

Council considers legal options

By Bren Fries

The Terrace Park Village Council is in the midst of studying events that have unfolded regarding construction decisions at 707 Myrtle Avenue. Under the advisement of Village Solicitor, Bob Molloy, members of Council unanimously agreed to address these issues in Executive (closed) session.

Many of the questions on the minds of both Council and residents alike stem from the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting of Jan. 29, 2003. More than 50 residents were in attendance to hear, among other things, an appeal of Village Building Inspector Bill Fieldler's permitting of the construction of a retaining wall on or near the property line of Jim Flynn, 709 Myrtle. Flynn was to contest that the permit violated several aspects of our zoning code. However, his case was never heard.

In the days and weeks that preceded the meeting, the Zoning Board asked the Village Solicitor to study the permitting sequence of events in this specific situation. Upon doing so, Molloy discovered that an aspect of the appeals process had not been properly followed. Specifically, Flynn had not officially appealed the decision of the Building Inspector within the allotted 10-day time frame. It was the opinion of the Solicitor that, as a result, Flynn's case was void. In addition, Molloy felt the Zoning Board thusly had no jurisdiction in the matter and should refrain from making a decision.

In front of a stunned audience that included representatives of Zicka-Walker Homes, Inc., as well as their appointed attorney, the Zoning Board unanimously agreed to recuse itself from a ruling on Flynn's appeal. In fact, Russ Wilson, ZBA President, warned those in attendance that no discussion would be allowed addressing specific construction issues of 707 Myrtle. In effect, the case was closed.

Confused residents asked many questions regarding rights with respect to the permitting process.

How do we know when the permit is issued? If not specifically notified of such a permit, how can we gauge when the 10-day "clock" commences? Residents were advised to speak with Council regarding the processes in question...which leads us to the Council meeting of Feb. 11.

Meeting Highlights

- Mayor Dan Startzman commenced festivities by swearing in two new Auxiliary Police Officers. Michael Glenn and Dennis Smith were congratulated by all in attendance and will be a welcome addition to the Terrace Park Police Department.

- The Mayor entertained questions or comments from numerous citizens in attendance. Several spoke about their concerns of the events surrounding the retaining wall at 707 Myrtle. "Keep the issues public" was the main theme. Two former members of Council spoke of the need to keep residents apprised of the "what and why" in this process. Another resident (yours truly) voiced disappointment over the situation we as a community are now in. Legal action should be the last course of action, yet in this case, it seems to be the first.

Lastly, a citizen asked Council to respond to his concerns about a lack of privacy when religious solicitors are allowed to approach his residence regardless of his wishes.

- The events of Feb. 11 regarding the evacuation of the Mariemont Schools due to a random security threat saw the implementation of our Disaster Preparedness Plan and evacuation of over 300 students. Both the Mayor and Chief Bacon praised Police, Fire and Terrace Park Elementary School Administration for their professional, orderly adherence to defined protocol. Chief Bacon noted that it proved that, in cases like this, we have a working plan that suits our community's needs.

Committee News

Planning and Zoning - Chairman Stefan Olson spoke to residents about the requested closed session to de-

liberate legal options. He appreciates the concern of citizens and promised to "keep everyone informed." At the present, though, he thought it most prudent to heed the advice of the Solicitor and discuss these issues in Executive Session.

Building and Grounds - The newly painted floor of the Community Building was completed at a fraction of the cost for new tile. Chairman Jim Peterkin said he was pleased with the outcome and thanked all involved for their cooperation.

Finance - Mark Porst, Chairman, introduced and Council passed a resolution allowing for the payment of premiums toward Terrace Park's liability insurance.

Rules and Law - Speaking for the absent Terry Howe, Village Clerk Francine Glassmeyer was pleased to announce the latest addition to the Howe family. Robert James Howe, 6 lbs., became the newest member of our community recently. Well done, Heather and Terry!

Public Works - Chairman Steve Holmes teamed up with Village Engineer George Kipp to meet with resident Juliann Gardner to discuss her concerns about pedestrian "challenges" on and around Wooster Pike. Since that meeting, one of the crosswalk signs has been repaired and calls have been made to determine who has responsibility (local or state) for maintaining the

sidewalk areas on our "main" street. Once that has been decided, a plan will be formed to cleanup and repair sidewalk areas like that under the railroad overpass.

Two well-attended meetings have taken place to help determine the best course of action in repairing or renovating the Community Building. Both have seen a lively exchange of ideas. To that end, Mr. Holmes will be publicizing an "Open Town meeting" on Feb. 27 to enable residents to determine specifically what direction we want to go. The intent is to narrow the scope of our plan by getting resident input on specific scenarios and some asso-

Council continued on page 7

Community Building — residents input sought

By Jim Peterkin

The following is a description of the work that has gone into planning the renovation of the Terrace Park Community Building.

Some Background

The genesis of the Community Building renovation started back in 2001 when Village Council initiated a Facilities Maintenance Plan. The plan consisted of a detailed study of all the Village's properties and their structural conditions as well as a long-range maintenance schedule.

As a follow-up to the plan, Council formed a panel of local experts to further explore and make recommendations for the future of the Community Building. The panel included architects, builders, and developers. Its scope was specifically to develop scenarios for renovating the complex and assigning approximate costs to those scenarios. Along with council members, the panel talked with Village employees and Fire/EMS members to determine their requirements for a renovated facility.

After the panel had developed and submitted the scenarios, Buildings and Grounds Committee held a meeting in the summer of 2002, where residents provided feedback on the feasibility of the scenarios. Responding to the inputs it re-



Public Meeting of the Terrace Park Village Council Buildings and Grounds Committee February 27, 2003 at 7 p.m. Terrace Park Community Building

All Terrace Park residents are invited to a public meeting to discuss ideas for the future of the Community Building complex.

We'll be presenting a number of preliminary plans and want to narrow down our choices with input from citizens.

Join with fellow residents to share the excitement of planning for the future of your Village facilities!

See adjacent article for background on what has happened so far.

ceived, Village Council decided to move forward with three scenarios: renovate the existing facility with no

additional square footage, renovate and add on to provide more usable

Community Building continued on page 3

Fairfax Elementary spared — levy delayed

By Pete Findley

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Mariemont Board of Education hosted a special meeting at the High School gymnasium to address three financial options presented by Dr. Gerald Harris, Superintendent, to the Board for consideration. These recommendations were developed after a study was commissioned with the Miami University Department of Educational Leadership

Harris explained that the options presented were based on three basic concepts: shift costs off of the taxpayer and onto the user (students/employees), generate more monies from sources other than property taxes (grants, advertising, "entrepreneurial things" such as the Cisco Academy) and reduction of expenditures.

Board approved savings

All three options presented had a common list of "expenditure ad-

justments." The Board unanimously approved the following adjustments (approximate dollars to be shifted/generated/reduced noted): charging employees for 10 percent of health premiums, the current norm for Southwest Ohio schools (\$120,000), reducing supplies purchases by 10 percent (\$81,000), bus purchase deferred until 2004 (\$75,000), utility reductions as recommended by a hired utility consultant (\$25,000), van purchase deferred until 2005 (\$25,000), eliminating full-time benefits for part-time teachers (\$24,000), charging a technology fee for students in grades 4-12 (\$16,000), increasing the cost of a student parking pass at the high school from \$10 to \$50 and charging students attending Camp Kern \$42 (\$6,000).

Four other items listed were tabled by the Board for further analysis and discussion: eliminating jun-

ior high tennis, soccer and golf (boys and girls), eliminating kiln purchase for Fairfax Elementary, charging a one-time activity fee for grades 7-12 students to participate and an additional charge for participation in activities that require bussing. Because the Board had recently received some recommendations and is awaiting further recommendations from the Business Advisory Committee, they wanted additional time to properly consider all options.

The options

From this point the three op-

tions differed.

Option 1: Millage scenarios 6.5 mills levy in 2003 with a follow-up levy of 8 mills in 2006, 6.5 mills levy in 2003 with a follow-up levy of 11 mills in 2007 or 8.5 mills in 2004 with a follow-up levy of 9 mills in 2007.

Option 2: Close Fairfax Elementary (\$418,390 operational savings plus a one-time technology savings of \$75,000) and place a 7 mills levy on the ballot in 2004 with a follow-up levy of 7 mills in 2007.

Option 3: eliminate Elementary Strings, Math Challenge, three for-

Korean Vets

This Memorial Day the community of Terrace Park is planning to honor all Terrace Park men and women who served in the military during the Korean War crisis. If you served in the military during the Korean conflict or know of a present or former Terrace Park residents who did, please contact **Ray Normile at 831-2804** or raynormile@hotmail.com.

eign languages at the high school and Latin in the junior high, and elementary band, reduce the number of guidance counselors, reduce or eliminate college prep, honors and

Fairfax continued on page 6

Boy Scout Mulch Sale

Terrace Park Scouts' Annual Fundraiser

Orders will begin February 22

A Scout will Contact You at Your Home

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If you are not contacted by **February 28**

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Get the best mulch available and help your neighborhood scouts!

From the Editor

Village Views brings community to your door

The *Village Views* has become a staple of life in Terrace Park. I remember receiving our first paper after we moved in seven years ago. I was excited to be in a village where volunteers used their time to keep everyone on the same page (so to say).

Without the *Village Views*, I believe we would lose something that helps to link our community together. Not everyone has children in the schools. Not everyone belongs to AARP or Garden Club or any of the other wonderful organizations we have. Not everyone belongs to the swim club or enjoys walking.

Everyone, however, is on the mailing list for the *Village Views*.

The *Village Views* saw some difficult times last year. When there was no editor to coordinate everyone's efforts, the team at the *Village Views* did a great job keeping our community's only paper going. Somehow, somehow, reporters kept stories coming in, a designer kept getting the paper together, our gracious printer, Gregg MacMillan of MacMillan Graphics, kept printing the paper and collators kept the paper going out...all without my help.

So where do I fit in — I'm still figuring that out. I cannot take the credit for the depth and breadth of the paper as late — it just seems to be in the stars. Our staff is working hard and, unfortunately, our community is embroiled in several controversial issues. Even without controversy, the *Village Views* is still a worthy vehicle for news, opinions, announcements, recognition, history, and ideas. In short it is a vital line of communication.

Thanks to our wonderful board and business manager, we garner funds from advertisers and some out-of-town subscriptions. But we still have bills to pay.

Please, use the envelope on the front page to help support our paper — one of the many fine attributes of life in Terrace Park.

Thank you for your support.

Chandi Findley
Editor

Letters to the Editor

Dear Fellow Resident,

The members of the Terrace Park Safety Committee of Council, Julie Rugh, Mark Porst and Stefan Olson, have organized a Street Calming and Speed Reduction Campaign throughout the Village of Terrace Park. This campaign includes expending funds for:

- Additional designated speed signs within the Village.
- A slogan and logo contest for Terrace Park elementary age students.
- Promotional mailing to Terrace Park residents.
- An informal sampling of current driving speeds on Village streets.
- Additional patrol hours by our police department.

It is the goal of the Safety Committee to make every resident aware of the importance of safe driving within Terrace Park and to encourage you to participate by reducing the speed that you drive within the Village. You can also participate by helping the Safety Committee gather car speed and volume information on Village streets through an informal speed study. This information will be considered as the Safety Committee determines the effectiveness of the Street Calming and Speed Reduction Campaign.

Julie Rugh

Safety Chairman

Dear Terrace Park parents, students, staff and emergency personnel,

I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for the support offered to the staff and students of Terrace Park Elementary during our security threat on Tuesday, February 11. As a staff, we hold the safety of our students as our number one priority and we were single-minded in our efforts to ensure that no child was harmed during the day's events.

Let me assure you that while we worked tirelessly toward this end, our efforts would not have been successful without the tremendous support of the community. The emergency personnel were competent and helpful and the students responsible and mature. Kudos go to the staff whose entire efforts were directed toward the welfare of their students. Thank you also to the parents who were understanding, calm and collected. As the morning progressed, I lost count of the number of times a parent asked, "What can I do to help?"

As I drove home that evening, I found myself feeling strangely encouraged by the day's events. Despite the caller's intentions to do harm, this was our "finest hour." Every thought and every action during the crisis was focused on the well being of the children. As I drove on I thought about what a privilege it is to work among such selfless people whose love for their children knows no bounds.

Sincerely,
Mike Zimmermann
Principal, Terrace Park Elementary

Janet Sarran, Travel Consultant



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Village Views welcomes reader mail. Signed letters to the editor must be received by 9 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. **Please limit length to 350 words.** Letters over 350 words will be published as submitted subject to space availability. All signed letters will be printed as submitted; however, minor editing for grammatical and typographical errors may be necessary. Content will not be edited. Any questions should be directed to the editor. See below.

Who to contact:

Where to send:

Village Views P.O. Box 212
Terrace Park, OH 45174
Articles are accepted in any form. If possible the staff prefers to receive contributions on disk. Save articles on disk as Microsoft WORD files. Please put your name and date on disk. The deadline is the second Monday of every month at 9 p.m.

Advertisements for *Village Views* may be placed in a variety of sizes. A business card size (2x4) is only \$24 per month. A classified ad is \$5 to Village residents only. **Payment must accompany ad.**

Village Views
welcomes your business.

March deadline :

The March deadline for *Village Views* is **March 10**, the second Monday of the month. All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 9 p.m.

Village Views welcomes readers to submit their ideas for articles: promotions, awards, school activities, engagements, weddings, births... things you think people would like to know and read about.

Leaving the Village
Subscriptions are available for \$18.50 per year.

Parker lived many chapters of life in the Park

By Chandi Findley

During the winter, when the leaves are down and the air is still, it's easier to hear the haunting wail of the train whistles as they pass near our town. At one time, these ghostly trains actually stopped in Terrace Park, carrying passengers to and from points unknown. On January 19, 2003, 93-year-old James B. Parker (Jim), possibly the last man to catch a train in Terrace Park, died and took with him memories of a village that we hope to preserve today — a village that we can only maintain by respecting its history and supporting its infrastructure of volunteers. Jim was a tribute to both.

Friends in high places

In the early 1950s trains passed so closely to the houses in Terrace Park, that some residents must have felt the floor boards rattle as they passed. Mail was dropped from the train by a hook, but the train no longer stopped at the decaying passenger platform across from the office of Paul Kennedy. That is, the trains no longer stopped for anyone except Jim Parker.

Jim worked for Krogers from 1931 until his retirement in 1974. "He rose from inventory auditor in the depths of the Depression at \$25 a week to be a widely regarded and sought after labor relations expert," wrote one of Jim's sons, Bill Parker. "I think Dad was the most respected labor relations executive in the food industry from the 1950s to the 1970s."

Because of his status at Krogers and the company's influence with the railroad, Kroger arranged a special stop for Jim during his occasional excursions to points reached on the railroad.

"The conductors were usually wide-eyed with amazement when the train would make a special stop to pick up a single passenger," Bill wrote. "I was pretty amazed, too."

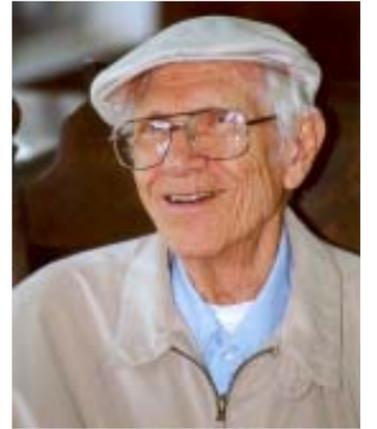
"A few of these times my brother and I put pennies on the track and delighted in seeing them flattened to twice their size," he added. "This was a fairly common 'experiment' for kids in the Park."

Things we can still see

Although the trains are gone and only a few ties lie abandoned by the "bike trail," Jim's mark is seen every day as residents pass under trees in what was then known as the Eveland subdivision (coming up the hill from the Swim Club, everything on the left to Stanton).

"When this subdivision was starting to be developed, the town council felt that there should be trees along the streets since the acreage had been pretty much treeless meadowland," Parker wrote. "The rest of the Park was a showcase of beautiful maples which had been planted at the turn of the century. My Dad, who was on the village council, volunteered to plant the trees with Matt Cook." Cook was the entire Police Department.

"They spent many weekends planting hundreds of trees which were smaller than broomsticks," he added. "Now the trees are 50 years old and have brought the Eveland subdivision into harmony with the appearance of the rest of the Park. Dad had fond recollections of planting those trees and no doubt saw



James B. Parker

them as a living monument to the work he and Matt Cook had done many years ago."

Terrace Park then, Fairfax now

During his time on the School Board of Education, Parker faced a time even more challenging than our Board faces today — the loss of an independent Terrace Park school district. Until the late 1950s, the village had kindergarten through 12th grade facilities with about 30 percent of the students coming from Newtown. When Newtown withdrew from the district, it caused a crisis in Terrace Park.

"Each year there were about 10 to 20 high school graduates from the Park," Parker's son said. "Terrace Park apparently had only three choices — attach itself to Milford, Indian Hill, or Mariemont."

Jim, a member of the Terrace Park School Board, helped convince Mariemont to annex Terrace Park.

"It is hard to imagine the Park today if Mariemont had said, 'No,'" Bill added.

A new community building/bomb shelter

Jim served on the council twice and also served as Vice Mayor of the Village. In 1962, during the height of the Cold War, Jim was appointed Chairman of the Committee for Community Survival.

"You had to be there! There were real concerns of a nuclear holocaust in the early 60s," Bill wrote. "Plans for a 1000-plus person capacity bomb shelter were developed as part of a large concrete building to be built into the hillside below Marietta and Elm."

Although a bond issue was passed and the village received national recognition as the first community to approve a bomb shelter, the multi-purpose building was never built due to lawsuits and delay tactics.

Volunteering marked his life

Obviously, community involvement marked Jim's life. At one time he was even the Terrace Park building inspector.

According to his obituary, he was a devoted member of St. Thomas serving 15 years as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden and researched and wrote a history of the church. He also served on the board of Directors of the Episcopal Retirement Homes.

Jim is survived by James B. Parker IV (wife Barbara), William S. Parker (wife Katie) and grandchildren James B. Parker V (Jill), Jason S., Christian S. and Matthew D. Parker and is the great-grandfather of James VI and Magdalene Sophia. Jim was preceded in death by his beloved wife Sophia "Soap" and his brother Mark Robinson Parker.

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Building on a strong foundation

By Sherry Holcomb

Steve and Janet Morgan of 965 Elm Court aren't builders by trade, but they are adept at building homes, a family, strong friendships and a sense of community. They come by these skills after going through a traumatic experience and coming out stronger on the other side. A house fire at their previous home in Hyde Park brought Steve and Janet a new perspective and unexpected friendships.

"We had an electrical fire in November of 1999," says Janet. The only occupant of the house at the time was a treasured family dog, Bayla, who managed to escape through the doggie door. "While rebuilding we met some of our greatest friends and gained a good perspective," Janet adds. "We count our blessings. We appreciate our things, but we don't worship them."

Early last year, the Morgans began looking for a new place to raise their two daughters, Nina, four years old, and Ava, 19 months. Steve has always wanted to build a home and Janet wanted a place with an established "community feel." The family also wanted access to good schools. "I wanted the whole deal," Janet says. "We were just thrilled to find a place to build in Terrace Park."

So, in February of 2002 the

Morgans took possession of a lot and foundation and by July they had moved into their custom-designed new home. The kids love being able to play in their new yard and Steve and Janet love being close to downtown while still having the feeling of living in the country. After adding their new home to Terrace Park, the Morgans added some neighbors. They recruited their friends the McNeil's to move here from Hyde Park, as well.

Since she's not dealing with home building issues now, Janet is considering returning to her career in nursing on a part-time basis. She grew up in Vandalia, went to Ohio State University and met Steve while he was a medical student at Grandview hospital in Dayton. They spent five years in Michigan while Steve completed his residency and a fellowship and then settled in the Cincinnati area almost five years ago. Steve is now a radiologist in Northern Kentucky and likes to spend his time off reading and playing with the girls.

When Janet is not taking Nina to gymnastics and ballet, she's enjoying a new found love of running. The whole family also takes advantage of the bike trail for exercise and relaxation. Their only wish for Terrace Park is a common one. Can someone please build a coffee shop nearby?

Village Calendar 2002

February

- 24 Booster Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Community Building Complex Renovation Meeting 7:30 p.m. Community Building
- 27 Mariemont Foundation Meeting 7:30 p.m. MJHS Library

March

- 4 TPE PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m. School Cafeteria
- 4 TP Garden Club Noon Community Building. Program: "Water and Rock Gardens" by Cindy McCord of Affordable Ponds and Gardens.
- 6 TPE Kindergarten Registration 7 p.m.
- 10 AARP Luncheon Noon Community Building. Program: "Senior Safety," presented by Martha Enriquez of the Clermont County Health District. For reservations call **Betty Smith @ 831-5434.**
- 10 TP Mayor's Court 7 p.m. Community Building

- 10 Village Views deadline 9 p.m.
- 11 Kindervelt #76 Meeting 7 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Faulkner, 617 Floral. Call **Elaine Fening @ 831-8371** with questions.
- 11 TP Village Council 7:30 p.m. Community Building
- 12 MHS PTO Meeting 8:45 a.m.
- 17 Booster Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Mariemont Board of Education Meeting 7:15 p.m. MHS
- 20 MJHS PTO Meeting 8:45 a.m.
- 21 Newcomers Family Pizza Party 6 p.m. Community Building. \$10 per member family; \$15 non-member families. Call **Sybil Schooler @ 576-1571** with questions.
- 24 NO SCHOOL K-6 Teacher Comp Day
- 27 Mariemont Foundation Meeting 7:30 p.m. MJHS Library

Community Building continued from front page

area, or build an all-new facility.

At its January 2003 meeting, Village Council hired Cole and Russell Architects ("C+RA") to produce a "Feasibility Study" that would review the facilities assessment and needs assessment and develop concept drawings and an opinion of the probable cost for the two scenarios that entail new construction. This involved analyzing the previous information, conducting additional interviews with Village employees and Fire/EMS members, taking measurements, and more fully surveying the conditions of the

Community Building. C+RA representatives presented the results of their initial analysis and various conceptual site plans at a meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee on Jan.30.

A second meeting to discuss the plans took place on Feb. 3. A goal of that meeting was to review space needs for the facility. A number of residents attended both of these meetings. As a result of the discussions at both meetings, C+RA agreed to develop additional site plans to include a concept that would retain the existing Community Building and construct new Administration, Police, and Fire/EMS offices.

The Current Situation

As it currently stands, C+RA will be developing plans that are variations on three basic scenarios: 1) renovating existing facilities with modest additions; 2) renovating the Community Building and build new facilities for Administration, Police, and Fire/EMS; and 3) build all new facilities. A fourth concept will present just the repairs needed to restore the Community Building complex. The Buildings and Grounds Committee will present the plans for Village residents to consider at a public meeting at the Community Building on Feb. 27. We'll be asking residents who attend to help distill the preliminary

continued on page 7

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Life's Missing Ingredients



Whether it's mom's cookies, your wife's salsa, dad's steak or fish marinade, that family casserole, or your favorite dessert...if a key ingredient is missing, the enjoyment/fulfillment factor just won't be the same. Come join us as we look at some key ingredients in life. Maybe they're missing more than we know, or maybe we can just serve up some bigger batches to those around us! Or, possibly, it's just been awhile since we've reflected on 'em...

March 2nd	OPTIMISM	March 23rd	TRUTH-TELLING
March 9th	GOSSIP-LESS-NESS	March 30th	BROKENNESS
March 16th	AFFIRMATION	April 6th	ADVENTURE

Horizon is a new kind of church started by people in your neighborhood. There's no dress code and you'll never pressured to join. Just feel welcome and feel free to explore your beliefs at your own pace. You can be anonymous or connect as you desire. Also, you can relax at Horizon Community Church with your family well taken care of. Your family will enjoy specifically designed, separate programs for newborns through high school seniors. We even have a weeknight children's program called AWANA. **So, please join us at 10:00 a.m. this or any Sunday, at Cincinnati Country Day High School Theater, 6905 Given Rd. at Shawnee Run Rd. For information, please call Horizon at 272-1315. We're "YOURS TO EXPLORE!"**

Neighbor to Neighbor

Three new TP Eagle Scouts honored

By Annie Bauer

On Saturday, Oct. 26, 2002, Troop 286 celebrated the promotion of three scouts to the rank of Eagle. Kirby Kirby, Alex Swart and Scott Williams earned the rank that is achieved nationally by only two percent of all scouts. In order to reach this rank, each of these young men earned at least 21 merit badges and completed an extensive service project.

Kirby replaced the signs and markers at the Terrace Park Nature Preserve. Alex Swart installed

cobblestones and a sprinkler system in the village memorial garden across from the gazebo. Scott Williams built a compost pit and green house for Green Acres. Scouts and parents from the troop provided the labor for these projects, earning service hours.

In addition to receiving their medals, each of the scouts' parents received individual pins. Pam and Skip Kirby, Kathy and Sy Swart, and Clare and Larry Williams proudly joined their sons in the ceremony.

The "voice of the eagle" was shared by current and former leadership of Troop 286: Bruce Long, David Lewis, Tim Harth and Riley Humler.

Though the Eagle rank is rare nationally, Terrace Park's Troop 286 has been very successful in the number of scouts achieving this rank. In the past year alone six young men have reached the rank of Eagle. In addition, there are currently several Life Scouts planning projects and completing their final merit badges for this rank.

Scouts practice career skills with mulch sale

By Annie Bauer

Members of Terrace Park Boy Scout Troop 286 are learning as they are earning with the Annual Mulch Sale. The troop's only fundraiser allows scouts to both contribute to the troop and to accounts to pay for their high adventure and camping needs. In addition, the scouts are practicing com-

munication skills, etiquette, and salesmanship skills.

Robert Wilson, father of three scouts and chair of this year's sale stated, "As a successful salesperson you must have those characteristics and principles detailed in the scout oath and law. It's exciting to work with the boys on this level. I've spent my whole life in sales and much of what

is required of a successful salesperson these boys are learning in scouts: sensitivity, drive, determination, and an adventurous spirit."

Scouts will begin making their calls on Feb. 22. If you have not been contacted by March 1 please call or email Annie Bauer (831-0728, anne.bauer@uc.edu).

Terrace Park Garden Club news

Tuesday March 4, 2003 the Terrace Park Garden Club will host the Mariemont Garden Club at noon. Cindy McCord of Affordable Ponds and Gardens will present a program on water gardens at the Community Building. All wishing to attend should contact Sara Osborne 831-1136. Come and enjoy this wonderful afternoon.

Congratulations go the winning table, "Abe Lincoln," deco-

rated by Chairman Jean Belliveau, Annette Askam, Dana Roberts, Brigita Wittman. Other "guests" coming to dinner included James Audubon, Daniel Boone, Margaret Mitchell, Jacqueline K. Onassis, and Walt Disney. We were also privileged to have honorary members Rita Leming and Diane DeCamp in attendance. All had a delightful luncheon. We are an amazing group of women with all of our marvelous talents and creativity. Please come and join our club.

Terrace Park students recognized for high academic achievement

By Roseann Hayes

Eighty-one Terrace Park Elementary (TPE) students, grades 4-6, were honored at the annual Recognition Night Ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 5.

To participate in this celebration of academic achievement, an intermediate grade student must

qualify in one of two categories: (1) Honor Roll: 3.8 or higher in all academic courses taken during the first two quarters; or (2) Merit Roll: 3.25 up to 3.8 in all academic courses taken during the first two quarters.

Highlights of the program included comments from Meggie Safford, a Mariemont High School

Honor Student, and a moving keynote address by Terrace Park resident and author Louise Borden entitled "Big Blue Sky." After her remarks, Borden congratulated students individually and presented each with a photograph of Terrace Park Elementary and a 1913 penny — a fitting keepsake, as the penny will serve as a reminder of the "1913" etched above the main entrance to the school.

According to Mike Zimmermann, TPE principal, "It is our hope that this special ceremony will serve to reinforce the values of high academic achievement and self-motivation in those honored, as well as to provide a time to celebrate and praise their efforts."

Congratulations to the honorees, their teachers and their families.

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Sears Homes and the Community House

By Carol Cole

"Sears homes come into their own. Once maligned structures from 1908-1940 now prized for craftsmanship, durability, practicality." This is the headline on the recent Cincinnati Enquirer article, Jan. 18, 2003. There are evidently "more than 500 Sears homes in the Tristate." In Terrace Park, we are very fortunate to have quite a number of these important structures.

The Terrace Park Women's Club has featured them in Community House displays on more than one occasion. The one pictured in this article is at 709 Myrtle, called by Sears "The Stanford." What Sears publicity says about it is, "These small homes rely on simplicity and good taste combined with direct and careful planning to lift them above the ordinary type of home." "The Stanford" was sold from 1933 —1937 and sold for \$908 to \$1,163, depending on the floor plan. 709 Myrtle was built in 1937 for the present owner's grandfather, Albert George Kipp.

The Terrace Park Sears home featured in the recent Enquirer article is at 736 Wooster Pike and is called "The Kilbourne." Others are at 314 Harvard "The Dover," 330 Harvard "The Fullerton," 210 Harvard "The Somerset" (unconfirmed), 308 Marietta and 724 Yale

"The Martha Washington," 315 Miami "The Del Ray" and 903 Elm "The Crescent". Why not take the time to go look at these homes!

Another important building in Terrace Park about which I've written before is the Community House. Most of you probably know by now



Built in 1937, 709 Myrtle exemplifies the Sears home plan "The Stanford."

that the whole Community House/Fire/EMS/Police/Village complex on Elm needs attention. There have been several meetings on the subject and there seems to be an atmosphere of working together to find a solution that will work for everybody.

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The LAM Foundation provides support, education and research for women with LAM, or Lymphangioleiomyomatosis, a progressive lung disease that affects only women.

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Breath of Hope Raffle, 411 Corned Avenue, Terrace Park, OH 45174
If you would like to sell raffle tickets to raise funds for
The LAM Foundation, please call Paula at 513-831-1790.
All proceeds benefit The LAM Foundation

Neighbors work to cure lung disease

By Jenny Whitaker

Two Terrace Park residents, each with their unique talents, are helping to find a cure for a rare, deadly disease that affects women in the prime of their life. This disease, called lymphangioleiomyomatosis or LAM, is a lung disease that results in the progressive destruction of healthy lung tissue, caused by abnormal growth of smooth muscle and cyst formation. Lung capacity progressively declines resulting in the need for oxygen therapy, and, as a last resort, a lung transplant. There is no known cause, no cure and no treatment proven to be effective at this time.

Dr. Frank McCormack, affiliated with the University of Cincinnati, serves as the Scientific Director of the Basic Science Advisory Board of the LAM Foundation, an organization established in 1995 to provide support and information to women with LAM and to fund basic clinical research. The LAM Foundation has raised over \$4 million dollars since its

inception and has channeled 85 percent of donated funds to peer reviewed research. Over the past five years, LAM Foundation investigators have discovered the genetic basis of LAM and identified a molecular pathway that is involved in the cause of LAM. This year, LAM scientists in several centers are discussing treatment strategies based on these research breakthroughs, using well-studied drugs that are already available for clinical use. A treatment trial with a drug called Rapamycin will begin at the University of Cincinnati in March, 2003.

Paula Albrecht is using her proven organizational skills to chair a benefit to raise funds for the LAM Foundation. The benefit, the seventh annual "Breath of Hope Gala — A Night of Great Expectations," will be held April 5, 2003 at the Westin Hotel Ballroom in downtown Cincinnati. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6 p.m. with a silent auction, raffle, dinner and dancing to follow. Nick Clooney will serve as the Master of Ceremonies and music will be provided by The Mystics. Tickets are \$75 each and a portion of the ticket is tax deductible.

For further information about LAM please contact the LAM Foundation at 777-6889. For information concerning the gala, call Paula at 831-1790.

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Fairfax continued from front page

AP classes, have slightly larger primary class sizes and fewer electives (\$470,037 savings) plus place a 7 mills levy on the 2004 ballot with a follow-up levy of 7 mills in 2007. The May 2002 ballot included a 9.95 mills levy that was defeated with only 37 percent of the voters in favor of the levy.

The Board did not spend much time discussing Options 1 or 3 other than to decide not to put a levy on the May 2003 ballot. The Board believed it needed additional time to consider all alternatives regarding a levy.

School consolidation hits sore spot

The hot topic of the night, the topic that brought hundreds of residents to the Board Meeting, was Option 2 — closing Fairfax Elementary (FE). Most, if not all, in attendance filling the Mariemont High School gymnasium bleachers expected the Board would decide to close FE beginning with the 2003-2004 school year because of earlier comments made by Harris at previous Board meetings and a Terrace Park Elementary PTO meeting.

In a long oration, Harris presented some of the (perceived) benefits of combining FE into Mariemont Elementary (ME). Harris pointed out

that in a 1995-1996 survey of residents, 13 percent of the residents favored consolidating schools. In a 2001-2002 survey, 39 percent favored consolidating schools. The stated benefits include consolidating the smallest student body into the largest structure. Per Harris, FE has 166 students, ME has 418 students and the Mariemont Elementary building capacity, per fire code, is 784. Combining the faculty would create opportunities for more specialized teaching for math, science, etc. Efficiencies could be gained educationally such as a larger band program, Math Challenge and use of LD tutors. Harris also pointed out that, as has been stated to him, if such a consolidation would be beneficial for two schools it should also be beneficial for three schools.

"I believe the consolidation would be good for the boys and girls of this school district," Harris said, but also pointed out that "we are not at that step."

"The Board should and must look at the long term configuration of our schools." (Per the Ohio Department of Education, Terrace Park Elementary has 300 students. A consolidation of all three schools would far exceed the current capacity of Mariemont Elementary.)

FE granted stay of execution

After a short deliberation, the

Board voted unanimously to NOT close Fairfax Elementary for the 2003-2004 school year. Rick Koehler, president of the Board, did point out, however, that "everything is on the table now" as the Board tries to address the future finances of the District. As one person present stated, the Board "postponed doing something."

Many residents were then given the opportunity to speak before the Board. Most of those speaking were from Fairfax, and were relieved with the Board's decision, but noted that this may be but a "temporary stay of execution." Some of the additional comments and questions raised addressed specific cuts being considered, using the skills and talents of people within the district instead of hiring outside consultants and the usefulness of the limited-scope MU study coupled with the limited information used to create the study.

Koehler charged Harris with developing a long-range plan for as long as 20 years out and reminded all present that "we will be coming back to you for more levies in the future."

Peace Like a River book review

By Ann DuCharme

What is the difference between great literature and a great story? Great literature has the power to endure: transcending time and culture, providing universal themes to consider, and even study (much to the chagrin of many high school students). A great story enthralls — it is supremely enjoyable, often funny and always accessible. Both genres create moments that stick in your brain, but probably in different parts. Writers of great stories and great literature use the written word to push all of your cognitive abilities somewhere really, really interesting, somewhere you probably wouldn't have visited on your own. *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger is a great story and great literature. Ask a Second Wednesday Night Book Club member.

It's a great story because it's about a family searching for a lost member, against all odds and common sense. In some ways their search is wonderfully successful, but not in the way you think. The father, Jeremiah Land, is bringing up the two boys, Davy and Reuben, with their

younger sister Swede, thoughtfully and spiritually, and as Theodore Roosevelt would say "vigorously," in the 1960s. Reuben, age 11, suffers from asthma. He is the narrator and it is his perspective of the goings on of the family that we share.

His father is a devout Christian who paces as he prays, reading from the Bible deeply for guidance. He is known in the town of Roofing, Minn. as somewhat of an eccentric, but one that has a direct line to God. When Jeremiah Land is around miracles happen. Reuben (who is often the sole witness) struggles to make sense of the miracles as he struggles to breathe.

Although *Peace Like a River* is really just a story of a broken family trying to stay together it also has a very American feel. Bravely, independently, with a great deal of faith and ingenuity they travel forth to the Badlands of North Dakota to meet more characters from the American Landscape: farmers, cowboys and kind strangers. Others that seem familiar to the point of cliché are instead sketched out in fresh description, like the traveling tinker, the mean principal or the evil "fed" (a federal agent also on the trail of the lost family member).

Peace Like a River is great literature because it tackles themes of law and loyalty. There's a kind of family law that exists — when to quit annoying your sister, when to challenge your big brother, when to obey your father, for example — but then there's also the law of the land. Break that and you'll go to jail, as Davy does when he shoots two intruders who break into the house. Then, there's God's Law. It becomes increasingly difficult to discern, especially if one believes that destiny is predetermined. All types of law conflict and the path for no one individual, man or child, is clear. When is it right to not speak the truth?

Some reviewers call this book a "coming of age" book or a "loss of innocence" book, comparing it to *To Kill A Mockingbird*. It may be because the children of the story have a completely unique set of circumstances before them forming their actions in ways that few children experience.

It's interesting to note that the young girl Swede composes a lengthy ballad throughout the book, of a cowboy named Sunny Sundown, who seeks justice. She longs for a typewriter as she frets about rhyme scheme and meter. Swede creates a life on paper, difficult but just, for her cowboy and strives to create an ending that is unambiguously real. Davy, her big brother, strives too, but you have to read the book to learn his story.

Some readers feel the character of Swede is too precocious to be real and there are too many disparate threads in the narrative to pull you through the main story line. By the end, (and by the way, it's a huge, dramatic metaphysical end) readers will have the sense they have participated in a meaningful and memorable literary moment. *Peace Like a River* is a not to be missed first effort.

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Council continued from front page

ciated costs. All in all, this will be an ideal opportunity for interested "TPers" to define what the community desires for the future of our Community Building.

Safety - Chairperson Julie Rugh introduced and Council unanimously passed several resolutions authorizing the purchasing of air tanks and breathing apparatus for

our Fire Department.

Finally, the Village Council unanimously agreed to move to Executive (private) Session to discuss legal matters with Village Solicitor. Several Councilmen made a point of stating that they felt it was imperative to act in this way, as it "kept our options open and would allow for a better opportunity to take the issues to a public forum at a later date."

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continued from page 3

variations into the most favored approaches, in all probability one each of the three basic scenarios. C+RA will then take these three scenarios and develop them further into more defined site plans, a rendered conceptual elevation of the appearance for each favored approach along with corresponding cost estimates.

The Future

Ultimately, the favored approaches will be the basis for at least two community-wide public meetings to gain input regarding the various options. While we can approximate potential costs currently, it won't be until the plans are more fully developed that we can more definitively determine how to approach financing.

We are asking residents to attend a meeting on Feb. 27 and provide their input as to the various plans. The favored choices will be developed in detail, to include renderings and cost estimates. There will then be further public meetings to gain input on the designs so as to assist Council in making a final decision.

What's Happening at St. Thomas?
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 \$10 Registration (\$15 family) covers the weekend!

Terrace Park Sports

CCDS middle school wins MVC wrestling championship

Cincinnati Country Day Middle School recently captured the MVC Wrestling Title by winning the championship on January 23, 2003. The CCDS team won by outscoring the second place team by 52 points. Terrace Park resident, Kurt Freshley, placed first in the 104 pounds weight division. Congratulations, Kurt!



Holding trophy — (left to right) Rick Hynden (Indian Hill) and Adam Karram (Indian Hill) Next Row — (left to right) Coach Dan Wood (Forest Park), Henry Burchenal (Terrace Park), Stephen Peck (Montgomery), Coach Ed Haines, Matt McCammon (Mason), Jon Fletcher (Mt. Washington), Kurt Freshley (Terrace Park), Trey Woeste (Indian Hill), Sean Dougherty (Indian Hill), Alex Diesbach (Indian Hill), Jordan Ansell (Indian Hill), Savvez Panos (Sycamore), Michael Walker (Kenwood), James Scott (Sycamore), Louis Moore (Batavia), Ej Mitchell (Amberly), Coach Casey Schnieber (Fairfield), Jacob Kreines (Pleasant Ridge), Steven Fischman (Loveland), Coach Tim Burchem and not pictured — Ben Streicher (Loveland)



(l-r) 1st row - Leo Lopez, Ian Stull, Drake Peterson, Jake Rackley, Grant Koszycki. Standing - Jace Corbett, Sean Stirsman, Coach Chris Rackley, Alex Beasley, Evan Kokoruda, Drew Cullen. Not pictured - Ross Hawk and Kyle Tinkham

MJHS wrestling roundup

By Lon Stirsman

The Mariemont junior high wrestling team capped off their season with a third place finish in the CHL Championships held at Indian Hill on Feb. 1. The team, which saw one fourth of their squad unable to compete due to the flu bug, was able to overcome steep odds to finish third behind a dominant Madeira squad and Taylor.

The team had three wrestlers advance to the championship

matches, and all three won by pinning their opponents to take first place in their respective weight classes. This enabled the team to edge Indian Hill for third place in the overall team standings.

Seventh grader Jake (JT) Rackley of Fairfax finished the season as CHL champion in the 92-pound weight class, and eighth grader Alex Beasley of Mariemont took first place in the 150-pound

Evan Kokoruda beats the odds. weight class.

The most exciting match of the day took place in the 116-pound championship. Eighth grader Evan Kokoruda of Terrace Park faced off against the prohibitive favorite and number one seed from Madeira, a wrestler who had defeated him twice earlier in the season. The Madeira boy took an early lead, but Evan stunned both him and the crowd with a reversal, pinning him in the process. As the Mariemont fans came to their feet and erupted in cheers, Evan, apparently overcome by the emotion of the moment, turned and rewarded us with a smile.

The CHL coaches acknowledged Evan's accomplishment by naming him Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament.

TPRC welcomes new President and Board members

By Buz Ecker

Matt Nickum has been elected President of the Terrace Park Recreation Committee, Inc. (TPRC), after five years as baseball commissioner. Matt has already contributed significantly to TPRC.

Matt brought clean water to Drackett Field for the first time in

over a decade, (when well water was proven to be unfit to drink) by running over 600 feet of copper to the C Diamond and connecting to the main water supply, and installing two new fountains. He also designed and implemented the TPRC web site. The newest project that he has been working

on is a major overhaul of the three baseball diamonds at Drackett Field which will take place March 3, weather permitting.

TPRC also welcomed four new Board members: Roseann Hayes (Summer Fun), Bren Fries (Baseball), Branden Fisher (Basketball) and Shannon DeCamp (Secretary).

The other Board members are Steve Peterson (Lacrosse), Ralph Heffner (Labor Day), Paul Smith (Treasurer), Paula Albrecht (Soccer), Jeff Jackson (Softball), Jeff Carman (Fields), Rick Mileham (Administrative Asst.).

Go to tprc.net for up to date information.

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