

**VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1** 

**JANUARY 1997** 

#### Council Tackles Varied Agenda by Pat Henley

Audits, resolutions, water mains, horses and tree removalsall these were subjects for discussion at the Jan. 14 Terrace Park Council meeting

Francine Glassmeyer, village clerk, announced that she had received the final report on the financial audit by the state. One citation was received for a minor infraction. This means the clerk's work was almost perfect. The audit is done every other year, with this year's costing the village close to \$4,500.

At the beginning of every ar Council must approve resolutions dealing with the financial operation of the village. They include requests to Hamilton County for the distribution of funds from estate and real estate taxes and the tree assessment into the Village General Fund. Tim Brown, fiance chair, presented these, so that by meeting's end, about 30 resolutions had been passed.

In the continuing effort to implement replacement of the old four inch water mains Dan Startsman requested that Council agree to advancing 11% matching funds or \$77,000 of the \$700,000 of Issue II funds needed for the job. Council passed a resolution to appropriate this amount, Issue II funds for water mains are loans, not grants.

Residents address Council:

Frank Lowe, Fieldstone Dr., observed that horse traffic on the trails of the Wilderness Preserve has a destructive impact on the fragile paths. Mayor Comfort asked Dan Keefe to take this problem under consideration.

Jack Brown, Elm Ct., asked about a time-table for the flood control work at the underpass on Elm Ave. Solicitor Bob Molloy said that the okay on the test borings must first come form ODNR, and then work could begin.

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# Council Support Sought To Check Aquifer

At its January meeting Council was asked by Terry Hull, not only to permit, but to help finance testing of the aquifer for contamination below the village. Terry Hull, the director of the Hamilton County General Health District's water quality and waste management, said the U.S. Geological Survey would finance half of the \$48,000 ground water study, with the other

Councilman Dan Startsman asked if contamination was found below Terrace Park, how would you know if it originated in the village or was carried into the area by the natural flow of the water under ground from neighboring communities. Startsman asked if other communities in the area would be tested. Hull said there were no plans for testing outside Terrace Park.

Council member Rusty Wilson asked for a win-win situation for the village and the board. If the village consented and helped with the study would the board of health agree in writing to eliminate the time consuming and costly procedures it now requires when any construction is undertaken in the village?

In 1993 after scandalous reports of pollution by household sewage disposal systems on the western side of the county, the board of health adopted new regulations (more restrictive than Ohio EPA standards) prohibiting the use of aerobic systems and dry wells in septic systems for new construction. Unlike the western part of the county, much of Terrace Park is built on gravel which facilitates quick drainage of both rain water and household waste water. The current concern is that the household waste from Terrace Park's 759 septic systems passes through the gravel too quickly, carrying with it contaminants to the groundwater.

When recently inspected by the board of health only one bad tank was found. However, seven of the 38 mechanical systems used to process waste water in the village were found to have problems.

Why is the board of health more concerned about a possible problem than the known problem of waste water carried by Winding Brook to the Little Miami River? Private testing of the creek has shown human contamination and tests for the village have indicated a problem with equine contamination, which flows down hill into the village. The neighbors to the north are not subject to the Hamilton County General Health District regulations, since Indian Hill has its own board of health.

Well water contamination has been a concern for both Stumps Boat Club and the Terrace Park Recreation Committee in recent years. After testing by Hilltop Labs indicated the well water was questionable, the Recreation Committee turned off the drinking fountains at Drackett Field. Stumps now uses a chlorination and filter system to purify its water.

Possible sources of contamination of those wells include:

- The Little Miami River, which has been contaminated by malfunctioning waste water plants in Milford and possibly by septic service companies located just across the river off Round Bottom Rd.
- The feed lot which was operated on the surrounding land for decades before it was purchased by the state and the Recreation Committee.
- Indian Hill.
- The maifunctioning systems in Terrace Park that empty into the creek now and even the Swim Club whose waste disposal system was replaced in the early '90's.

Councilman Tim Brown, suggesting the board of health was on a fishing expedition since they didn't know where the ground water is or what direction it's going, asked if this was no more than a precursor to sewer systems?

Mayor Jennifer Comfort concluded the discussion with a request of Mr. Hull for "something in writing; what the standards are and what happens if there is no problem?" She asked specifically for "simple, identifiable goals that the health department can do for us and if there is a problem what the likely result of that is.".

#### School Board Adjusts To Income Decreases By Kris Burbank

Deciding to refrain from any significant spending until more is known about several likely decreases in its operating budget,

the Mariemont Board of Education voted at its January meeting not to authorize spending for air conditioning the junior high school. According to its treasurer,

Natalie Lucas, the district will lose approximately \$290,000 in tax revenues from the closing of Fairfaxbased retailer Swallen's. While property previously owned and operated by the company in Fairfax has been leased, none of the new occupants is expected to contribute nearly the revenue Swallen's did to the school district. Additionally, Lucas reported that student enrollment increased less than expected this year, which will likely result in less state funding than previously anticipated. (Please see State Funding Article on Page 3.)

The Board did vote to update the junior high's electrical system at a cost of approximately \$20,000, but agreed to wait until final budget adjustments are made before allocating additional funds. At its organizational meeting Jan. 7 board members approved an "asking budget" of \$10,930,067 for the county auditor. Annual appropriations for this budget, which is an increase of 1.2% over the current budget, will be approved following the completion of the 1996 /97 school year.

In other matters, the Board voted to again grant second semester exam exemptions to all seniors meeting the qualifying criteria established in 1996. This includes successful completion of senior research and community service requirements, appropriate attendance, and passage of all sections of the 12th grade proficiency tests. Mariemont High School Principal John Laudeman reported that last year's exemption program (its first ever) "helped to successfully combat 'senior-itis.'

Continued on page 6

## Marc Sebens:

## **National Merit Semifinalist Aces SAT**

ramily's approach to education. The Terrace Park resident, who scored a perfect 1600 on his Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) has also been recognized by the 1997 National Merit Scholarship Program as a Semifinalist, placing among the top five percent who took the 1995 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

He was home schooled in Los Angeles before his family moved here and he enrolled at Mariemont High High School for his freshman year. He left formal schooling again after completing his junior year when he had satisfied all the requirements for graduation except government, which he now takes in a correspondence course from the University of Kentucky.

When not working at the Dilly Deli, he spends a great deal of time on the ice, playing defence for a club hockey team that competes in Ohio, New York Indiana. and

Marc Sebens' scores on Pennsylvania. His skating is on the national tests are as unique as his level of his team mates who have skated since they were four or five. Sebens took to the ice late in life, in his middle school years. Asked if he'd like to play professional hockey, he answered, "In a heartbeat!"

He's applying to several Ohio schools, including Miami, but his first choice would be Allegheny in Pennsylvania. His applications went only to those schools with hockey

While at Mariemont, he said he played soccer, ran cross country and dabbled in track. He liked math, physics, trig, and English, and did real well in Latin. Now his time is divided between work and hockey with practice and two to four games a week.

He confesses he's probably a teacher's nightmare, not inclined to do a lot of preparation, even for the SAT's. He said he was a textbook case of what not to do before taking the SAT's the first time - no sleep or preparation. He realized after his



he could do real well on the test. When he was taking it the second time he knew he was doing well and waiting for his scores to come a month later was suspenseful.

Marc is the son of Jim and Jamie Sebens of Miami Ave. His brother Jacob is concentrating on his music while being home schooled and his sister Ashley is a sixth grader at Terrace Park Elementary.

# **MHS Continues To Excel On State Proficiency Tests**

Mariemont High School maintains its record as one of the top two Hamilton County public schools with its consistently strong performance on the Ohio Ninth Grade Proficiency Tests. Mariemont ranks second this year behind Indian Hill and was second last year behind Madeira.

Hamilton County public schools' performance on the tests for Writing, Reading, Math and Citizenship administered statewide in October, 1996 include:

School	W	R	М	C	Total	'96 Avg. (Rank) '95 Avg.			
Indian Hill	99	98	89	97	383	95.75	(1)	91.5	(4)
Mariemont	94	96	92	96	378	94.50	(2)	93	(2)
Madeira	97	96	89	89	371	92.75	(3)	94.25	(1)
Wyoming	95	94	85	93	367	91.75	(4)	91.75	(3)

Results of the area's best performing private schools include:

Seven Hills	100	100	100	100	400	100	(1)	97	
Ursuline	99	100	97	99	395	98.75	(2)	98	
St. Xavier	97	99	98	99	393	98.25	(3)	95.25	
C.H.Christn.	100	100	94	99	393	98.25	(3)	91.25	
Summit	100	100	89	100	389	97.25	(5)	99.25	
St Ursula	100	gq	91	98	388	97	(6)	98	

Averages of local interest include:

Archdiocese						
Of Cinti.	95	95	83	90	363	90.75
St.wide Cum.						
Non-Public	87	91	69	81	328	82.00
Cinti.						
Country Day	100	100	57	67	324	81.00
Statewide						
Cum. Public	79·	86	64	77	306	76.50
Statewide						
Current Pub.	54	51	32	43	180	45.00

Mariemont's performance on this year's math portion of the test ranked ninth among the state's more than 600 public school districts. Indian Hill's writing performance was second in the state's public schools while its reading was third and citizenship fourth.

The top four public schools in Hamilton County all out-scored the Archdiocese of Cincinnati average. The private schools scoring higher than the top four local public schools all have entrance tests. The public schools accept and educate all students living within their district boundaries with none excluded on the basis of entrance test performance.

The percentage of Mariemont's ninth graders passing all four sections of the proficiency test this year is 87%, an increase over last year's 80%. According to The Cincinnati Enquirer only 79% of the state's private school ninth graders past all four sections of the test while 53% of the public school ninth graders passed all four sections.

Mariemont High School Principal John Laudeman says, "The successful schools share four very important attributes: widespread community support, involved parents, enthusiastic teachers, and high expectations on the part of both parents and the schools for ALL students." In congratulating the students, parents, staff and community, Laudeman noted the instruction in the elementary schools lays the foundation for success with the junior high program building on the K-6 foundation. The result, he concluded, is the impressive performance demonstrated year after year by our students.

### **Tutors Needed**



Linda Smith enjoys tutoring at Thomaston Woods.

Tutors for elementary and middle school children are urgently needed for the Homework Room at Thomaston Woods, the 100unit townhouse project built by St. Thomas Church in 1990. The complex is on Amelia-Olive Branch Rd. in Clermont County.

Volunteers are asked to help once or twice a week, on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon from 3:15 to 5:15 p.m. If you can't make a regular commitment, substitutes are also needed.

No experience is necessary. One-on-one tutoring is the aim. You might sit and listen to a first grader read, helping him sound out words, or assist an older child with basic math or English problems in her daily homework assignments. The program is in its sixth year, and about half of the children have been coming since it started.

"They're cute kids," says Linda Smith of Terrace Park, "and we really enjoy tutoring them. But with a total of 21 signed up, we need more help!" Tutors Adrienne Bente. Betsy Holloway and Bob Funk agree. Betsy finds her contacts with children are "wonderfully rewarding," and says she takes out far more than she puts in.

If you can help, or need more information, call Linda Smith at 831-2315 or Bridget Tierney, Coordinator of Resident Services at Thomaston Woods, at 752-1594.

by Elinor Winchester

#### **Dog Tags Prove** Wise Investment

The deadline for purchasing a \$9.75 license required for all dogs in Hamilton County was Jan. 20. The license even with the \$9 late penalty may prove a wise investment if your dog is picked up by the SPCA. When retrieving a dog you pay a \$68 fine for failing to confine the dog and if the canine is not licensed you pay an additional \$68 for failure to

After recent complaints from a village resident about dogs roaming the streets of Terrace Park, the SPCA was asked to make a few sweeps through the village. When the dog warden came through the village he went door-to-door to check for dog licenses and discovered the citizen who complained about dogs roaming had failed to purchase a license for his pet. A member of council was also cited for failure to license and was featured on Channel 5 news.

Licenses may be purchased at Howard Supply in Madisonville and George Meier in Madeira.

#### Please Help Complete Birth, Death Records

The printing of the the births and deaths for 1996 has been delayed a month in the hope that residents will provide the Village Views with more names, resulting in a more accurate record. Drop me a note or call (831-5708) before Feb.12. Ricki Schmidt

Letter To the Editor:

### Keefe Listens to Development Concerns

I have recently received many comments from residents regarding zoning regulations, new construction, property subdivision, etc. in Terrace Park.

These concerns of residents are not new, as many of you know. These issues are important to all residents of Terrace Park. They are what I refer to as 'quality of life' issues.

The Planning and Zoning Commission and the Village Council are limited in their response to development issues in the Village. Once very common request I have received is to increase the minimal lot size throughout the Village. However, if this would be done, many (or most) of the lots in the Village would be out of compliance with zoning regulations, requiring a variance for any improvement.

I do share the concern of residents about lot size for development and regulations regarding lot subdivisions. In addition, I have concerns that development along the Little Miami River may result in erosion of the river bank.

I do not have a quick fix for these concerns. Neither do I believe there are any easy solutions that will satisfy all parties concerned. To a very large extent, development has been a positive force in our community. We can not simply 'lock in time and place' our community. Our village has been, and will continue to be, a dynamic one. An essential ingredient of this is change. Development is a reflection of a vibrant, dynamic community.

Given the concerns of many of our residents, I do feel that a comprehensive review of regulations regarding zoning and development is advisable. As chairman of the Village Council Planning and Zoning Committee and a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, it is my opinion that both the Village Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission undertake such a review.

The zoning regulations of a community, to a large extent, should reflect the concerns and values of its citizens. In a very real sense, zoning requirement reinforce community values and standards that we must all abide by

Prior to a review of zoning regulation, I feel it is very important to receive input from the community regarding views about development. Therefore, as chairman of the Village Council Planning and Zoning Committee, I am going to hold a public meeting regarding development and zoning regulations in the Village. My primary objective will be to LISTEN to the concerns of residents, both pro and con, regarding zoning regulations and development. This meeting will be held Mon. Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Community Center. I would encourage any residents who have concerns in these matters to attend.

Daniel A. Keefe Councilman

Planning and Zoning Committee.

#### St. Thomas Choir Sings Evensong Feb. 23 at 5

The St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys inaugurates its "Cathedral Classics" Evensong series on Sun., Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. at St. Thomas Church. The traditional late afternoon choral service is open to the public without charge.

The Evensong will feature music from the Tudor Era, England's golden age of choral music. Included are Richard Farrant's "Call to remembrance" and Thomas Weelkes' "Let thy merciful ears." His masterful setting of the two most central pieces of Evensong, "My soul doth magnify the Lord" (Magnificat) and "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart" will also be included in the service.

The ensemble of 22 boys and 18 men meet several times a week, including an intergenerational rehearsal. Many of the boys, who range in age from eight to 13, come from Terrace Park, but as the choir continues it recruitment, the group is hoping to increase its metropolitanwide base. The choir's men come from the entire Cincinnati area, with some coming from as far away as Dayton.

Membership is still open to boys eight years of age and older with unchanged voices. No previous experience is necessary to join, with boys being admitted on the basis of natural inclination towards singing. For further information contact the Choir's Director, Charles Olegar at 831-2052.

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AARP Meets Feb. 10

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**Muchmore Retires** 

Martha Muchmore, manager of Terrace Park's PNC Branch Bank, retired Jan. 24 after 31 years with the bank. John Hadden, the Milford PNC Branch manager, will now also handle the Terrace Park office.

Muchmore, who was also a bank officer, came to the Terrace Park branch in 1992 from the Fourth and Vine Office. She said, "Terrace Park has been such a nice experience and I've enjoyed this branch more than any I've been at, including Cherry Grove and

She and her husband Robert, who retired after 19 years on the Fairfax Police Force, plan to spend more time at their farm in Adams County and visiting children in Florida and Michigan.

Muchmore noted her husband's ancestors, who go as far back in the area as the early 1800's, are buried in the old cemetery at the Old Armstrong Chapel on Indian Hill Rd. Muchmore Road, which enters Wooster Pike near Krogers, was once the path used to take the family's cows to Walton Creek for

Terrace Park's Chapter 3279 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will meet at 1:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 10 at St. Thomas Church. The program will feature David Levy whose speech is "You Can Stay At Home". For more information,

# Fireballs Finish Second in City



Terrace Park's fifth and sixth grade girls soccer team took second place in the All-City Championship after fishing first in their league with a record of 8-2-1. The champs include: (front row from left) Laura Ward, Allison Rice, Sari Dehner and Jane Deeter; (second row from left) Jessie Rogowski, Sarah Kipp, Emily Morehead, Sandy Buban, Alex Ebel and Natalie Bieser; (third row from left) Kristen Hesser, Maggie Safford, Megan Govert, Casey Clukey, Brooke Richart and Catherine Mancera; (back row from left) Coaches Duke Safford, Jerry Govert and Ed Buban.

#### **Spring Soccer** Sign-Up Feb. 22

Sign-up for spring soccer with Mariemont and Terrace Park girls and boys ages seven to 11 is set for Sat., Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Mariemont Community Church Parish Center, 3908 Plainville Rd. Call Soccer Commissioner Jamie Egasti (831-7637) with any questions.

#### Baseball, Softball Sign-Up Feb. 15

Baseball, softball and instructional sign-up for boys and girls will be Sat., Feb. 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Terrace Park Elementary School Cafeteria. If you have any questions, call Baseball Commissioner Skip Kirby (831-1791) or Softball Commissioner Steve Wilson (831-7666).



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#### Nursery School **Registration Opens**

With the arrival of the New Year. it is time to think about registering for next year at St. Thomas Nursery School. Registration for the 97-98 school year will start in late January for church members and families of currently enrolled children. Open enrollment immediately follows in early February.

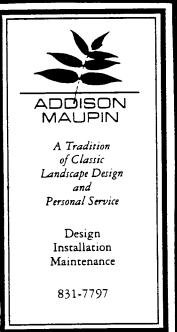
Please contact Sue Dunning at 831-6908 if you have any questions. If your child will be between two years old and Kindergarten, please consider St. Thomas Nursery School for the early childhood development you have been seeking.

# Kindergarten Registration

Terrace Park Elementary School will hold Kindergarten registration Mar. 6 at 7 p.m. in the school library. Any parent with a child who is age five prior to Sept. 30, 1997 planning to attend the elementary school should see Mrs. Jo Trilety to pick up an information packet at the school office. For those children currently attending St. Thomas Nursery School, packets will be distributed the nursery school conferences.

For further information, parents may call Terrace Park Elementary School at 831-2485 or Cindy Carrigan at 831-8294.





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**Commentary** 

### **Abysmal Performance of State Politicians** In Education Can No Longer Be Tolerated

by Ricki Schmidt

Think of this as a sharp stick (possibly a divining rod) with two prongs, one for Republicans and one for Democrats. Not wanting to follow in Gingrich's footsteps and endanger the 501c3 status of the Village Views, I have enough venom for both political parties, as their representatives in state government are guilty of nothing less than maleficence when it comes to financing education in Ohio.

The state is experimenting with vouchers of \$2,500 used by selected poor students from Cleveland public schools to attend a private school. The state, however, is allowing only \$833 to educate each child in the Mariemont City School District.

Oh, you've heard politicians refer to the \$3,500 the state provides for each child in public schools. False advertising should be prosecuted. In determining the state aid to Mariemont, you start with \$3,500, then subtract a percentage of the property valuation of the district per child (.023 x \$130,638). The higher the property valuation per student, the lower the state aid. Multiply that by student enrollment and add just a little for transportation and special education and you get the total aid to the district. Total state funding for Mariemont is \$1,384,478.60, which divided by 1,662 students is \$833 per student. Can you get vouchers for public schools?

My goal is to have you understand state funding, which I'm sure is convoluted to guarantee legislators are not bothered by their naive constituents. The front page of this issue reports good news and bad news. The good news is Mariemont's continued success on state proficiency tests; the bad news is the loss of local income from Swallen's. This is compounded by student enrollment that did not increase as projected by the state, or the district. The state predicted 1,731 or 69 more than the actual enrollment. Over the three years of a levy (the district has always planned financially to have each levy voted by the district last at least three years) that would mean a loss of \$172,431, coupled with \$290,000 from Swallen's and the district begins to feel the pressure.

With the 1996 adjustment to the physical appraisal done for the county auditor in 1993, on average the value of property in Terrace Park increased 11.22 %. Fat city for the schools, right? Wrong. The school portion of your property tax bill is about 58%. An 11% increase on that would be significant, but in the late '70's the legislative band wagon led by George Voinovich, severely restricted the inflationary growth of local tax revenues due only to the increase in property values. There were very valid reasons to address the problem of real estate inflation at the time, but they legislators threw the baby out with the bath water. They did not provide much help for schools. Oh, they do allow inflation on the inside millage (another method to insure voters can not decipher school funding), which is 5.85 in our district. The voters have passed 72.97 mills for the schools, but the state says mills don't matter, you can only collect the original number of dollars in the levy. Therefore the voted 72.97 mills voted in Mariemont are rolled back to an effective rate of 37.549., but only 5.85 can be increased with inflation.

Stay with me, it gets worse! Remember the governor who goes to Washington to condemn unfunded mandates. Well, somehow his state has mandated a few unfunded programs for the local schools, including, but not limited to special education programs for disabled students. This is the same state that will loan corporations money with interest free grants but forces school districts who must borrow from the state to pay

The state has also spent millions of tax dollars fighting the court challenge to the state's system of paying for education. Our neighbors in Indiana were facing the same predicament some years ago and their governor and legislature decided to work together to change their system of financing and save the legal fees. We in Ohio have paid the legal fees and no matter what the ruling by the State Supreme Court, the system of financing schools in Ohio will be changed. The legislators have proposed taking from the rich districts, like Mariemont, and giving to the poor districts. How much can our \$833 per student do?

Yes, it still gets worse. In 1990 the Ohio Dept. of Education estimated the state's schools needed \$10 billion of basic building improvements. So, the government, in its wisdom, has increased funding for prisons by 25%. Maybe we could convince the governor's brother to consider a career change from building prisons to building schools.

Don't think for one minute the Democrats have helped this situation, they controlled the legislature while much of this mess was festering. Speaking of festering, I do hope your blood pressure has risen at least half as much as mine. Ohio cannot compete nationally or globally without educating its work force. But first you must educate the politicians. Let them know you will no longer tolerate their abysmal treatment of public education in Ohio!



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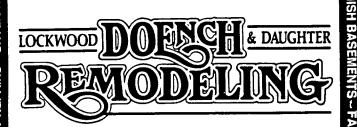
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Chris Hogue, left and Grady Randolph were honored at an Eagle Scout Ceremony at Indian Hill Church in December.

## Eagle Court Honors 4 TP Scouts

Four Terrace Park Boy Scouts recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, which is achieved by only two percent of all Scouts. John Harth, Chris Hogue, Jeff Krueger and Grady Randolph will be acknowledged at the Eagle Court of Honor Feb. 9 at the Landmark Baptist Temple. Apollo 11 Commander Neil Armstrong, who was the first man to walk on the moon, will be the featured speaker at this annual event sponsored by the Dan Beard Council.

Harth and Krueger will have their Eagle Ceremony for family and friends Mar. 1 at St. Thomas Church. Hogue and Randolph were honored Dec. 14 at the Indian Hill Church ceremony led by Terrace Park Troop 286 leaders Tim Harth and Dave Randoph. Grady is the third Randolph to achieve Eagle rank as his father Dave is an Eagle and his brother Bryan earned his Eagle two years ago.

Featured speakers at the ceremony included: Hamilton County Treasurer Robert Goering, who proclaimed the date "Chris Hogue and Grady Randolph Day in Hamilton County", and Ed Hirsch, District Eagle Scout Coordinator for Cincinnati. Hirsch noted the impressive number of Eagle Scouts the Terrace Park Troop has produced in recent years, including Ben Ross, Matt Buban, B.J. Cotter and Bryan Randolph. "Doc" Charles Goodwin, a pediatric surgeon whose 300 member troop in Dayton is the second largest troop in the country, spoke about his experiences with Scouting. His troop, which includes a large number of inner-city boys, has participated in camping and leadership activities with the Terrace Park Troop.

Hogue and Randolph fulfilled their community service projects at Stepping Stones. Hogue stained five outdoor shelters and Randolph built wooden trash receptacles for the grounds.

Harth and Krueger completed projects in Terrace Park. The entire troop helped Harth place boundary markers in the Wilderness Preserve. Mike Carle, Creigh and Dan Long, Jon Malotke, Matt Buban and Harth helped Krueger rebuild an information board destroyed by a car. He also repainted and reshingled four other boards in the park used to post the legal notices for the village. Mayor Jennifer Comfort noted the work on the boards was appreciated by both council and village residents.

The newest Eagles all camped at the Philmont Ranch in New Mexico in 1995 and went to Quetico, Canada this past summer for wilderness camping, canoeing and fishing. The Scouts are now planning to attend the National Jamboree in Fort A.P. Hill, Va. this summer.



Jeff Krueger, right, replaced and repaired village information boards, while John Harth, above, marked the boundary lines of the Terrace Park Wilderness Preserve.



#### TP PTA Continues \$uccessful Year

By Cyndy Finnigan

The Jan. 7th PTA meeting began with a special thank you for Book Fair Committee Chairman Louise Cottrell and her volunteers who raised \$2,500 in December for the Terrace Park Elementary library fund.

In other financial news, the Market Day profit for December was \$900 while Kroger gift certificates have netted \$2,975 for this school year. Treasurer Sandy Wittman-Shell announced current assets of \$28,282.

The elementary school skating party Feb. 21 at Castle Skateland needs a chairman. If you are able to help, call PTA President Melanie Hyndyn (831-4971). The Fine Arts Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Opera Outreach Program which will visit the school Apr. 17. Volunteers are also needed for a student art show during Fine Arts Week. Call Missy Cowan (248-2229) for more information.

Volunteers completed classroom presentation training at Turpin High School for the Everybody Counts Week scheduled Feb. 3-7 at Terrace Park.

The popular Mini-school program, which ran Jan. 15 to Feb.3, is looking for volunteers and suggestions for next year's classes. If you are interested contact Maureen Sullivan (831-0687). Odyssey of the Mind teams are now in high gear as they prepare for the approaching March 8 competition at New Richmond. Competition judges are still needed. If you can help, call Kim David (248-0893).

# MacMillan To Swim At NCAA Nationals



Stephanie MacMillan

Stephanie MacMillan, a sophomore at The College of Wooster, has qualified for the NCAA Division III National Swimming Championship meet in three events.

MacMillan's time of 1:00.50 in the 100-yard backstroke at the Ohio University Invitational in December earned her a spot in the national meet. She also qualified in the 500 freestyle (5:12.77) and in the 200 backstroke (2:11.83).

"Stephanie continues to be a leader in Division III swimming," said Wooster head coach Keith Beckett. "She has a chance to have another outstanding national meet." MacMillan set six school records and earned All-America honors as a freshman.

A 1995 graduate of Mariemont High School, MacMillan is the daughter of Gregg and Linda MacMillan of Michigan Dr.

# **Fireballs Finish Second in City**



Terrace Park's fifth and sixth grade girls soccer team took second place in the All-City Championship after fishing first in their league with a record of 8-2-1. The champs include: (front row from left) Laura Ward, Allison Rice, Sari Dehner and Jane Deeter; (second row from left) Jessie Rogowski, Sarah Kipp, Emily Morehead, Sandy Buban, Alex Ebel and Natalie Bieser; (third row from left) Kristen Hesser, Maggie Safford, Megan Govert, Casey Clukey, Brooke Richart and Catherine Mancera; (back row from left) Coaches Duke Safford, Jerry Govert and Ed Buban.

#### Spring Soccer Sign-Up Feb. 22

Sign-up for spring soccer with Mariemont and Terrace Park girls and boys ages seven to 11 is set for Sat., Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Mariemont Community Church Parish Center, 3908 Plainville Rd. Call Soccer Commissioner Jamie Egasti (831-7637) with any questions.

#### Baseball, Softball Sign-Up Feb. 15

Baseball, softball and instructional sign-up for boys and girls will be Sat., Feb. 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Terrace Park Elementary School Cafeteria. If you have any questions, call Baseball Commissioner Skip Kirby (831-1791) or Softball Commissioner Steve Wilson (831-7666).



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### Nursery School Registration Opens

With the arrival of the New Year, it is time to think about registering for next year at St. Thomas Nursery School. Registration for the 97-98 school year will start in late January for church members and families of currently enrolled children. Open enrollment immediately follows in early February.

Please contact Sue Dunning at 831-6908 if you have any questions. If your child will be between two years old and Kindergarten, please consider St. Thomas Nursery School for the early childhood development you have been seeking.

# Kindergarten Registration

Terrace Park Elementary School will hold Kindergarten registration Mar. 6 at 7 p.m. in the school library. Any parent with a child who is age five prior to Sept. 30, 1997 planning to attend the elementary school should see Mrs. Jo Trilety to pick up an information packet at the school office. For those children currently attending St. Thomas Nursery School, packets will be distributed at the nursery school conferences.

For further information, parents may call Terrace Park Elementary School at 831-2485 or Cindy Carrigan at 831-8294.





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#### Commentary

# Abysmal Performance of State Politicians In Education Can No Longer Be Tolerated

by Ricki Schmidt

Think of this as a sharp stick (possibly a divining rod) with two prongs, one for Republicans and one for Democrats. Not wanting to follow in Gingrich's footsteps and endanger the 501c3 status of the *Village Views*, I have enough venom for both political parties, as their representatives in state government are guilty of nothing less than maleficence when it comes to financing education in Ohio.

The state is experimenting with vouchers of \$2,500 used by selected poor students from Cleveland public schools to attend a private school. The state, however, is allowing only \$833 to educate each child in the Mariemont City School District.

Oh, you've heard politicians refer to the \$3,500 the state provides for each child in public schools. False advertising should be prosecuted. In determining the state aid to Mariemont, you start with \$3,500, then subtract a percentage of the property valuation of the district per child (.023 x \$130,638). The higher the property valuation per student, the lower the state aid. Multiply that by student enrollment and add just a little for transportation and special education and you get the total aid to the district. Total state funding for Mariemont is \$1,384,478.60, which divided by 1,662 students is \$833 per student. Can you get vouchers for public schools?

My goal is to have you understand state funding, which I'm sure is convoluted to guarantee legislators are not bothered by their naive constituents. The front page of this issue reports good news and bad news. The good news is Mariemont's continued success on state proficiency tests; the bad news is the loss of local income from Swallen's. This is compounded by student enrollment that did not increase as projected by the state, or the district. The state predicted 1,731 or 69 more than the actual enrollment. Over the three years of a levy (the district has always planned financially to have each levy voted by the district last at least three years) that would mean a loss of \$172,431, coupled with \$290,000 from Swallen's and the district begins to feel the pressure.

With the 1996 adjustment to the physical appraisal done for the county auditor in 1993, on average the value of property in Terrace Park increased 11.22 %. Fat city for the schools, right? Wrong. The school portion of your property tax bill is about 58%. An 11% increase on that would be significant, but in the late '70's the legislative band wagon led by George Voinovich, severely restricted the inflationary growth of local tax revenues due only to the increase in property values. There were very valid reasons to address the problem of real estate inflation at the time, but they legislators threw the baby out with the bath water. They did not provide much help for schools. Oh, they do allow inflation on the inside millage (another method to insure voters can not decipher school funding), which is 5.85 in our district. The voters have passed 72.97 mills for the schools, but the state says mills don't matter, you can only collect the original number of dollars in the levy. Therefore the voted 72.97 mills voted in Mariemont are rolled back to an effective rate of 37.549., but only 5.85 can be increased with inflation.

Stay with me, it gets worse! Remember the governor who goes to Washington to condemn unfunded mandates. Well, somehow his state has mandated a few unfunded programs for the local schools, including, but not limited to special education programs for disabled students. This is the same state that will loan corporations money with interest free grants but forces school districts who must borrow from the state to pay interest.

The state has also spent millions of tax dollars fighting the court challenge to the state's system of paying for education. Our neighbors in Indiana were facing the same predicament some years ago and their governor and legislature decided to work together to change their system of financing and save the legal fees. We in Ohio have paid the legal fees and no matter what the ruling by the State Supreme Court, the system of financing schools in Ohio will be changed. The legislators have proposed taking from the rich districts, like Mariemont, and giving to the poor districts. How much can our \$833 per student do?

Yes, it still gets worse. In 1990 the Ohio Dept. of Education estimated the state's schools needed \$10 billion of basic building improvements. So, the government, in its wisdom, has increased funding for prisons by 25%. Maybe we could convince the governor's brother to consider a career change from building prisons to building schools.

Don't think for one minute the Democrats have helped this situation, they controlled the legislature while much of this mess was festering. Speaking of festering, I do hope your blood pressure has risen at least half as much as mine. Ohio cannot compete nationally or globally without educating its work force. But first you must educate the politicians. Let them know you will no longer tolerate their abysmal treatment of public education in Ohio!



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#### Crime Prevention Mtg. Set For Tues., Feb. 19

After the successful presentation of the Dec. 17 Forum on Crime Prevention and Police Procedures, the Terrace Park Police Department scheduled another forum Tues., Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Community House.

Lt. Jerry Hayhow will again have bicycle helmets for both adults and children for sale at \$10. Hayhow, who sold two at last month's meeting, said the checks should be made payable to CHMC as the helmets are provided by Childrens Hospital.

The flexible agenda will allow discussion of topics of interest to those attending. The topics discussed by close to 25 residents at the last meeting included:

• Things that go bump in the night: the police asked to be called anytime residents heard or saw things that were a concern or out of the ordinary. Police Chief Bob Bacon noted the department received no calls the night of the extensive wandalism in the village. Bacon said no matter how simple things may seem to be, they may be crucial in solving a crime.

• Drugs, alcohol and gangs:
Chief Bacon said it would be naive
to think there is no alcohol and drug
use, especially marijuana, by village
teens. Lt. Hayhow noted, however,
there is no evidence any residents
of Terrace Park are gang members.

He did say there are two residents of the village who do have friends that are gang members.

• Recent DUI arrest: a village resident was followed after leaving the Swim Club late at night. When stopped by an auxiliary officer, who did not recognize the car, the smell of alcohol was noted. The auxiliary then radioed the regular officer on duty. The resident's blood alcohol was .11 and he was charged with DUI. The resident asked for his case to be transferred from Mayor's Court to Hamilton County. The judge, who felt the First District Court of Appeals would probably require more justification for originally stopping the resident, dismissed the case.



#### Julie Rugh Appointed To County Committee

Terrace Park Council member Julie Rugh has been appointed by Hamilton County Commissioners to serve on the Hamilton County Fair Housing Committee. The committee, which has an \$11 million budget, oversees the disbursement of funds to communities in the county requesting funds for fair housing projects.

The Hamilton County Republican Women's Club recently elected Rugh to a two year term on the Board of Directors.

She was first elected to Council n 1992 and chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee, devoting a great deal of time to the Village's ree program.

#### Buncorama Feb. 7

The third annual Buncorama will be ready to roll at the Community House Fri., Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. A fee of \$5 (cash or check made out to Terrace Park Newcomer's) must be sent to Alice Keys at 723 Park (831-7556) by Tues., Feb. 4.



SERGEANT CHIN - The entire family was on hand at the January Council meeting when Police Officer Timothy Chin was sworn in as Terrace Park's newest Sergeant. He and his wife Debbie had their hands full of twins, Brian and Brittany.

# IH Water Works Adds Tenth Well

Indian Hill Water Works Superintendent Jim Fox said at this time of year most customers are more concerned with keeping their water pipes from freezing, rather than summertime water needs. IH Water Works, however, is currently adding a tenth well to the water supply.

Currently, eight wells are located on the treatment plant grounds on the west side of the river, and one well is on the east side of the river. Well number ten will also be on the river's east side and will pump water through an existing transmission main under the river to the treatment plant. The well construction should be completed by July, increasing the reliability of the system prior to the peak summertime usage.

DUI. The resident asked for his case to be transferred from Mayor's Court to Hamilton County. The judge, who felt the First District Court of Appeals would probably require more justification for originally stopping.

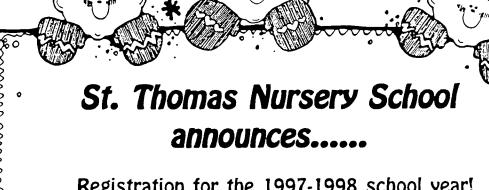
#### Public Forum Set Feb. 3 On Zoning, Development

Council's Planning and Zoning Committee Chairman Dan Keefe invites residents to a Public Forum Wed., Feb. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community House to discuss planning, zoning and development in the village.

Twenty village residents attended the Dec. 11 Planning Commission meeting where Drackett Harth Construction sought certification for lot cutups at 801 Miami and at the rear of 720 Elm. (In the last issue of the Village Views, Carol Peterson, who questioned at the meeting the property cut-up and minimum property size requirements, was incorrectly identified as Carol Carpenter.) If property meets the zoning code and the builder has a plat from the Auditor's office and a permit from the Hamilton County Board of Health the village is legally bound to certify the property for building. The Douglas property has been certified and Bill Drackett, of Drackett Harth Construction, said they are hoping to build a period home that would be compatible with the architecture of Gravelotte.

Village Solicitor Bob Molloy has been asked by Drackett Harth Construction to confirm that Planning Commission approval is not necessary for the Miami property because it is separately platted and has it own tax bill. The Miami property is on the agenda for the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Wed., Jan. 29, as is the Porter property subdivision.





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### Council

(con't from pg 1)

Terrace Park has a home page on the web, which is sponsored by MacMillan Graphics. Gregg MacMillan invites further input from interested residents.

Columbia Township in cooperation with the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission will do a study on land use from Mariemont to the Terrace Park corporation line. Any interested citizen can attend the meetings. For information, contact Dan Keefe, 831-

CG&E and Davey Tree will be removing 28 trees this winter as part of the continuing program to maintain our urban forest. CG&E is removing seven of the 28 at no cost to the village. Davey will prune 181 trees on designated streets and home owners will be notified by door hangers if work is to be done in front of their house. Davey will cut the wood into fireplace lengths and transport it to the Environmental Services Area. Residents who wish to have some of these unsplit logs should contact Randy Haller, village arborist.

#### School Board

(con't from pg 1)

Superintendent Gerald Harris reported that Mariemont High School was recognized by Ohio Governor George Voinovich for its outstanding use of technology in the classroom. The district's K-12 technology plan will be finalized later this year.

Last, but certainly not least, the Board recognized local residents for significant contributions during the Second quarter of this school vear. Terrace Park honorees included:

- Jane Egasti, chairperson of the 1996 Pumpkin Festival,
- Louise Cottrell, chairperson of this year's Book Fair,
- Scott Keffer, for constructing a new, secure guitar storage facility at the junior high,
- · Sue Keffer, for coordinating an important afterschool snack program for junior high students.

The Terrace Park Elementary PTA was also recognized for graciously funding more than \$8,000 to enhance the elementary school's backyard playground.

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