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The East Baltimore **GUI**

Your Community Newspaper Since

68th Year No. 24

Baltimore, Maryland, August 13, 198

School #47 Housing Proposal Roundly Rejected

Meeting Adjourned as 700 Angry Residents Shout Down City Officials

by Jacqueline Watts

More than 700 apprehensive Eastsiders crowded into the gym at the new Hampstead Hill Elementary School Monday evening to decide the fate of the old school building, and as the temperature rose in the jam-packed gym, so did their tempers.

The meeting was called so representatives of the city's Department

of Housing and Community Development (HCD) could present a proposal to renovate the school and install 24 low-income apartments suitable for handicapped and senior citizens, but the proposal was never heard. City officials who tried to speak were shouted down and the meeting was hastily adjourned, with a loud consensus for tearing the building down and making a playground for neighborhood children.

Many were there because of a flier distributed in the neighborhoods surrounding the school, charging that the city intended to build a high-rise low income housing project on the site. The flier was incorrect.

First District Councilman John L. Cain read a letter from Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke explaining the project. Hoots and cat-calls from the audience reached a crescendo as Cain read "...our plans are not final. We welcome community input into the process."

Cain and Councilman Perry Sfikas (D-First), freshman councilman who ran a community-first campaign last fall, lambasted the city for its past preferential treatment of developers. Residents of Canton and Fells Point have fought waterfront development for over ten years as the city lent money at favorable terms to wealthy developers and firms. Hardly any of this money has been repaid, according to reports.

"[Developers] make deals with the bureaucrats and make deals with the politicians and then they all screw the community," shouted Sfikas as the crowd cheered. "But times have changed. Tonight you will tell the city what you want on this site. It's that simple."

Whether or not the old school, located at the corner of Fleet Street and Linwood Avenue, will be torn down is unclear. Federal money would have paid for renovating the building, but the city must pay if it is

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PUTTING IT STRAIGHT- Councilman John L. Cain brandishes a flier distributed in the neighborhoods around Hampstead Hill Elementary School alleging the city planned to erect high rise low-income housing projects. Cain said the flier was "incorrect" and "unfortunate".
Photo by Jacqueline Watts

Religion and Politics Collide at Lemko House

Task Force Formed at Old #47

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to be demolished, and there is no money set aside in the budget for demolition. If the building is torn down, there is no money to build a playground.

"We will find the money [for a playground] somewhere," said Cain, noting that community efforts to raise money for playgrounds and rec centers have been successful in the

past.

A task force is being formed to consider options for the old school building. Community activist Sandy McCollum was chosen to chair the committee.

Mayoral spokesman Clinton Coleman said Schenke was waiting for the recommendations of the neighborhood task force before taking action.

Thieves Break up St. Patrick's

Thieves broke into St. Patrick's Church last Friday and rifled the poor boxes. At about 8 a.m. Fr. Blair R. Rasm, pastor at St. Patrick's, discovered that someone had broken into the back kitchen door to the hall and made their way to the church. In the church, the padlocks to the cast iron poor boxes mounted on the walls were all broken. The brass candle holders for the votive lights were also broken open.

Break-ins are nothing new to outside churches, but in the last week

of burglaries a little more than a year ago, St. Patrick's was spared in a spree that included Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church. Thieves in those break-ins pried open poor boxes and also slashed heating fuel lines. In this instance, the break-in cost St. Patrick's more than the robbery. Thieves made off with about \$60 in coins, but caused more than \$3000 damage to the church, according to police reports.

Police have no suspects in the break-in.



TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS- The Eastwood Boys 13-14 baseball team won the A-Division of the Lanthicum-Fernside Invitational Tournament. They also placed second in the Eastern Division of the Baltimore Metro League. From left, back row: coach Mike Enche, manager Mark Stanley, Shaun Williams.

Farmer's Market Saturday

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