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CIA News

March 2001 Editor: Rev. Harry Lehotsky 775-4929

Who is the CIA & why are they after you?

The "CIA" letters stand for **Community Improvement Association** — and we do want you — your ideas and your help!

In the 3 months since we started, the creative and aggressive nature of our work has attracted local and national media attention!

We meet the
last Wednesday
of every month
514 Maryland
7:00pm

Meetings

Our meetings are nothing fancy. People meet at New Life Ministries, 514 Maryland. Grouped at tables, we identify concerns on our streets and brainstorm for practical solutions.

There are a lot of community groups, but here are a few things that make us different:

Grassroots

We are not competing or in conflict with other groups! Our style is unique. We are the **only** community group started and led just by local residents and businesses. No outside leaders, organizers, or outside "professional" paid staff - only people who love this community enough to live or own a business here!

Independent

To this point we have received no government funding — it usually comes with conditions which stifle creativity and aggressive action. New Life Ministries funds newsletters, and hosts and moderates the meetings.

Action-oriented

For us, results are more important than structure, action is more important than talk! We are working on issues like:

- Housing
- Crime (drugs, prostitution...)
- Graffiti (enforcement, removal...)
- Garbage, autobins & recycling
- Community Cleanups
- Business improvement
- Legal & zoning issues

If you live in our area or own a business here, your **West End Community Improvement Association** needs your ideas and energy.

Join the over 80 local people who are part of this CIA. Be where the action is!!

Rulebook..

The Deeley, Fabbri, Sellen lawyers have finished their first draft of our "community rule-book."

During our next meeting, we will review the second draft (revised by community people)

Are there rules you're wondering about for our community?

Are you confused about laws and wondering why they don't get enforced? Be sure to give us your ideas now — before the book is published!

Stories worth telling!

The longer you live or work in the neighborhood, the more you realize the wealth of experiences in the people who live here!

These stories are worth telling—to each other and sometimes to people in other communities.

The media is great at reporting the bad news from our area, but has sometimes gets the good news too!

But we can't gripe about the negative stuff in the media if we're not willing to talk to them about more of the positive things in our lives and community.

Reporters even tire of all the negative news and hype — they enjoy a real person with a good story.

If you know a story that would encourage others, let us know!

Several people share their story at each of our meetings. Things like: why they moved here, how long they've been here, why they stay working or living here.

At our next meeting we will hear from two people: a resident of our area and a local business owner.

Are you willing to share your story with us?

The West End CIA covers from Balmoral to Arlington, and Portage to Notre Dame.



Our goal:
To promote the health & well-being of people, homes and businesses in the area.



Next Meeting:
Wednesday,
March 28, 2001
7:00 p.m.
at New Life Ministries
514 Maryland Street

Feeling Lucky?

At our next meeting we will have door prizes for some attendees. The door prizes include gift certificates for Branigan's and, for those who chose to cook at home — some good frozen meats.

University of Winnipeg & You



The University of Winnipeg is planning to change and grow in the next few years. They are trying to find out how people feel about their ideas, including the following:

- New buildings for classes and program space on vacant land
- Closing Spence Street to traffic, except for buses and special vehicles
- New student housing on vacant land in the area close to the University. Existing housing or apartment blocks will be converted into low-density housing, without displacing families who already live there.
- Moving the shipping/receiving area from Spence Street to Balmoral Street
- Improved parking spaces in the area
- Improved library
- Outdoor, landscaped area near Wesley Hall as a gathering place for students

Now is the time to share your thoughts about this. Do you have questions or concerns? We will try to have someone from the University stop in at our next meeting to answer questions or hear your ideas.

The University of Winnipeg (and several other groups) is also getting \$940,000 to do research which helps support the process of building sustainable inner city communities. This involves research, education and training on topics which would be beneficial to communities like ours.

This grant was approved by the University highlighting community support. Now that the money is coming to them, let's make sure they also get ideas on projects they can do with and for our community!

A Web Page for every street:

We are helping set up an internet page for every street in our area. Residents have started to give ideas for what they want on the page for their street. Some ideas:

- An inventory of housing conditions
- Listing of landlords
- History of each street
- Good news and model homes
- Documenting of problem locations
- Promote Neighbourhood Watch

TOTALLY RENOVATED



TOTALLY RENOVATED HOMES FOR SALE!

Several homes in the Spence neighborhood renovated with the help of WDA funds are now available for sale!!

If you have an interest in owning your own totally renovated home, call New Life Ministries at 775-4929. Lazarus Housing has several for sale, as does Winnipeg Housing Rehab (located on Furby, Langside & Maryland). About 8 other homes are in the process of renovation as well. Lazarus Housing has already sold one home on Langside and finished renovating another for a private owner on Maryland.

The neighborhood is starting to turn around as we renovate the oldest, most derelict properties and sell them to potential homeowners.

ZONING WATCH

Kickboxing & the CIA

At our last meeting we discussed several zoning issues: escort services and clubs.

The new owners of Sik Tai Fitness Studio came to our CIA meeting to their proposed new location at 801 Sargent (at Arlington).

This address has long been a hot spot for problems - "drugs, sex, rock-n-roll & bikers."



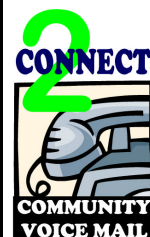
The new owners assured us that they want to cooperate with the neighbourhood.

They accepted the following conditions:

- Operating hours: closed by 10 pm
- No covering on the 2nd floor windows
- An initial trial period of two years
- The zoning use expires if they stop being the owners



If you have experience and skills in construction trades, call Lazarus Housing at 775-4929. We sometimes need extra help on our local renovation projects. We are renovating six homes for homeownership.



If you know someone without a phone and/or a reliable way of getting messages, call New Life Ministries at 775-4929. We have a limited number of free confidential voice mail boxes available for people in our area.

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