

Shire Cove Residents To Petition For Annexation To Hilliard

by Charlotte Melfe

A move to annex 319.6 acres in the northeast sector of Norwich Township into the City of Columbus has prompted residents in the Shire Cove area to begin a move to petition for annexation into Hilliard. Property owners in that area have expressed concern over the annexation, which involves taking several properties within Shire Cove.

According to Judy Colwell, a member of the SOC (Save Our Community) committee, if the annexation (Columbus) goes through, it not only takes the Shire Cove properties into Columbus, but the area's sewage treatment plant as well.

"We'll be forced to go to Columbus for sewer services", said Mrs. Colwell, noting that SOC began looking at a number of options available for residents to fight the proposed annexation. She pointed out that the Dollar Savings has made an offer on the farmland on the west side of Dublin Road, which makes up the bulk of the acreage in the annexation.

"Dollar Savings made an offer on the property to develop if it's in Columbus", she said, adding that Shire Cove property owners have expressed concern about the type of development which would take place.

In explaining the surprise move by the Shire Cove property owners, Mrs. Colwell said that once a number of options were carefully considered it became more and more feasible to

petition for annexation to Hilliard.

"We want to be part of the community", she said, pointing out that Hilliard is a proud community and residents can continue with the present fire services as well as the services offered by the City of Hilliard.

Once the decision was made, an aggressive campaign was begun to contact all the property owners involved. She pointed out that annexation involves not only the Shire Cove area, but a number of properties located between Davidson and Hayden Run roads to make the area contiguous to Hilliard. Stating that the group has already gained support from approximately 80% of the property owners in question, they are making a concentrated effort to gain support from the property owners in the Hayden-Davidson to Avery Road portion.

"We're making personal contacts with land owners asking for support", she stated, adding that an annexation petition requires 51% approval. Mrs. Colwell said



Judy Colwell is shown with a map of the area involved in the Hilliard annexation petition.

that the group has kept in touch with Norwich Township Trustees and contacted Mayor Roger Reynolds.

"We're asking Hilliard area residents to support us by letting the County Commissioners know they would like to see an addition to Hilliard".

The group plans to file the petition this week, before the hearing at the County Commissioners for the Co-

lumbus annexation on Dec. 13. They're hoping for as much support as possible at that hearing, which will take place at 410 S. High Street (second floor) at 10 a.m. Car pools are being formed to assist anyone who plans to attend that day. Anyone interested in obtaining a ride can contact Ann Hoyt, 876-5522; Judy Colwell, 876-2293 or Jo Plunkett, 876-1960.