



The Voice of the Flats!
 www.clevelandflats.org
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Oxbow Action 372
11 March, 2005

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Who Knew The Nuns Knew?

Thank you Genevieve Ray

Years ago we noticed that Riverbed Road between Old Detroit and Columbus seemed to be having some difficulty. When the Center Street Bridge went down for repair for 18 months the road was repaved and immediately began cracking and shifting. Genevieve related to us that a number of year's prior the nuns from Transitional Housing up on W. 25th Street had told us that the hillside was unstable. At that time we thought they were, well, that they didn't know exactly what they were talking about. Today we have found that they knew exactly what they were talking about. We are dealing with the instability of the hillside along with the natural springs and the lack of bulk heading along the Irish Town Bend bank of the Cuyahoga River. Many projects have been proposed for both east and west of Riverbed Street, but are predicated upon the stabilization of the hillside.

Cuyahoga River Valley Intermodal Connector (CRV-IC)

by Craig Hebebrand

ODOT has hired Parsons Brinkerhoff to develop and evaluate alternatives for extending the existing transportation spine (West 3rd Street and Quigley Road) to Whiskey Island. It should be noted that the Cleveland Innerbelt Plan is simultaneously addressing connections between this same spine and the Interstate Highway System. These connections include the proposed Quigley Road Connector, the proposed completion of the West 7th Street interchange with I-490 and the proposed realignment of Commercial Road Hill. With respect to the CRV-IC, PB is testing, sampling and monitoring the existing hillside along the westbank of the Cuyahoga River between Columbus Road and Detroit. This is the first step in determining the feasibility of stabilizing the hillside in order to accommodate the construction of the proposed Westbank Connector.

Cleveland Urban Core Projects

Advisory Committee

by Craig Hebebrand

On February 24, 2005 the Ohio Department of Transportation convened the first meeting of the Cleveland Urban Core Projects Advisory Committee. This committee will provide a discussion forum for the various stakeholders. This committee will provide feedback to ODOT, NOACA, FHWA and the City of Cleveland regarding the Cleveland Innerbelt, Lakefront West, Cuyahoga River Valley Intermodal Connector and the Opportunity Corridor. The Committee is scheduled to meet approximately once every four months. The first meeting focused on the Cleveland Innerbelt. ODOT and their consultant team provided an update on the status of the Cleveland Innerbelt Plan. They reviewed the various alternatives for each of the segments. A Public Open House covering the same material was held on the evening of February 24, 2005 at the Visiting Nurses Association on East 22nd Street. Additional information is available on the ODOT website at www.innerbelt.org.

Flats Oxbow Design Review Committee Actions with help from George Cantor, City Planning

On 2/15/05 the FOA Design Review Advisory Committee unanimously recommended approval to the City Planning Commission of the following: (1) **approval as presented with the understanding that the owner return with modification to the existing buildings** of design and materials for Community Recovery Center (formerly called infill-building) at Stella Maris, 1296 Winslow Avenue submitted by Bob Bajko, HSB Architects; (2) **courtesy review of addition to the existing Sherwin Williams Building at 601 Canal** submitted by David Kaplan, Kaczmar Architects; and (3) **approval with understanding that the developer return with complete site plans for demolition of buildings at 955 West Avenue and 1100 Center Street** submitted by Brian Bush, Ampco Parking.

Roast-A-Roni

The farewell roast of Flats Oxbow Executive Director, James Whitney Pressler was an incendiary of flaming farewells. Thank you to roasters Alan Krulak from forest City Enterprises, Matt Parnell from Parnell Companies, Ltd., presentation of proclamations by Chris Ronayne representing Mayor Campbell, former Councilwoman Helen Smith giving an impassioned reading of the proclamation from the Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, Paula Lewis and Nora McNamara reading presentations from the State of Ohio and City Council. A very special thanks to Marcia Nolan and National City Bank for sponsoring this sweet and sour sauce parting. Fortunately the meeting was held at the new Western Reserve Fire Museum so that when the sparklers set the cake on fire, quick action by Dan Hayden in full firefighter regalia, doused the conflagration.

15th Annual Flats Oxbow Auction

The Flats Oxbow 15th Annual Auction will take place on Friday, April 8, 2005, 7:00 PM at Windows on the River. CABOR (Cleveland Area Board of Realtors) has again graciously agreed to sponsor this event. Recent confirmed items include: River/Lake freighter trips, Goodyear Blimp Ride, Brewmaster for a Day at Rock Bottom Brewery including lunch and brew ha ha, Ritz Carlton stay and gift certificate for the Avenue, Salt Mine tour. Other unusual items to be announced. Price \$50.00 per person. Come enjoy an evening on the River while watching our auctioneer, Bob Hale and our own, Dolores Newman do their George Burns and Gracie Allen routine. This is not to be missed! Contact Laura in the Flats Oxbow office. Price includes open bar. Wild Turkey 101 Proudly Served!

River Traffic

by Paula Lewis

ISG began their winter ore movement on Monday, February 28, from Osborne Dock on the McKEE SONS and finished on Sunday, March 6. The AMERICAN REPUBLIC is continuing the winter ore movement for ISG from CBT at the lakefront. That commenced Saturday, March 5 and will continue through April 5. You might bid on a rid on the AMERICAN REPUBLIC at the Flats Oxbow Annual Auction.

FLATS CATS

by Schvitzky and Blinka

On the heels of the rave reviews of last issue's toaster waffle recipe, we continue in the genre of making toast ala Elaine Stritch: "Here's to the ladies who lunch, aren't they a bunch?" And as Ogden Nash so aptly put it (with St. Patrick's Day on the horizon), "Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker."

New Members

by Laura Furjanic

Please welcome the following new Flats Oxbow members: **Behrens Group**, 1360 West 9th St., Cleve., OH 44113 PH: 216-566-1055; **Northwest Services, Inc.**, Jim Fish, 2607 W. 3rd St., Cleveland OH 44113 PH: 216-337-6099; **Bingham Apartments**, 1278 West 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113 PH: 216-579-4000 and **Gilley's "Not Just Donuts"**, 959 W. St. Clair, Cleveland, OH 44113 PH: 216-479-0216.

There's Somethin' Fishy

First Cuyahoga Chuck

Next, The Gizzard Shad!

State wildlife officials say there is nothing to fear about the hundreds of dead fish that appear in the Cuyahoga River every spring. Ohio Department of Natural Resources officials report that the fish are part of a natural die-off of the extremely fragile gizzard shad. The die-off occurs every February or March, when temperatures shift from cold to warm. Most of the shad are about 6 to 10 inches long. They will remain a smelly nuisance for a few weeks until they decompose and are washed away by lake waves. So try to enjoy this harbinger of spring – nose plugs and all.

Flats Oxbow Meetings and Dates:

When Worlds Collide Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2005, 10:00 AM, Flat Iron Café – Upstairs. Panhandling, homeless, neighborhood & safety issues. Continuation of meeting held February 8, 2005. Agenda: Seeking solutions. Everyone invited. Power point presentation by 2nd District police.

Board of Trustees

FOA Board to meet Wed., 3/16/05 @ 11:30 AM @ FOA's office.

FOA Design Review Advisory Committee

The committee will meet at 5:00 PM on **Tuesdays, 4/5 & 4/19, 2005.** The Flats Oxbow Design Review Committee meets every first and third Tuesdays of the month when there are items for review. For the next two upcoming meetings, **complete plans must be submitted to the City's Building Permits Desk by Noon on 3/30 & 4/13/05, respectively.**

This information is brought to you by The Flats Oxbow Association, "The Voice of the Flats", the non-profit membership driven Development Corporation for the Flats. Flats Oxbow offices are at 1283 Riverbed St., Cleveland, OH 44113. Phone (216) 566-1046, Fax (216) 566-0222, e-mail: flatsoxbow@ameritech.net