

Resident speaks out against zoning, building

By Bren Fries

Mr. Jim Flynn, 709 Myrtle, led off November's meeting with a request to Council. He is at odds over developments during the course of new home construction next door to his at 707 Myrtle. While not going in to specific detail towards the nature of his concern (see *Letters to the Editor*) Flynn urged Council to address several aspects of our Village's zoning and building mechanism:

- There is no effective process in place. Current zoning code reflects language drafted in 1963. It is inadequate to properly regulate today's larger more detailed homes.
- Our police force is arguably, per capita, the best trained, equipped and staffed in the nation. Yet, our building department consists of one person. Coupled with his other responsibilities in neighboring communities, Terrace Park's building inspector is incapable of carrying out his duties in a timely, effective manner. As a result, we are seeing a trend in Terrace Park in which neighbors to new home construction are experiencing a loss of effective property and an increase in water drainage problems.
- Flynn compared Terrace Park's zoning code to that of nearby communities. His questions there were answered in either a matter of hours, or at the most one or two days. Here, the average time for calls and letters to be answered has been about three weeks.
- Four years ago, our Village

Government looked at the zoning code. For whatever reason, perhaps expense, no significant changes were made. Flynn asked Council to once and for all mandate a change to our zoning code that protects residents' property. He wants our inspector's office to be supported and staffed in such a way that the zoning will be not only clearly defined, but also enforced.

- Flynn closed his remarks by inviting each member of Council to the upcoming Zoning Board of Appeals meeting so, as a result of the issues regarding construction at 707 Myrtle, they may see firsthand how broken the system truly is.

Mayor Dan Startzman thanked Flynn for his comments and later remarked that he had also received a letter from a resident living in close proximity to 707 Myrtle that had similar concerns about the building project now nearly complete.

- **No Bike Trail...Yet**
Councilwoman Julie Rugh accompanied Mayor Startzman to a meeting with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) regarding future plans for continuation of the bike trail through Terrace Park. As it stands now, ODNR has no firm timetable for the implementation of such a project. The meeting was mainly to keep the lines of communication open so that the Village will stay well informed of any upcoming changes and therefore be able to respond proactively.

The mayor congratulated Council

on the passage of the levy. He said that a vote of 79 percent for a continuation of our current tax rate signaled inherent trust in our Village leadership and its endeavors. The Terrace Park prosecutor is taking an indefinite leave of absence. For the remainder of the year the position will be filled by a member of the legal team from the law office of Village Solicitor Bob Molloy.

Get in the "Zone"

By Bren Fries

One need only to look around Terrace Park at many of the residential building projects underway to realize that the shape of our community is changing. Smaller homes are giving way to bigger ones. In many cases, these are beautiful homes that not only elevate the value of neighboring residences, but also blend in with existing homes, adding pleasing architecture and style. But there's more at stake here. Issues unique to our Village must be addressed. Does the new home adequately allow for the percolation of rainwater on a now smaller lot? Does the new site conform to Terrace Park zoning laws? Wait a minute...zoning laws? What zoning laws?

As neighbors to new construction, it is in our best interests to become familiar with the zoning restrictions as well as the entire building process from the issuance of a building permit to the final certificate

Hamilton County is requesting the Village's participation in a county-wide, mutual aid disaster plan. The coordination will focus on assistance to residences in the event of significant natural disasters.

Equipment Upgrades for Fire Department

Fire Chief Jeff Carle, in coordination with Safety Committee chair Julie Rugh, presented a detailed

package for the purchase and implementation of several new pieces of equipment. Among them are breathing tanks, masks and a "jaws of life" saw. All told, this upgrade will put our fire department at the leading edge of technology. Council approved \$57,300 for the acquisition of these items.

Thanks to all those who par-

Council continued on page 2

to the Zoning Board. Again, the appeal must be made within 10 days of the building inspector's approval of the new plan.

"In most of our recent cases, the parties involved have been able to meet and work things out. That's the result we're hoping for," Olson says. He is quick to note that "the current flaw in our system is that residents have no way of knowing when a new permit has been added to an existing one. We need to devise a system by which adjoining residents are notified of any additions or changes to the original building permit, much like the zoning variance language." Olson intends to address this issue with his committee and the Zoning Board.

In the end, the process is only as good as the people who exercise it. "I want to hear from our residents if they hit snags of any kind in having their concerns addressed," Olson said.

As residents tied to the collective future of our community, we need to insure that the zoning code works for residents as well as builders. If you wake up one morning and the house next to you is about to be knocked down, you can either sit back and hope that the system has your best interests in mind, or take proactive steps to ensure it does. As the landscape of Terrace Park continues to evolve, we would be well-served to choose the latter.

Brownies get the pointe with Cincinnati Ballet

By Ann DuCharme

Recently, Brownie Scout Troop 822 attended a rehearsal for The Cincinnati Ballet's next performance of "The Sleeping Beauty," opening November 15th at The Aronoff Center. They also learned about "dead tutus."

Admonishments for quiet gave way to rapt attention from all as Troop Leader Yvonne Martin guided the second graders into the lobby of the main building on Central Parkway, downtown Cincinnati. Large glass windows revealed the corps de ballet hard at work just a few feet from where we stood. Sixty or so dancers of all ages were assembled, while the principal female lead, Lorna Seijoo from Cuba, performed her solo. We shifted positions slightly for different views and to accommodate a large Properties Table on wheels dominating the lobby. The table was covered in brown paper with scribbled writing showing the location of "props" which in this scene were golden instruments.

The concentration and carriage of the dancers as they moved through the scene created the aura of a true performance. The choreographer, dance mistress, photographer and maestro were seated at the front by the wall of mirrors, as they evaluated the flow of movement, with small occasional comments. A video camera recorded the rehearsals and

a tape of a full symphonic orchestra made the score audible. Three young male dancers — easily second graders themselves — in black practice tights came running out of the rehearsal room into the lobby to deposit a golden lute, a harp and a mandolin on the prop table. Then they hurried (giggling) down the hall for more after lessons at The Academy. Our attention returned to the rehearsal. At the conclusion of the solo all dancers applauded loudly for Lorna and smiled in sheer appreciation of her artistry.

Sharon King, the Education

and Outreach Coordinator for the Ballet, was our tour guide. She began by expressing her hope that at the conclusion of the tour we could enter the crowded rehearsal room and see the dancers at work even more closely. Our first stop was the main practice room one flight below street level. We descended to a large room bordered by a wall of mirrors on one side and heavy stonewalls on the others.

King explained that the original purpose of the building was a brewery. It was designed to maintain a constant temperature, making it ideal for dance rehearsals and cos-

Brownies continued on page 5



Terrace Park Brownies practiced their newly acquired dance moves after a visit with the Cincinnati Ballet. (l-r) Sally Portman, Julia Saxton, Emily Jackson, Rosie Ecker, Polly Brittingham, Julia Murphy, Isabel Lewis, Rachel Nelson, Allison Frey, Quincy Taylor, Olivia Cooke, Taylor Hughes and Kate Olson.

tioning about the plan, time is of the essence. An appeal to the building permit must be filed not later than 10 days after the issuance of said permit. First a call would be made to the Village Building Inspector, Bill Fielder (831-3212), followed by another to the Chairperson of Planning and Zoning, Councilman Stefan Olson (831-0721).

United we stand, with a 65 percent voter turnout

By Susan House

As we in "The Village" have come to expect, 65 percent of registered Terrace Park voters (1,056 of 1,621) cast their ballots on Nov. 5, 2002. The overall Hamilton County voter turnout was at about 51 percent.

The renewal of the Terrace Park Village Tax Levy was authorized by an 80 percent approval.

Congressman Rob Portman was heavily supported by Terrace Park with 92 percent of the vote. He easily held onto his Second District Congressional with 76 percent of the entire constituency electing him over his democratic opponent — obviously ignoring the radio advertisements of fictitious adversaries.

Issue #1, a proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment, proved to be of interest to many. It was defeated state wide, with Terrace Park voting 69 percent against. This Issue was defeated for many reasons, among them it seems that people were affected by the television commercial depicting a "shifty eyed" drug offender as a prominent Ohio citizen.

The decision to use such ads is, no doubt, a subject of discussion for advertising folks everywhere.

Terrace Park voters approved Issue #6, a Hamilton County Tax Levy to benefit senior citizens, at about the same 60 percent margin as the Issue was approved by Hamilton County electors.

Note: Voting statistics quoted here are "final, non official" results as recorded by the Hamilton County Board of Elections, as of Nov. 8, 2002.

Terrace Park Boy Scout annual toy drive

Sunday, December 15

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Log Cabin

Please drop off new, unwrapped gifts for children of any age either at the Terrace Park Post Office by December 13 or at the Log Cabin between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on December 15th. Scouts will wrap them and make sure they are delivered to a child in need.

Nightmare next to Elm Street

"Buried Alive in our own backyard!"

Our home at 709 Myrtle Ave. has been in our family since it was built in 1937. I personally have lived here regularly since 1972.

The horror begins with a recent decision of the building inspector to allow Zicka—Walker Homes to put a retaining wall on the north side of our property and categorize it as a fence. This raised their lot over three feet. When informed that this was not a fence, he replied it was just like screening, and proceeded to allow Z.W. to build a structure almost four feet tall on the property line to allow access to a garage that had a floor over two feet above grade. This raised floor in conjunction with maximizing every lot setback has left them with little room to maneuver with cars in and out of the garage. Not to fret, we will just take some of the neighbor's setback.

Using this logic your immediate adjoining neighbors on both sides and to the rear may raise their lots by six feet. That would put me (and possibly you) six feet deep and that is not all, I may now fill my lot to the new raised elevation, build a fence around the lot, and proceed to raise my lot an additional six feet.

Now I ask you, is this the spirit and intent of the Zoning code of Terrace Park?

I doubt it. I also ask you, is this a wall or a fence? Drive by and see for yourself. The wall in "The Heart of The Park" is a symbol of an issue that has been dividing this community for over a decade. It runs through the middle of the community and it is long and deep.

On one side you have those who say build as you please, you have the right to as a property owner. On the other side you have those who say let's tone it down a bit because people and their property are getting hurt. Builders are so aggressive they build garages that have no realistic means of access. This hurts the new owners resale value as well as the value of their neighbors. If Council continues to ignore the objections of the people, they only set themselves in the path of liability.

Council is at the helm, and we have trusted them with our future. Will future generations look back and ask, "It is such a mess, who if anybody was in charge?" Or will they say Terrace Park is a unique little Village and the Leaders have found some unique solutions for keeping it quaint. If it continues as is it will look like West Chester and we will have lost something special. The village's uniqueness and character are what drives property values just as much if not more than any other characteristic.

As a delivery truck came into the driveway and almost grazed my daughters head she asked me "Daddy, who lives behind the wall?" I thought for a moment, looked on top of the wall at the undercarriage staring at me and could only answer "We do." I fear for the safety of my family as well as the new occupants.

For those of you who don't know my wife, she grew up behind the iron curtain in what is now the Czech Republic. Isn't it ironic that a few weeks after she acquired her American citizenship, she is now behind a wall again?

James P. Flynn
709 Myrtle Ave.
What's Left Of Terrace Park, OH 45174



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.

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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.** Call Business Manager **Gerri Kennedy @ 831-2388** for additional rates. *Village Views* welcomes your business.

Dec. deadline :

The December deadline for *Village Views* is **Dec. 9**, the second Monday of the month. All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 9 p.m. **All advertisements** go to Gerri Kennedy at 152 Wrenwood. All articles go to Chandi Findley 427 Terrace Place.

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.

Village Views

Subscriptions are a thoughtful and inexpensive holiday gift for a friend or relative who has left the village. A yearly subscription is only \$18.50 per year. A gift card will be sent to the recipient upon request. To subscribe call **Gerri Kennedy @831-2388**.

Council continued from front page

participated in the 2002 pancake supper. Nearly \$4,000 was raised for the Department.

The Department also responded to four different incidents in which furnaces malfunctioned. Looks like winter is upon us!

This and That

Police Chief Robert Bacon reported that all has been relatively calm this month. He remarked it was a "calm before the storm" as police related issues tend to ramp up during the holiday season. The leaf pick-up is going according to plan, this fall.

Building Inspector Bill Fiedler reported that nine variance cases are to be presented before the Zoning Board of Appeals in its next scheduled meeting...which by my account is at least a month away.

George Kipp, Village Engineer, stated Terrace Park spent nearly \$48,000 on street repairs this year. Using a new contractor we were able to repave the same amount of street area for less money compared to 2001.

Planning and Zoning

Councilman Stefan Olson stated that issues regarding a vegetation screen between the Proctor Insurance Agency and a resident's house have been reconciled. A viburnum hedge was cut down by the agency because it was too expensive to maintain. A new "screen" will be planted and maintained at Proctor's expense.

Olson also reiterated that the is-

sues involving the new home at 707 Myrtle will be referred as a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Buildings and Grounds
Councilman Jim Peterkin was approved to spend not more than \$3,200 for software to adequately monitor the Terrace Park tree program. It will be used to identify each tree and their regularly scheduled maintenance.

In what has become somewhat of a tradition, Peterkin received the "O.K." for \$250 to rent a sound system for this year's Christmas Tree Lighting at the Village Green. The main reason we have not yet purchased a permanent system for the Green is due to the fact that we have no municipal space to store the unit.

He is also researching why our basketball goals have not yet been fixed. The repair was scheduled to be completed last month.

Public Works

Work is underway to retain an architecture firm to begin putting together a feasibility study in conjunction with restoration/renovation of the Community Building. The firm selected will work closely with members of Councilman Steve Holmes' committee and the residents of Terrace Park to establish a plan that best suits the Village. Holmes emphasized that residents, through town hall-style meetings, will be intimately involved in both input and ratification of the final design.

Council later adjourned the meeting to discuss private matters in Executive Session.

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A lucky coincidence

By Sherry Holcomb

John and Linda Rockaway landed at 720 Elm quite by accident. Well, at least it was by a lucky coincidence. They were living in Rolla, Missouri where they had been for 33 years while John taught geological engineering at the University of Missouri. They happened to buy a painting of a house by a Terrace Park artist and decided on a trip through town to see if the subject of the painting still existed.

They drove around Terrace Park and couldn't find the house in the painting, but did see an interesting house up for sale. John, who grew up in Terrace Park, remarked that he used to play in that house as a kid. The next day was Sunday and the Rockaways thought it might be fun to attend the open house, but their schedule was too tight and they left town. Not to be denied, John and Linda arranged to come back the following week and tour the house.

They both enjoyed the trip and the house tour and went back to Rolla. On his own, John decided to make an offer on the house with the contingency that the seller would have to find a renter for three years because that is when John planned to retire. When Linda found out, she thought it was a crazy offer and would never be accepted. Two days later, John told Linda that they owned a house in Terrace Park.

Though John had planned to retire in three years, he stayed at the University for one more year. During that time, the Rockaways came every two weeks to oversee the remodeling being done to their new home. In another stroke of luck, John was offered a job teaching Geology at Northern Kentucky University six months before the move to Terrace Park.

In fact, it was also a lucky coincidence that brought John and Linda together. John graduated from Terrace Park High School in 1956 and



Linda and John Rockaway

headed off to the Colorado School of Mines in Golden. Linda, who grew up in Mexico, attended Colorado University in Boulder. Carol Graeter, who was a high school classmate of John's, was Linda's sorority sister and introduced the couple.

Many years later, the Rockaways are enjoying their home, their family, their community and their many activities. They are both members of the Historical Society and Linda is a member of the Garden Club. They continue to collect antiques and John works on his farm near Russellville. In addition, they volunteer at the Cincinnati Art Museum. John and Linda also own a house on Kelly's Island on Lake Erie and ran it as a Bed & Breakfast in the summer until this year. They are opening the lake home to their four children and their families, including four grandchildren (and one on the way.)

Linda says they have found the village to be a friendly, welcoming, open community. It is no coincidence that the Rockaways have reconnected and built many friendships since moving to their "accidental" new home. "Terrace Park has a lot to offer," says Linda. "You just have to take advantage of it."

Village Calendar 2002

November

- 25 Booster Meeting 7:30 p.m. MHS C-20
- 26 TPE Parent-Grandparent Day
- 27 No school—Thanksgiving Break begins
- 28 Thanksgiving
- 29 No school — Hanukkah begins at sunset

December

- 3 TPE PTO Meeting 9:30 a.m. School Cafeteria
- 3 TP Garden Club Christmas Luncheon Noon Terrace Park Country Club.
- 5 MJHS Holiday Concert 7 p.m. ME Auditorium
- 7 MJHS Holiday Dance 7 — 9:30 p.m.
- 8 Heritage Home Tour — 1-5 p.m.
- 8 A Terrace Park Holiday Tradition: Luminaria lighting 6 p.m., Carols on the green 6:15 p.m., Tree lighting 6:30 p.m., Santa arrives 6:45 p.m.
- 9 Early Dismissal Grades 7 — 12
- 9 TP Mayor's Court 7 p.m. Community Building

- 9 MHS Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. MHS Auditorium
- 9 AARP Wine and Cheese Party 1:30 p.m. Community Building. Singing holiday songs with Rev. Joe Payne, Assoc. Pastor of Milford First United Methodist Church. Call Virginia Marquett @ 831-2650 with questions.
- 10 TPE grades K-3 Holiday Program 7 p.m. TPE Gymnasium
- 10 TP Village Council 7:30 p.m. Community Building
- 11 TP Historical Society members party 7 p.m. at Gravelotte, home of Linda and John Rockaway, 720 Elm. Call Linda Rockaway @ 965-8660 with questions.
- 17 Mariemont Board of Education Meeting 7:15 p.m. MHS
- 18 TPE grades 4—6 Holiday Program 7 p.m. TPE Gymnasium
- 20 Last day of school — Winter Vacation Begins at end of day
- 25 Christmas

Please call Roseann Hayes @ 248-2619 with calendar information

Mixing the old and the new

By Sherry Holcomb

"Terrace Park is a good marriage of the old and the new," so says Ramona McGonagil of 817 Myrtle. Ramona, who moved to this older home with her new husband Tim in 1998, considers her family "established newcomers." While that sounds like a contradiction, the McGonagil family likes the idea of introducing themselves after settling in to the neighborhood.

The contrasts between old and new run through the McGonagil story like the Little Miami runs through our village. Ramona has lived in the Cincinnati area all her life, but chose to live in Terrace Park for the first time when she and Tim bought their first house together. "We like the fact that Terrace Park is a little off the beaten path," Ramona says. "We like the charm, the schools and the fact that the village is a good compromise between a rural area and a more urban one."

Another attraction is an old method of transportation — horseback riding. Ramona owns a horse and wanted to be close to where the horse is boarded and near the riding trails they frequent together. Although in the last year, riding has taken a back seat to the new endeavor at the McGonagil's — raising 15-month-old daughter, Reilly.

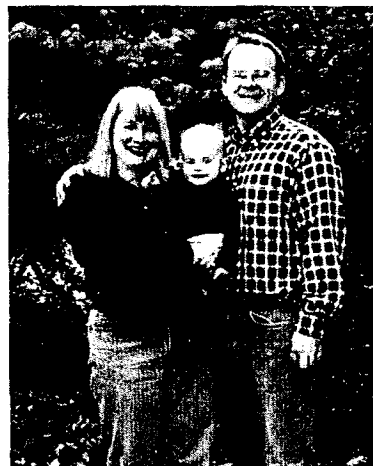
This new addition also caused Ramona in July to postpone her

career as a school and family counselor and stay at home with Reilly. Tim continues to teach art and photography at Indian Hill High School. Photography is not only a career, but also a hobby for Tim so he main-

tains a darkroom at the house. On his days off, he likes to play golf or travel with the family to a cabin they own in Gatlinburg. There the family enjoys being outdoors and hiking. When they are indoors, the McGonagils enjoy the charm of their older home. "At some point we will probably remodel," says Ramona, "but we are sensitive to the changes in our village. We hope that remodeled homes and even new homes can maintain and enhance the charm that exists here and not detract from it."

In the same way, the McGonagil family values the wisdom and down-to-earth attitude of their older neighbors. "We have six neighbors that are retired and they add a lot to our neighborhood," Ramona says. "One reason we moved to Terrace Park is the diversity in the ages of our residents."

Mixing the old with the new is a formula that seems to work for the McGonagils as well as it does for Terrace Park.



Ramona, Tim and Reilly McGonagil

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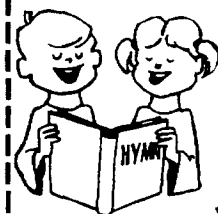
Sunday School 9:15 am; Wednesday Bible Study 11:00 am

*Child Care Provided for these events



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Construction news and more.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Terrace Park Boy Scout troop news

The Terrace Park Boy Scout Troop has enjoyed a fall season filled with service projects, advancement activities and outdoor adventure.

On Nov. 9, several Terrace Park Scouts and adult leaders participated in the Prepare Affair, sponsored by People Working Cooperatively (PWC), by raking leaves and cleaning up yards at the homes of elderly in the Cincinnati area. This service project is organized annually by PWC, a 26-year-old non-profit organization that provides professional home repair, weatherization, and maintenance services for very low-income homeowners in Southwestern Ohio and Northern Kentucky. PWC sponsors two major annual volunteer events, Repair Affair in the spring and Prepare Affair in the fall.

The Scouts also helped bus tables at the annual pancake supper on Nov. 2. On Dec. 15 they will again collect and wrap gifts for children in need from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Log Cabin. The gifts will then be distributed to children by the US Postal Service.

On the wilder side, the Scouts enjoyed a mountain biking trip at Cave Run Lake, a canoe trip down Little Miami from Newtown to the mouth of the Ohio River, and a campout at the Log Cabin to work on advancement. Looking towards December, the troop is planning a wilderness survival campout on the weekend of Dec. 7-8.

Two ceremonies recognizing rank advancement will be held this month. A regular Court of Honor will be held at the Log Cabin on Sunday, Nov. 17 and an Eagle Scout Court of Honor will be held at Terrace Park Elementary School on Saturday, Nov. 23. Kirby Kirby, Alex Swart and Scott Williams will be recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The need for speed

By Lon Stirsman

Cub Scout Pack 97 held their annual Pinewood Derby in the elementary school gym on Nov. 10. Local racing czar Jim Henneberry and his staff hosted a wonderful event this year, unveiling a shiny new track and state of the art timing, administrative and organizational support systems. Several on-lookers were heard commenting on the similarities to some NASCAR events, with the major differences being a few less RPM and a total lack of whale sized recreational vehicles in the parking lot.

This year's event set new attendance records and from all appearances had a high level of participation among the scouts. Many of the races proved to be hotly contested, and the marshals found it necessary on several occasions to move racers and pit crews back away from the track for safety reasons.

Three hours of racing resulted in the top three cars facing off in a series of final heats. In addition to the speed categories, the show car divisions were also impressive with four cars earning awards of distinction in the style category.



TPES launches box tops fundraiser

Students at Terrace Park Elementary School (TPES) have launched their 2002-2003 Box Tops for Education fundraising program. The school has set a goal to collect \$500 through Box Tops.

Box Tops for Education, a school fundraising program sponsored by General Mills, has given over \$70 million to America's schools since 1996. The Box Tops for Education program offers schools an easy way to earn much needed cash.

Schools earn cash by sending in Box Tops coupons from participating General Mills products including General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker products, Pillsbury frozen and refrigerated products, Green Giant products and many others. TPES will earn 10 cents for each Box Top coupon they submit.

"This is an easy way for students, parents, grandparents and the whole community to get involved and help out our school," said Principal Mike Zimmermann. Because the Box Tops for Education program is so easy to participate in, Mr. Zimmermann hopes that even more community members will take advantage of the opportunity to earn cash for TPES.

If you'd like to help TPES reach its goal, send your Box Tops coupons to the school office marked "Attention Jean Marie Nelson — Box Tops Coordinator" or drop them off at 607 Home Street.

It's easy to contribute through Box tops for Education. For more information about Box Tops for Education go to www.BoxTops4Education.com or contact Jean Marie Nelson at 831-3232.

Be a Part of Terrace Park's 16th Annual **Tree Lighting!**
...following the Heritage Home Tour

Illuminate your home with Kindervelt 76's luminaria, then follow the lights and make your way to the Village Green for all the warmth and community spirit of this Terrace Park Tradition. Join with family & neighbors to carol and celebrate this holiday season.

Sunday, December 8, 2002

6:00 Light luminaria **6:45** Santa arrives
6:15 Carols begin
6:30 Tree lighting

The flipping of the switch this year goes to our bid-n-buy winners, the Murphy Family, new friends and neighbors.

Horse-drawn holiday wagon rides, Generously provided by **Fletcher Homes**. This year's first wagon ride, go to bid-n-buy winners... The Taylors, Rolanders, Portman's, and the Overbeys.

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Traditional photo with Jolly Old Saint Nick, sponsored by **Ogle Annett of Coldwell Banker/WestShell**

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- Care to donate to the Tree Lighting Fund? Please contact Candace Fries, 305 Stanton Ave.
- For last minute luminaria, call Holly McCormack @ 576-0884

Award Winners — Speed Category

- 1st place overall - Andrew Hamm
- 2nd place overall - Keith Henneberry
- 3rd place overall - Brennen Warner
- Den 1 Nate Wagner
- Den 2 Jonathan Saxton
- Den 3 Robert Wood
- Den 5 Tim Purcell
- Den 7 Barrett Albrecht
- Den 8 Asher Koreman
- Den 9 Robbie Troller
- Tiger Cubs 1 Evan Doran
- Tiger Cubs 2 Cal Fries

Award Winners — Style Category

- Most Creative Ryan Martin
- Most Realistic ... Paul Flynn
- Best Paint Job ... Hayden Davis
- Silliest Connor Coyan

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Village Views
next deadline is **December 9, the second Monday of the month.**

tume storage. She also showed us the suspension floor with non-skid surface so dancers could minimize injuries while practicing. In this room we could hear the softly muffled thuds of the prima ballerina landings jetes directly above our heads.

Next we saw many portable wooden storage cases that housed every costume and accessory needed for the performance as well as every item needed for repair like needles, thread and scissors. All cases are transported to The Aronoff Center the first day of performance. Next an old but once lovely white tutu, with silk bodice and feather-trimmed neckline was brought out for the girls to examine. This, as Ms. King explained, was a "dead tutu," or a tutu too old, torn, or dirty to meet performance standards, but useful for ballerinas when practicing.

King said that dancers for The Cincinnati Ballet come from some 20 different countries and that they all work extremely hard. She also stressed that this profession was one of passion, talent and discipline, with careers lasting from only age 20 to 28. Retiring dancers often take character roles such as Uncle Drosselmeyer in The Nutcracker Ballet, played by Valentine Liberatore (or "Val" as he is known) when they can no longer meet the demands of stage time.

The next item for inspection was toe shoes. King stressed that no young ballerina should be "en pointe" before 12 years of age and only after a thorough evaluation for strength and skill. Toe shoes cost between \$60- \$80 lasting only one performance. The company has approximately 38 ballerinas, performing 68 "Nutcrackers" (in places as far away as Anchorage, Alaska) creating toe shoe bills that run close to \$200,000. Tutus, which are all hand sewn with various fit mechanisms to accommodate multiple dancers cost between \$3,000-\$7,000 per tutu. The girls examined a pile of dead tutus heaped on the floor with renewed wonder.

Kate Olson asked if the children dancers attend school. King replied that they did, arriving at 3:30 p.m. after regular school to dance at the Academy until 9 p.m. The girls whispered among themselves "When do they do homework?" (The Academy is The Otto M. Buddig Academy of Cincinnati Ballet.)

The next stop was the sewing room followed by the costume vault. A donkey head and a multi-headed Rat King peered down from above as we descended a long ramp into the stone arched vaults. Costumes were wrapped and hung by label in two tiers with various roles identifiable to the girls like Peter Pan or Sleeping Beauty. King brought down an ivy and crystal trimmed Giselle costume and even adults exercised exemplary restraint in not touching, just as instructed.

Betsy Ecker marveled at the variety of fabric stashed on the shelves outside the costume vaults, all compelling in hue and texture. We returned upstairs to see the work out rooms complete with Pilates equipment and weights, as well as management offices. King strongly emphasized, "It takes an entire team of people" to put on a production in addition to the dancers we had just seen.

We progressed back to the lobby and waited in the hallway while further inquiries were made about gaining access to the rehearsal room. We obtained permission to enter the practice and squeeze quietly into a corner. As we waited for a break in the rehearsal to make our entrance the very handsome "Val" came by waving a friendly "hello" and sporting a trim

beard with mustache, no doubt in preparation for his role as Herr Drosselmeyer. Then the three young male dancers appeared again, in the hallway, poking and jostling each other and peering at the young visitors before they scampered off to another class.

Into the room we crept and sat on the floor, squishing our troop together tightly to allow maximum space for the dancers. Unfortunately, non-union photography is not permitted. The first noticeable thing was the sound of the hard toe shoes landing on the dance floor, sounding less elegant than they looked. From our perspective we could see up close the wobbling feet struggling to stay upright and supportive. Dancers gracefully made their way around our little group, taking positions around the pas de deux, stage center. Some acknowledged us with a friendly nod or smile.

Girls dressed all in white, aged 10 or so stretched into splits downstage right. The ballerinas formed chains, swirling across the floor, reforming into arabesques on each side of the stage. The choreographer quietly murmured "easy ladies" as our attention shifted to all the different patterns moving before us. Our 10-minute private viewing seemed like 60 seconds when a break was called for the dancers and it was time to head home to Terrace Park.

We all thanked the very gracious and informative King who passed out posters to the girls. Then we headed to the parking lot to try a few of the ballet poses we had just seen. The girls all agreed that the tour had been amazing, but being in the same room as the dancers as they rehearsed, was the very best part of our trip.

Book Club Book Review

Girl with a Pearl Earring satisfies

By Ann DuCharme

When Tracy Chevalier writes, "I could hear rich carpets in their voices, books and pearls and fur" in the opening page of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* the reader begins a multi-sensory journey into 17th century Dutch culture. Recently, the "Third Wednesday Book Club" met to discuss the life of Griet, a 16-year-old girl forced to accept work as a maid in the upper class household of famous Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer. Her initial anxiety about working for a family of "Papists" is soon replaced by greater dramatic tensions as status, power plays, territorialism and even sexual overtures unfold.

Although Griet marvels at the great painter's skill and is thrilled with her role (carefully dusting the complex combinations of items that

make up his subjects) she is troubled about her future. Should she marry Pieter the butcher's son, who works in the Meat Hall at Market Square with his bloody, unrefined hands? Her responsibilities grow in the Vermeer household, ultimately having her pose for the great painter as she receives unwanted attention from those in power such as Maria Thins, the domineering but businesslike mother-in-law, or Van Ruijen, the artist's agent.

Although the Book Club agreed the descriptions of life by the canal were skillful and compelling, some readers had questions about character clarity. More questions about motivation went unresolved, such as why did Vermeer and Catharina marry? Why did they

have so many children?

Although this is a work of fiction, it is classified as historical fiction with clearly much research evident. Many admirers of Vermeer are surprised to learn that he only painted three paintings a year, due to his exactitude. Fascinating insights into the process of painting technique (making pigments for example, arranging still life and finally the lengthy application of paint to canvas) can be learned. Also gratifying is the characterization of Griet as a powerful observer of detail and often judge of those around her, all of which the reader is privy.

Readers who often find they wonder about the narrative that lies behind great works of art will find *Girl with a Pearl Earring* richly satisfying.



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'Tis the season to be stressed

By Jeffrey Koreman

The holiday season is almost upon us. It is a time of joy...a time of thanks and gratitude...a time of giving...and a time of unbelievable stress. We find ourselves constantly planning and in perpetual motion. Everything seems to take longer than it does at other times of the year. Traffic is snarled with shoppers. We finally find a parking space where we are pretty sure that the silhouette on the horizon is the mall. We engage in tussles worthy of the World Wrestling Federation over that last Hot Wheels Race of Fire at Toys-R-Us. We find ourselves in a line to see Santa that feels like the Bataan Death March only to discover that we have actually been waiting for 3 hours to get into the Ladies' Room.

And then there is the biggest stress of all...the family gathering. Whether it be for Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, or Christmas it matters not. We are suddenly thrust into our extended family again and quite often this is truly the "nuclear" family if we were going by volatility alone. Please do not think I am saying that the holidays or being with family is

a bad thing. I find it joyous and gratifying, but we should recognize that it could be fraught with pitfalls. The trick is in watching where you step. So let's look at how to avoid several potential stressors on our way to a happy holiday season.

- **If you can, avoid the crowds.** Some people absolutely enjoy mall shopping for their holiday gifts. However, for many of us going to the mall from mid-November until Christmas is much like getting a root canal by a blind dentist who forgot the Novocain. For those who wish to avoid the mall, if you are able, try shopping online. It is more convenient and can be done at any time of day.

If you must actually go to a store, try finding suitable gifts at specialty stores not in malls. You may increase your time in the car but for many of us it certainly beats the claustrophobic press of flesh that the mall can bring.

If you find that you have no choice but to brave the mall, try shopping between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Monday through Thursday. It is surprising how empty the mall can be during those times.

- **Discard the "Myth of the Perfect Gift."**

It does not exist. You may spend hours finding that absolutely wonderful, "have to get it for my sister," plush terry robe only to discover three months later your brother-in-law drying off his freshly washed SUV with it.

If you have a loved one who is hard to shop for try a gift certificate. You can make this seemingly impersonal gift more personal by including a heartfelt note along with it, telling the person what it is that makes them so special to you. And face it, wouldn't you have rather gotten that certificate than the purple paisley bow tie that has been resting at the bottom of your sock drawer for the past three years?

- **When the extended family gathers choose your battles, if any, wisely.**

If your parents are coming to your home, or even more dangerous, if you are going to theirs, expect regression. What I mean by this is that no matter what our age, when we return to our childhood home, or even if our parents come to visit us,

to them we are suddenly 12 years old again, and we often oblige them by acting it.

Not every move your parents make toward your children is a comment on your parenting ability. Sure you don't want your children on a steady diet of Snickers and Coca-Cola but if that is what Grandma is feeding them the 2 to 3 days a year she gets to see them, let her. Trust me, having little Tommy become a human pinball for a few hours is certainly preferable to the hard feelings that can ensue by you trying to force your parenting philosophy upon your parents or in-laws.

And sure, Uncle Walter is a cantankerous, contentious know-it-all, but he is also 83 years old and two hours of debate with you on Thanksgiving Day is certainly not going to change him. Remember, the cooling waters of serenity flow most readily over the path of least resistance.

- **Tell your children what they already know.**

Bill Clinton may not have truly felt your pain but believe me, your children can feel your stress. They may not know how to verbalize it but you will be able to observe it in their behavior. So take the time to talk to them about how tense you may have been lately. Children need that corroboration to confirm their perceptions. Otherwise, they think that it is a taboo subject and they learn to hide their reaction to it.

They also need to know that they are not the cause. Children are inherently egocentric and will usually look to themselves as the explanation for tension in the home. A simple, "I know I have been a little crankier than usual but I want you to know it has nothing to do with you or your behavior," will do.

- **Don't forget the meaning of whatever holiday you are celebrating and make sure you emphasize it with your children.**

During the mad rush of the holidays what it is we are celebrating too often gets lost. This does not mean we have to deny our children any of the material goods they are used to this time of year. However, it is important to remind them why they are receiving the gifts and why the family has gotten together.

A good way to do this is at a time other than the frenzy of shredded wrapping paper and torn ribbons. For those of us who celebrate Hanukkah, the lighting of the menorah is a perfect time for this task. For those who celebrate Christmas, take some time on Christmas Eve to talk about what the next morning truly brings to you.

Hopefully some of this will be helpful in eliminating the stress that is natural this time of year. Remember, in six weeks it will all be over. And there is one additional blessing of the holiday season. It makes the stress of the other 11 months seem nearly manageable.

Terrace Park Historical Society

Tracking our past and present for the future

By Carol Cole

The Historical Society is combining with the Garden Club this year in presenting the Heritage Home Tour on Sunday afternoon Dec. 8 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 and are available from Society and Club members as well as at the Log Cabin on the day of the tour.

The earliest home on the tour is the Rockaway home at 720 Elm Avenue. Built in 1869 or earlier by Thomas R. Biggs, it is in the Victorian Italianate style. It was originally part of his large land holding in the area known as "Round Bottom Farm." We are told that the two-story frame section to the north of the house was an addition made before 1873, enlarged by the present owners. Later the rear porch was enclosed. Now the house is known as "Gravelotte," after Biggs' proposed subdivision of the 1870s. According to Helen Barnett's grandmother "Gravelotte" was one of only four houses standing east of the railroad tracks (now the continuation of the bike trail) before 1886.

The 1869 Titus map of Hamilton County shows the Biggs house on the west side of Newtown Road (what is now Elm) and another building a bit to the north on the east side of Newtown Road. These two buildings also show on the map of T. R. Biggs Gravelotte subdivision. The Gravelotte map also shows a school just across the street from Douglas Avenue. Both T. R. Biggs house and the one across the street just north of the school, generally known as the Errett/Fenton house, look very much alike even including the addition to "Gravelotte" mentioned above. We have a picture of the presumed home of Isaac Errett with the remains of a windmill nearby but it does not look like "Gravelotte." We also have pictures of the Errett/Fenton home looking like a twin to "Gravelotte."

All of this presents us with quite a mystery. Did T. R. Biggs build both houses to the same plans and if so for whom? He did not have twin daughters, as one story goes, so they could not have been built for

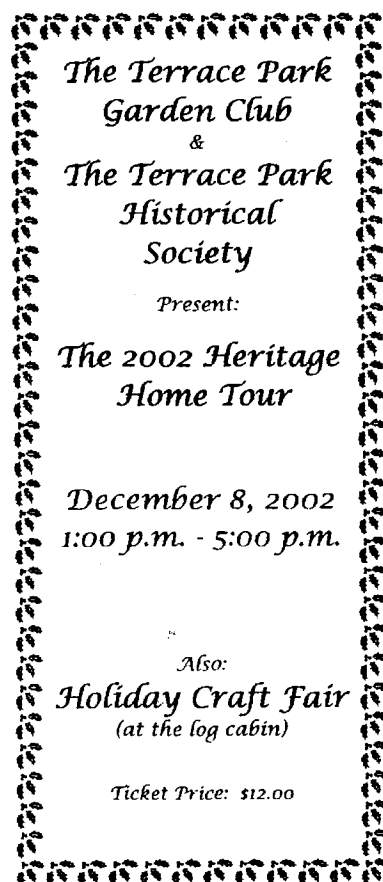
them. He did have a daughter Mary but there seems to be no proof that Mary and her husband ever lived in this house. We don't even know whether the house was occupied at all before 1873. On June 9th of that year "Thomas R. and Mary Biggs conveyed 4.25 acres with a 'dwelling house and improvements' to Charles A. and Jane E. Howe" for \$7,525. They lived in the home well into the 20th century. What happened to the earlier home of Isaac Errett?

There are still a few people alive who remember the "windmill" but not the house in that picture. The later Errett/Fenton house was taken over by the Terrace Park School in the 1950s and was later burned by the volunteer Terrace Park Fire Department to make way for the new school addition.

"Gravelotte" at 720 Elm is just one of the five houses on the Heritage Home Tour. There is some information about each of the homes on the tickets but more will be available in each home as you tour.

After T. R. Biggs' Gravelotte subdivision failed, J. W. Sibley was one of the developers who subdivided a great deal of what became Terrace Park. He lived at 311 Harvard and his family is related to other well-known Terrace Park families, the Lloyds and the Wests. 609 Amherst is one of the so-called "Railroad" or "Pattern" houses, built in the 1890s in a cruciform pattern. 303 Oxford is a Victorian cottage where on at least one occasion a dance was held in the open upstairs. "Four square" 212 Miami is the latest of the homes on the tour, built for long-time resident William Magee who had the first automobile on Oxford Avenue.

The log cabin will also be open for refreshments, tickets and some sale items including Terrace Park note cards and David McNeil's long-awaited book on the "Kroger" traction line which ran right between "Gravelotte" and the Errett/Fenton house. Following the tour you'll have time to light your luminaria and go to the Village Green for caroling and the arrival of Santa.



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Heritage Home Tour

Mark your calendar now for the Terrace Park 2002 Heritage Home Tour being held on Sunday Dec. 8, 2002. The tour will feature 5 historic Terrace Park homes. There is also a Holiday Boutique at the Boy Scout Log Cabin featuring forced bulbs, topiaries, arrangements, baked goods, and goodies for gift giving. Call your local Garden Club member for advanced tickets. Tickets (\$12) are also available at the Log Cabin, which will be open from noon until 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2002.

The Rockaway's "Gravelotte" was built circa 1869 or before by Thomas R. Biggs. Located now at 720 Elm Avenue it originally was part of a large land holding in the area known as "Roundbottom Farm". This house has been on tour several times before but the new owners have renovated and furnished the home with antiques of the period.

Next in age is currently owned by the Burgess's at 311 Harvard. Built by developer James W. Sibley circa 1886, it was one of the first homes on the south side of the railroad tracks. Notice the Pier Mirror in the dining room that was built with the house. The Burgess's recently had an addition built that includes a second floor outside hot tub.

The Normile's at 609 Amherst Ave. was one of the original "railroad"

houses and was built in the 1890s in a cruciform pattern. Contrary to some stories, these houses were not built by the railroad but were built so the owners could take advantage of the local railroad for the easy commute into Cincinnati. It sits across from the Village Green.

The Santi's at 303 Oxford is a classic Victorian cottage and was built in 1896/97. Originally planned as a one story home with all its quite small rooms on the ground floor and a center hallway from the

front to the back of the house for air circulation, it changed dramatically after World War II when a major renovation created a second floor and moved the bedrooms upstairs. The addition in 1999 changed the house's footprint.

The Holcomb's home on 212 Miami is one of several "four square" brick homes in the Park...built in 1906/10 by William Magee. The fabulous stained glass window in the stairway takes great advantage of the light. The family room was added in the late 1980s and there has recently been a new garage built on the property.

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Pancake supper 2002



Photos: Ellie Pohlman

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Terrace Park Sports

If it's Fall, it must be soccer

By Cindy Gorman

Terrace Park fielded three U9 boys' teams this year: Mark Porst and Greg DeCamp's Woodchucks, Pat Wirthlin and Roger Davis' Bonesaws, and Jim Hyer and Jamie Burchenal's Supersonics. All three teams played their hearts out (often by necessity because at times they had less than 11 players).

The Bonesaws and the Supersonics went on to the end-of-the-year district tournament played at CNE. Ahhhh, the thrill of post-season play! Unfortunately, both teams lost in close games in the early rounds.

Ahhh, Autumn in Terrace Park — red uniformed soccer players playing down at Drackett, families cheering in the stands, and the surrounding trees sporting their fall colors. This is the stuff that makes terrific memories.

Supersonics super season

Terrace Park's U9 Supersonics, exceptionally well-coached by the indefatigable duo of Jim Hyer and Jamie Burchenal led the team to a 6-2-2 season and a tenth in the district playoffs. The jewel in the crown of the season was that all of the kids were stars, the referees were perfect, the fathers were strong and the mothers were beautiful. The brothers and sisters were super cheerleaders and everyone had a great time! We can hardly wait for the next soccer season.



The Bonesaws — (l-r) Sam Milam, Andy Wittry, Barrett Albrecht, Conner Wolfe, Teddy Murphy, Nick Fries, Reed Davis, Tim Purcell, Kaleb Iles, Tim Sattergren, Johnny Wirthlin and Jonathan Saxton. (Hiding in the hat, behind Nick Fries is Mikey Wirthlin). Back row — Pat Wirthlin and Coach Roger Davis.

Bonesaws go to Koth Burt Cup Soccer Tournament

By Ann DuCharme

"Wahoo!" said Teddy Murphy, when he first got the phone call informing him that Coach Pat Wirthlin's U9 soccer team had made the tournament on October 26th, and that the season was not over yet. The Bonesaws had worked hard all season on ball control, skill and tactics but did not really expect to go to tournament.

Each team member looked forward to one more chance to compete and possibly use well-practiced secret maneuvers such as "Flag it, Mommy." (It should be noted that both of Wirthlin's sons played on the team making "Mommy" synonymous with "Coach.")

The Bonesaws met the

Sharonville players on a muddy field and a gray day, at the CNE Sports Complex where the tournament was held. Although Tim Sattergren scored on a corner kick and Kaleb Iles scored on a long bomb, the score was tied at the half.

The Bonesaws were unable to rally in the second half and the final whistle unfortunately blew simultaneous to a controversial hand ball call on Sharonville. Some spectators believed the foul to be in the penalty box, but in true sportsmanlike spirit, the Bonesaws shrugged it off in search of more important priorities — the location of the team Twinkies. It was a fine ending to a great season of effort, fun and pride from players, parents and coaches.

Girls U11 Win Division



Front row (l-r): Margie Powell, Laura Smith, Maddie Barnhill, Andie Jackson, Elizabeth Beyersdorfer, Courtney Kelly. Back row: Coach Rich Beyersdorfer, Janie Kent, Molly Umbarger, Sarah Dillman, Lucy Osborn, Emma Whitaker, Jillian Kelly, Katie Roberts, Coach Patty Beyersdorfer, Coach Jeff Jackson. Not pictured Hannah Mauk.

What a season! The Terrace Park girls U11 soccer team became the North/Northeast USYSA South league champions with an impressive 9 and 1 record. After bulldozing their way through the semifinals of the Koth Burt Tournament, they went on to face the team to which they suffered their only loss this season, Mariemont. Terrace Park dominated the field most of the game with some strong attempts to score, but they

just couldn't pull it off. With less than a minute to play and the score tied 1 to 1, Mariemont slipped a ball past the Terrace Park defenders, winning the game. Defeated, but not disheartened, the girls gracefully accepted their second place trophies, displaying the sportsmanship that has been a hallmark of this team all year. Congratulations to all players and coaches for a job well done.

Goodbye, Coach

By Lon Stirsman

I learned of his death by reading of it in the sports section of the Sunday Enquirer, page four, in a column that described some of his achievements.

Joe Cruse, a longtime resident of Terrace Park, died of cancer on Tuesday, Nov. 5, at the age of 80. Joe had been involved with high school basketball programs around Cincinnati since the 1940's. He was going to be assisting at McNicholas this coming season, as he had for the past six.

He spent a total of 23 years as head coach at four local high schools: Amelia, Anderson, Little Miami and Summit. In those 23 years he won over 75 percent of his games, finishing with an overall record of 370 — 120. He is a member of the Southwest Ohio High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

I first met Coach Cruse when I was a teenager in the mid-seventies, while shooting hoops at the log cabin. He had seen some activity on the court as he was passing by, so he stopped and said hello. What I remember about that first meeting was his sense of humor and how easy he was to talk to. At that time I knew he was coach at

Summit and his son Rick played for him there, but I had no idea of his place in local athletics. Summit was not known as a basketball powerhouse by any means, but under Joe's leadership, it became one. His teams reached the Class A state finals in both 1979 and 1980.

In the mid-nineties, I moved from Detroit back home to Terrace Park. In that first year back I kept seeing this one particular resident out walking the streets. I could tell he was an older gentleman, as he didn't have a very lengthy stride and was usually bent forward from the waist, as if battling a very strong headwind. He always seemed to have a ball cap on, as well as a pair of what appeared to be monstrous wrap-around shades. It took a couple of sightings before I realized who he was.

I last saw him only a month or so ago...walking, as usual. He was in the UDF parking lot, making that last turn on to Wooster, heading for home. I wish I'd stopped and said hello rather than giving him a honk and a wave.

Goodbye, Coach. Our streets will not be the same without you.



Supersonics — front row (l-r) Alex Ott, Kyle Grau, Austin Kokoruda, Paul Flynn, Joe Rolander, Ben Gorman Back Row (l-r) Jim Hyer, Drew Hyer, Nicholas Malone, Sam Burchenal, Kiki Jackson, Nate Wagner, Jack Stautberg, Robell Sahle, Jamie Burchenal



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