

# North Lawrence in Zoning Grip!

BY DIANE LUBER

What is the City Hall's plan for the future of North Lawrence? This question was asked repeatedly by North Lawrence residents at the June 12 and July 10 meetings of the North Lawrence Improvement Association. If that question had been answered, we'd be a lot further along on the development of a North Lawrence plan than we are now. But it wasn't.

The June 12 meeting was the first step in the Planning Office's attempt to draw up a N.L. Plan which upon completion will be incorporated in Plan 95, the City's blueprint for the future of Lawrence. Garner Stoll from the Planning Office was present to solicit residents' opinions on problem areas and needs of the community. He was able to tell



## Good News for Renters!

BY KATE DUFFY

If you pay more than 25% of your income for rent and are in the lower income bracket, then the Lawrence Housing Authority might have a good deal for you!!

Since July 1st Lawrence has been participating in HUD's Section 8 Existing Housing Assistance Program. This is the program where the Federal Government will pay part of the needed rent in private rental units where the tenant doesn't have enough income to pay the full rent themselves.

To become a participant, you must meet certain income guidelines. After qualifying, you need only pay 25% of your gross income for rent; HUD pays the rest. Deductions are made for child care costs and unusual medical expenses.

Bill Simons, the new Housing Authority Director says the program has been working "like a dream". "We were expected to rent 5 units a month but we've already rented all of our 12 two-bedroom units," Simons said in a recent interview. "Infact, we're not taking any more applications for two-bedroom apartments now. I tell people to call back in about a month because we should have some more two-bedroom and three bedroom units in the Fall." There are still one-bedroom places available, though.

Although Lawrence's first Section 8 program is just getting off the ground, it seems like it may be quite a success. Its probably the only Federal housing program that really helps low-income people find decent housing. If you would like to use this program, then give Bill Simons a call at 843-8358. He or his assistants can give you more details about the program.

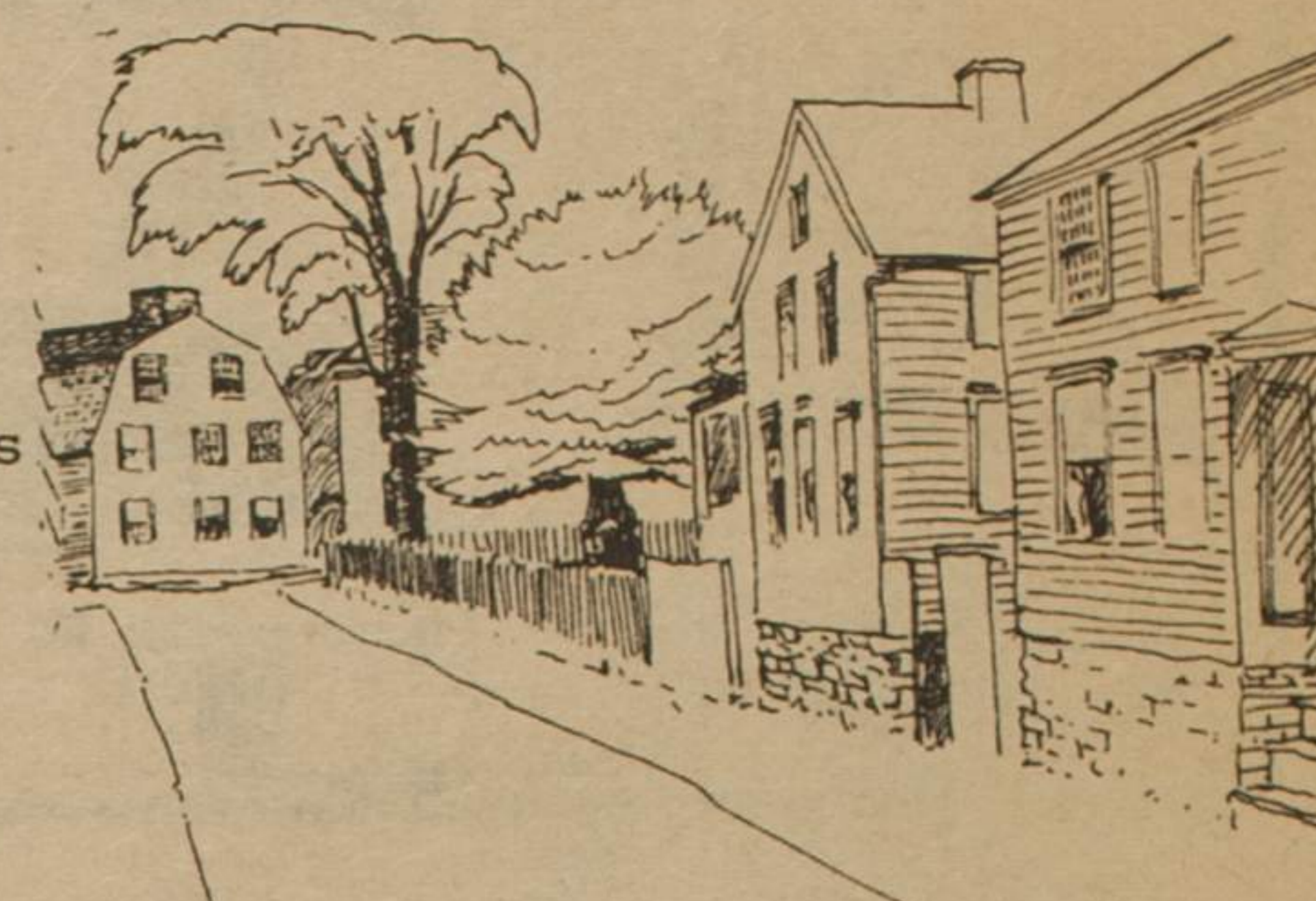
us that according to the present Plan 95, the residential area of North Lawrence will be surrounded by industry by 1995.

While not unexpected, this was not good news. Obviously, zoning will be one of our major concerns in the formulation of the North Lawrence Plan. However, no copies of Plan 95 or appropriate maps were made available at the meeting. Without such information, it was difficult for us to express any knowledgeable opinions. But Mr. Stoll promised that a member of the Planning Office would bring the material we needed to our next meeting.

Steve Allison of the Planning Office attended our July 10 meeting. He brought maps and sure enough, the Plan 95 map made the North Lawrence residential area look like a pale yellow hole in a fat purple industrial doughnut. Unfortunately, Mr. Allison was unable to answer many of our questions. How much of North Lawrence was already zoned industrial? What could we do to change this plan? Some were concerned because they had been told that if their homes ever burnt down over halfway, they could not rebuild because of the zoning restrictions on their property. Could they have their property rezoned?

We know what our problems are. Drainage has been a problem for so long, it's a joke. Only it's not very funny. With the traffic problems on the new bridge, we can only hope there is never a fire over here during rush hour. Since there are no doctor's offices here, emergency medical care is as easy (or hard) to get to as the fire station. The trains carry carloads of possibly dangerous materials through our little community; they sometimes ignore the speed limit; they block our streets; they shake the foundations of our houses. When the trains aren't rumbling through, the trucks are. Lyons St. has been designated as a truck route with first priority maintenance but there are still cracks and holes from winter's work. And now to be surrounded by industry. I think they call that adding insult to injury.

The Planning Office is planning a door-to-door survey of North Lawrence to begin in August. They asked for help in drawing up the questionnaire so Mary Ann Stewart, Robert Howard, Charles Goble, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, Lydia Coleman, Harold Mallonnee, and Diane Luber formed a committee.



They have to ask the right questions to get the right answers.

But we need more than the right questions. We need to know what the City is planning for North Lawrence. We could have learned alot from the Planning Office if they had been prepared for our meetings. But they weren't. So we have to do our homework. Go on up to the Planning Office in the First National Bank Bldg. and ask for a copy of Plan 95. You paid for it, you know. Then take it home and study up for the next N.L.I.A. meeting at 7:30PM on August 14 at Woodlawn School.



## Meet Norma!!

BY CINDY HAGG

Penn House will be offering opportunities to those interested in art and craft projects, the chance to learn from artist Norma Gnagy. Norma is the CETA artist in residence at Penn House and calls herself a "jack of all trades" in the art world. "I'm really a painter, but have done a variety of other things including woodcuts, loom weaving and drawing."

Norma is a native of Guanica, Puerto Rico. She graduated from high school in Longmont Colorado and has since acquired 47 credit hours of art at various colleges and universities. In addition to attending classes, Norma has also taught classes to both adults and junior high children.

Norma has already held several classes in stained glass art. It was very easy to learn and we made some beautiful things. She is now holding classes in weaving and punch needle work. Several other types of classes are also planned. Drop by Penn House at 1035 Pennsylvania or give us a call, 842-0440 to find out more about it.

## Who can Afford a House?

Here are some facts and figures organizers can use to confront those "this is the land of opportunity" or "things are better than ever" arguments.

--Today, only 27% of Americans can afford to buy a new house, compared to 46.6% just six years ago.

--At the same time, due to the housing shortage, five families will be competing for every four apartments and homes available in many cities--driving up house prices and rents.

--By the early 1980's the average cost of a new house according to a recent study by the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies, will be an astronomical \$78,000. Only people with incomes in excess of \$22,000 will be able to afford a house.

### BAD HOUSES

And what about the condition of those "used houses?"

--2.3 million U.S. households have no bathroom or share one.  
--700,000 households have plumbing that frequently breaks down.  
--4.5 million families live in houses with leaky roofs.  
--3.6 million families are living in overcrowded conditions.

Housing statistics in general, are bleak. Currently, two out of every five Black families are housed inadequately. In 1973, conservative studies indicated 12.8 million households, almost 20% of the U.S. total, suffered from "housing deprivation." Half of those deprived



were considered to live in physically adequate units but paid exhorbitant rents.

### POOR AND WORKING PEOPLE ARE WORSE OFF

The number of people officially classified as "poor" increased by 2.5 million, or 10.7 percent, between 1974 and 1975, the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Monthly Labor Review reported last November. This is the largest annual increase since the figure was first compiled in 1959.

About 26 million people, one out of every eight Americans, have incomes below the poverty level in 1975. The number of poor whites increased by 14%, while the number of poor blacks increased by 5%.

Workers' real wages, after taking into account inflation, have not risen since 1959.

(From Shelterforce, a quarterly journal for housing activists and community organizers).

sister kettle cafe

### DAILY SPECIALS

sauteed vegies	soups
omelettes	salads
grainburgers	pancakes
rice and beans	waffles
cheese sandwiches	granola
	ice cream

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