the installation of bollards at both entrances to the park.

The Harrison West Society offers a big thank-you to all who helped move the bench.



Share Your Talents

The *Harrison West News* is published monthly by an all-volunteer staff. We currently are looking for neighbors to write, copyedit and proofread articles and for designers to lay out the newsletter.

Can you share your talents for an hour every month or two? We want to meet you!

Contact newsletter@harrisonwest.org today.

SOMETIMES YOU WIN...

As many Harrison West residents already know, Battelle is planning to build a child development center at the north end of the Third Avenue green space.

After meeting with representatives from Battelle and reviewing their proposal, the Harrison West Society Executive Committee and members from the Harrison West Society offered Battelle suggestions for the building's location and design that they felt would minimize its impact on the neighborhood and be more acceptable to residents.

The original proposal included a service drive that extended the entire length of the green space following the bike path and terminating in a curb-cut on West Third Avenue.

The Harrison West Society expressed to the City of Columbus Transportation Division and to Battelle its concern that the curb cut raised life safety issues.

The city has decided not to allow the curb cut because its location next to the bicycle path, its proximity to the future traffic island, the blind spot that would be created by sloping the grade, its nearness to the Third Avenue bridge, and its intersection with the sidewalk would create a dangerous confluence of vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Battelle also discussed installing a curb cut on Perry Street to provide an additional egress from the child development center parking area. A city council ordinance prohibiting curb cuts from the Battelle property onto Perry Street, however, has prevented this proposed curb cut and will insure that the parking from Battelle lots continues to flow onto Fifth Avenue.

Harrison West Society has been less successful convincing Battelle that

the design of the child development center and its site is not in character with Harrison West's architectural vernacular. John Parent of Battelle has informed the Harrison West Society that the project has been reviewed by registered architects and other outside consultants who disagree with Harrison West Society and feel that the building fits with the architecture of the neighborhood.

Harrison West Society expressed concern that the trash receptacle, service entrance, electrical power pads and other mechanicals are to be located on the west side of the building near the bike path.

Parent has assured Harrison West Society that all of the mechanical and service areas of the building will be screened from the bike path.

Finally, the City of Columbus council ordinance that sold the land to Battelle specifies that an access to the Olentangy River from the neighborhood must be provided via a path.

The child development center will sit directly on the existing path, but Harrison West Society hopes that a new path will be installed in accordance with the ordinance.

Battelle's original proposal to the Harrison West Society remains unchanged except for the traffic-division-enforced control over the curb cuts.

The society was unable to convince Battelle to move the building to the existing asphalt parking lot, to relocate the mechanicals to the roof, or to consider architecture that is more compassionate to our residential neighborhood.

The Harrison West Society did request that the remainder of the green space be allocated as public land to the neighborhood, but this proposal was not open to consideration by Battelle.

We strongly hope that Battelle's reduction of the green space does not foreshadow the eventual end to the beloved green space at Third and Perry.

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Come make 2008 a year to remember. Become a member or renew your membership and help us make a great neighborhood.

Harrison West Society Membership

Please complete this form and mail it along with your dues to Harrison West Society; P.O. Box 163442 Columbus, Ohio 43216-3342. Membership dues are for the calendar year. Name and address are required fields.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone.: _____ Email: _____

Renewing Member ☐ New Member ☐

Individual \$10 ☐ Household \$15 ☐ Senior(60+) \$5 ☐

Sustaining \$25 ☐ Patron \$30 ☐ Other \$ _____ ☐

Voting (resident, owner or business in Harrison West) ☐ Non-voting (other) ☐

Harrison West Society Volunteer Form

- ☐ Budget (sets up the Society Budget)
- ☐ TIF Task Force (monitors and reports on TIF events)
- ☐ Newsletter Advertising (works with the advertisers)
- ☐ Newsletter Distribution (distributes the newsletter to businesses)
- ☐ Newsletter Reporting (writes articles and proofs articles)
- ☐ Newsletter and Website graphics (develops graphics and images)
- ☐ Website maintenance (maintains and updates website)
- ☐ Policy (reviews all changes to By Laws, Constitution, & policies)
- ☐ Membership (recruits new members)
- ☐ Parks (oversees our local parks)
- ☐ Planning and Development (keeps track of local zoning issues)
- ☐ Social (sets up monthly programs and special events)
- ☐ Transportation (keeps track of traffic an transportation issues)
- ☐ Wheeler Dog Park (attend meetings, report to committee)
- ☐ Other _____

Meeting Calendar

Harrison West Meetings open to all members. All meetings at 7 p.m. in the Harrison Park Community Center

June 20 - Reminder

SNF Grant Application Due on Signage

July 2 - Executive Committee

Area commission

July 7 - Park Committee

Gazebo Design

July 16 - Membership

Area commission

Signage grant application update

July 18 - Social Event

Harrison West Pool Party

August 4 - Park Committee


Production Drawings

August 6 - Executive Cmtee

Park and Art Presentation

August 20 - Membership

Park and Art Presentation



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