

POLLUTION - CARGILL

# Daily Courier News

1986

112/76 • Elgin, Illinois

Tuesday, March 18, 1986

30¢ Single Copy  
••• 23¢ Home Delivered

## Odor nuisance uniting C'ville, plants' neighbors

By Mick Zawislak

CARPENTERSVILLE — Public complaints of odors emanating from the Cottage Avenue industrial area have village officials on their way to Springfield and residents uniting to get answers.

Informal talks by residents over coffee have intensified to the point that village officials say they will meet with "the big bosses" of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to get information.

And though ideas on how to correct perceived problems differ, the village and residents appear serious in trying to get to the bottom of a decade of rumors and uncertainty regarding the operations of chemical plants along Cottage Avenue.

"Apparently, we'll be getting help from the village," said Billita Jacobsen, a co-organizer of a

loosely knit group of residents that have been filing formal complaints with the IEPA regarding odors.

Discussion of odor complaints is scheduled during tonight's village board meeting beginning at 8.

Of particular concern is Cargill Inc., a resins manufacturing facility that residents allege is the main source of offensive odors that sometimes permeate Carpentersville's west side and beyond.

"I GOT CALLS from people in West Dundee trying to do something about the odor problem," said Marcy Klymko, of 305 Sedgewick Court.

Cargill plant manager Tom Schiffer said today that he was aware of some complaints but suggested that a reporter submit written questions for response. "We'd be most happy to answer them," he said.

Residents had met informally at a local restaurant to share their concerns but the group became too large and moved to a rented room at Elgin Community College's Lakewood facility in Carpentersville, Klymko said.

The group, which has no formal name, officers or organization, now meets every two weeks, she said. A door-to-door campaign to prod residents to complain to the EPA about odor problems is being planned for April, according to Jacobsen.

"We're going to play it by the book, just the way the EPA wants," she said.

Klymko, an unsuccessful candidate for the village board in 1985, recently asked the village to investigate the odor problems and suggested police rather than residents make reports to be forwarded to the IEPA.

Village Manager Richard Escalante said making police reports was not the answer because an officer could not be expected to pinpoint the origin of any odors. McWhorter Inc., and the James B. Day and Co., adjoin Cargill in the industrial area. McWhorter manufactures resins and Day manufactures lacquers.

Escalante checked with the IEPA and was told their weren't enough formal complaints regarding odors to warrant investigation.

"THE EPA TOLD Escalante, 'If you want something done, you've got to document it,'" said Trustee Lawton Green.

Village President Herb Radtke said he was told the IEPA received two complaints from Carpenters-

•Turn to page 2

## Either way, Contra vote to be close

### Contra aid fight split in Elgin

By Karen Smith

The escalating verbal battle over whether to aid the Contra rebels in Nicaragua came to Elgin Monday night.

While a panel of experts strongly disagreed about many aspects of the issue, there was consensus in one area: the up-



### Reagan push seeks to pull fence-sitters

By Tim Ahern  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both sides are predicting victory when the House finally decides the intensely fought campaign over President Reagan's plan to give \$100 million in military and economic aid to Nicaraguan rebels.



# Wieboldt studying lease for return to Meadowdale

## Restructured chain expected to give final word this week

By Mick Zawislak

CARPENTERSVILLE — Negotiations between the Meadowdale Shopping Center and former anchor Wieboldt Stores Inc. have intensified and a formal agreement is under consideration.

Executives of the Chicago-based department store chain have been studying a proposed lease agreement since Friday. Official word on the possible reunion of the retailer and the 29-year-old shopping center is expected this week.

Greg Besinger, owner of the Meadowdale Shopping Center, was careful in assessing the proposed lease agreement.

"I'm a very cautious person," Besinger said Monday. "I'm here for a long time. I'm not here for a visit."

Wieboldt, the original anchor store when Meadowdale opened in 1957, stunned the community with its sudden departure in 1983. The financially troubled chain was bought by private investors last December.

News reports the past week concerning the retailer's future have been upbeat. Investors have announced plans to acquire Polk Bros. Inc. and also to open six prototype stores during the next two years.

Christopher A. Jansen, a spokesman for the investor group that acquired Wieboldt, could not be reached for comment on plans for Meadowdale.

Besinger said officials of the restructured department store chain last week seemed "fairly interested" in re-opening a streamlined version in its former anchor spot at Meadowdale. That space accounts for nearly one-third of Meadowdale's 465,000 square feet of available space.

"THEY ARE THE ONES that started all the news stuff," Besinger said in reference to a March 10 Chicago newspaper article detailing the retailer's plans to move back to Meadowdale. "I don't believe I have a lease until it's signed."

Besinger said a new lease was delivered to Wie-

boldt Friday and a formal announcement from the chain regarding its plans was expected this week. Wieboldt officials inspected the vacant 144,625-square-foot store Monday.

While the final answer is pending, Besinger acknowledged the addition of a revamped Wieboldt that was "more in tune to what's going on" in retailing could produce a "domino effect" for Meadowdale.

As proposed, the new Wieboldt in Meadowdale would be about one-third its former size and would concentrate on "software" such as clothing, Besinger said.

Besinger said that because the center has no mortgage it can offer retailers better rent prices.

"There are a lot of centers like us that are 25 to 30 years old that are really getting hammered by these regional malls," Besinger said. "Our rents are our biggest selling point."

Besinger said a Taco Bell franchise will be opening on the mall periphery in roughly three months. Talks continue with another fast food franchise and an automotive products dealer to locate across Illinois 25.

A sales agreement for Meadowdale had been in negotiation for two years but talks broke off four weeks ago, Besinger said. He said the potential buyer was, "a big company with plenty of money," but declined to be specific.

"Why they didn't take it, I don't know," Besinger said. He said plans to sell the shopping center are now "history."

Wieboldt in June 1983 announced that the department store would be closed within a month. That announcement occurred in the midst of a three-year, \$2 million exterior remodeling program for the center.

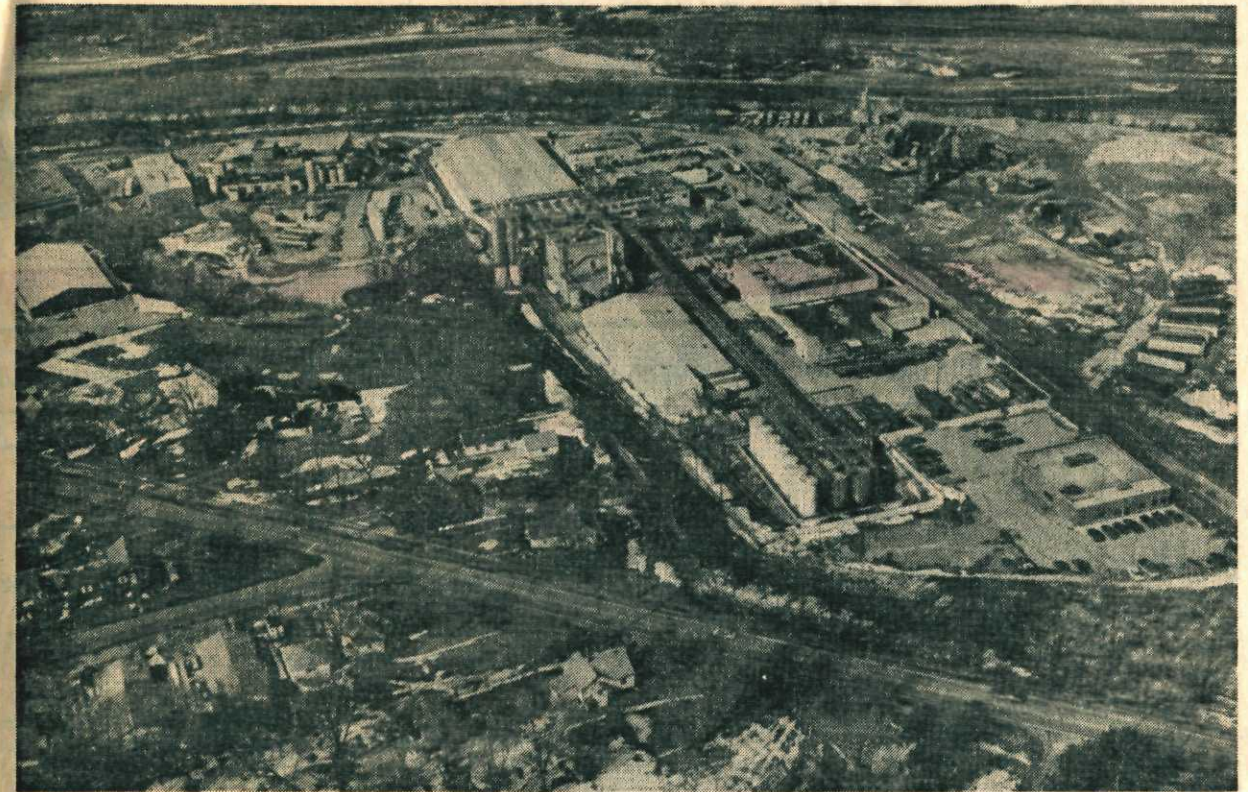
Some tenants, however, still complain of a lack of security, vandalism and poor general maintenance.

Besinger indicated that efforts to lease vacant stores were hampered since the center was tied up in a sales contract for two years. Roughly 50 percent of Meadowdale's space is vacant.

## ComEd fined again on Byron security

CHICAGO (AP) — Commonwealth Edison Co. faces a \$50,000 fine from the federal government for a security violation at the Byron nuclear power plant, the fourth federal fine levied against the unfin-

In the latest incident, the U.S. agency said concrete floor plugs the size of sewer covers had been removed during construction work, producing an unguarded opening to vital areas in the plant for 26 days.



Courier-News File Photo

An aerial view shows the Cottage Avenue industrial area in Carpentersville. Village officials and residents are trying to get specific

answers from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regarding the operation of Cargill Inc., a resins manufacturing facility.

## Neighbors prod C'ville on odor woes

From page 1

ville residents in 1985. The agency suggested residents bombard it with formal complaints.

"I just gave Mr. Escalante 44 complaints from the middle of December to the middle of February and I still have more to fill out," Klymko said.

Escalante said he requested IEPA records concerning Cargill through the Freedom of Information Act but was told they were too voluminous to mail. Escalante is scheduled to view the records at the IEPA's Maywood office this week.

"I want to see their files," he said.

Radtke, Escalante and Green attended the neighborhood group's

last meeting to share information on how the village is reacting to complaints.

"We advised them that the EPA has been out trying to determine what was processed at the chemical plants on the day they had complaints," Escalante said. He said he was unaware of results of those inquiries.

Escalante also said he understood that Cargill was operating without an IEPA permit for its incinerator.

"It is true but we're not doing anything illegal. The EPA is aware of it," Schiffer said.

"I want to go and get some documents. It's all second-hand right now," Escalante said. "I've advised Cargill we're pursuing this

matter."

Radtke said he has been advised by state Rep. Jill Zwick, R-Elgin, to proceed through the proper channels.

"If we don't get anything from the EPA, we'll go through the attorney general," Radtke said.

Escalante and Radtke said they would meet with state EPA officials regarding Cargill next month while they are in Springfield attending an Illinois Municipal League function.

"We're going to check up on them and go to Springfield and talk to the big bosses," Radtke said. "We are going to push it."

## Delayed report says blast killed 60

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — A Christian-controlled Beirut radio station said today a car bombing in the Syrian capital of Damascus

sion network said Monday "a number of citizens were injured" Thursday when a refrigerator truck crashed with a

### CORRECTION

On Page 14-K of the Sears Section which was inserted in the Sunday, March 16th, 1986 edition of the Daily Courier-News, there was an advertisement on furniture. The illustration was incorrect. The table shown with the 2-