



Council Set Special Meeting Oct. 22 To Consider Elm Bridge & Culvert Bid

The one bid received by the village Oct. 4 for the Elm Ave. bridge and culvert replacement project was from Glover Construction Co. of Dayton for \$197,904.90. The project was put back out for rebids when the two bids received in Aug. were both more than \$300,000, significantly higher than the original estimated cost of \$180,000.

Village engineer George Kipp told Council at its Oct. 8 meeting that we have a very good bid, which is just in under the ten per cent cap required by Ohio Revised Code. He felt confident that he would be coming back to the Oct. 22 special meeting recommending the village sign the contract with Glover. Kipp reported he has the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certificate for Glover. He explained that MBEs must do 51% of the work. Glover must also submit the names of sub-contractors and suppliers, which must be forwarded to the state. The Ohio Public Works Commission then issues a notice to proceed.

The last, and possibly most cumbersome detail, is obtaining the Ohio Department of Natural Resources easements necessary to work on the culvert. When working on ODNR property, the permit must

be signed all the way through to the governor. CG&E, which owns the property on either side of the ODNR property, has given the village right of entry like they have in the past. Kipp concluded that if everything falls into place work could start in two to three weeks.

According to Building and Grounds Chairperson Julie Rugh the village will plant 30 trees this fall at an average cost of \$122 per tree. Streets set for planting include Elm, Floral, Harvard, Home, Lexington, Marietta, Miami, Myrtle, Park, Rugby, Stanton, Terrace Place, Washington and Western. Davey Tree was the low bid at \$3 per tree to fertilize approximately 200 trees under a DBH of six inches.

Residents of Yale who want London plain trees planted in the ten open planting sites on their street will have them planted this fall. The London plain is the designated tree for that street, according to the street tree plan adopted in 1987, but some residents have expressed displeasure over its selection. Building and Grounds Committee members Rusty Wilson and Tim Brown will meet over the winter with village arborist Randy Haller and Julie Rugh to review the plan and make sure the designated trees are serving the village well. If changes or additions are made to Yale's designation, those trees may be planted there in the spring.

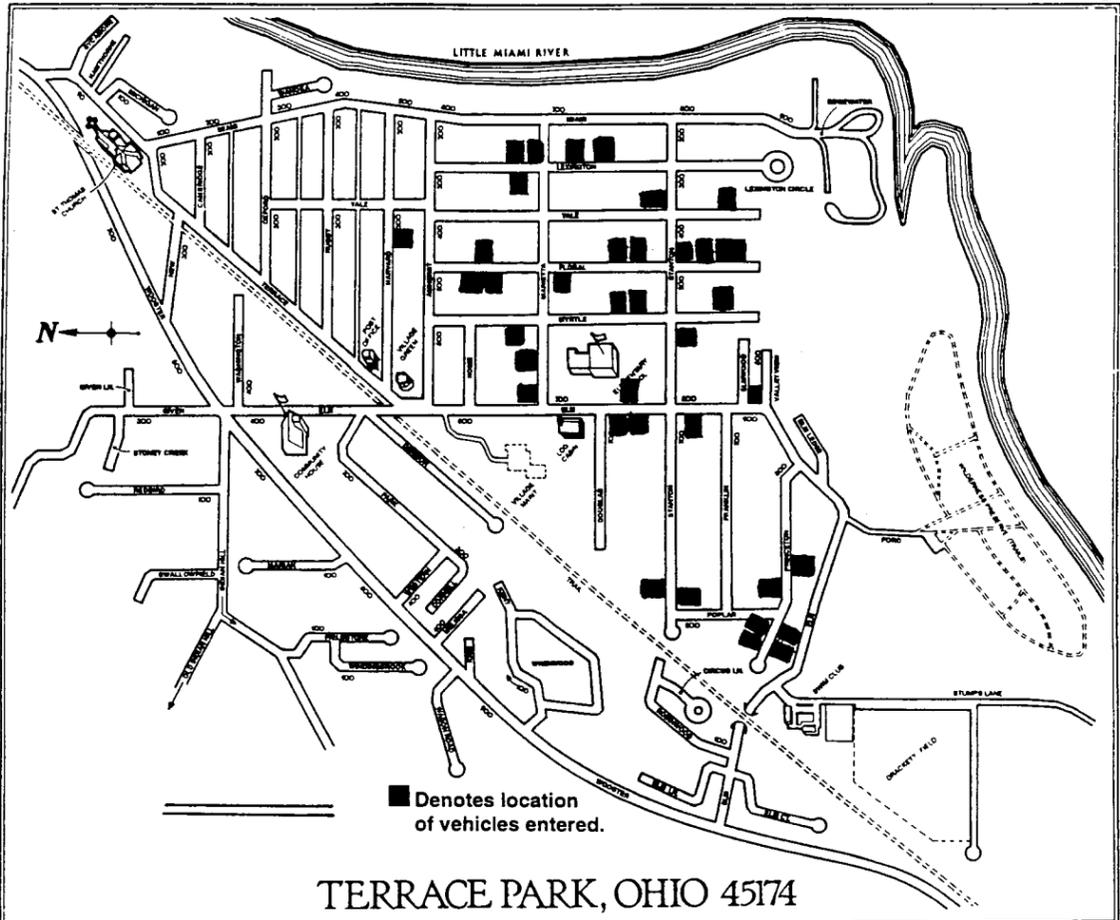
Rugh reported the early cost estimates to replace the carpet in the Squad room are approximately \$2,000, while estimates for the Community House bathroom remodeling project to satisfy the Americans with Disabilities Act are more than \$10,000, which requires public bids. The tile flooring recently installed in the Community House will be waxed and then cleaned and maintained on a regular basis by a cleaning service. Rugh told Council that Terrace Park resident Stock Keffer volunteered his time to repair the floor in the Community Building so the new tile could be installed.

In other action Council adopted Ordinance 10-1, the 1996 Traffic and General Offences code, updating the village ordinances with the Ohio Revised Code.

Council also had the first reading of the amended resolution requiring a fire hydrant be within 500 feet, not as the crow flies, and eight inches on any new water main, before a development permit may be issued. Fire Chief Phil Schneider told Council anything less than 500 feet is a stretch for village resources. He reported two fire runs for the month, noting one was for something he hadn't seen since he's lived here, which was a tree purposely set on fire at Stumps Boat Club.

Building Official Tim Harth reported a slow month with only \$126,000 in building permits.

**TP POLICE PRESENT
CRIME PREVENTION
WORKSHOP
NOV. 7 AT 7:30 P.M.
COMMUNITY HOUSE**



Safety Committee Says No To Curfews

Safety Committee Chairman Rusty Wilson said his committee will continue to monitor the issue of curfews but feels there is no need at this time for further legislation.

Calm, but concerned, six residents addressed Council at its Oct. 8 meeting, and sought an update on the nights of vandalism and robberies in Terrace Park on Sept. 20 and 21. Since most of them had questions about the possible need for a curfew, Mayor Jennifer Comfort met with Safety Committee members Wilson, Julie Rugh and John Finnigan Oct. 21 to consider a curfew for Terrace Park.

Police Chief Bob Bacon told the committee he is not opposed to curfews, but the difficulty is in enforcement. When a resident's child is picked up for a curfew violation, he is sure to hear complaints from the parents. Finnigan said he didn't feel the people at the council meeting had expressed a desire for a curfew and Wilson compared the issue to pooper scooper legislation.

Doug Bosse of Stanton Ave., told Council if people were there to criticize they were there for the wrong reason. He said if they were at Council to show support they were there for the right reason. He said the police can't be everywhere all the time and that's why he helped organize the \$500 reward that's been offered.

Lynn Mileham of Elm Ave. said the police have been great since they were hit twice. She said she has seen constant patrolling since that weekend but wanted to bring up the idea of curfews. Katie Mileham of Wooster Pike noted her bicycle disappeared out of her garage during the day just three days before the weekend of vandalism. Marty Schmidt of Stanton Ave. said there are pros and cons to a curfew but he thought "we did put up a big welcome sign saying come on in."

Police Chief Bob Bacon told Council and the village residents that before this most of our calls were regarding large groups of kids hanging out and banging signs. He noted one bike had been taken from the elementary school and there was a breaking and entering on Cornell which involved vandalism.

Chief Bacon said he received about 50 names of possible suspects, most of which were eliminated quickly. He added a lot of extra patrols following the incident, which were available, only through the volunteer hours of the auxiliary officers. He appreciated their efforts and the extensive cooperation from residents, the Mariemont schools and the full time police officers.

Some residents were hit both nights. Mariemont High School's assistant principal, Tom Crosby had two cars broken into the first night but nothing was taken even though the glove compartments were emptied. The following night, however, his car was keyed. His were two of close to 60 cars vandalized or entered, as shown on the above map.

Pancake Supper Set For Nov. 2

Terrace Park's Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc. will present its 36th Annual Pancake Supper Sat., Nov. 2 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in The Terrace Park Elementary School cafeteria. Adults eat for \$4 while children can consume all they want for \$2.

Dennis Elliott said the principal benefactors for this year's event are Merten Printing for the tickets and Frisch's for the batter and syrup.

Proceeds of the supper are used to purchase and upgrade equipment used by the volunteer firefighters and the Life Squad.

Terrace Park Telephone Directories will also be on sale at the Pancake Supper.

VOTE Tues., Nov. 5 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The only village issue on this year's ballot is the renewal of a 9.5 mills tax levy for current operating expenses. Council decided in July to seek a renewal at the same collection rate rather than asking for an increase in order to lower the village's current \$1,000,000 plus cash balance.

Terrace Park resident Rob Portman seeks to continue representing the Second Congressional District, despite challenges by Thomas R. Chandler and Kathleen M. McKnight.

Mariemont resident Robert H. Mitchell and Mark Thomas Kirby are challenging Robert Schuler in the 36th District for the Ohio House of Representatives.

Ballot Issues

Issues on the ballot include:

1. State issue to establish river boat gambling in Ohio.
2. Hamilton County half cent sales tax, with half financing property tax reduction and half for public safety.
3. Replacement of 1.62 mills existing levy and an increase of 1.15 mills for Children's Services in Hamilton County.
4. Renewal of a 4.73 mills tax to provide health and hospitalization, including University Hospital.

In addition to deciding sixteen judicial and nine Hamilton County races, voters will choose one of the seven candidates on the Ohio ballot seeking the U.S. presidency.

Deadlines for applying for absentee ballots: Nov. 2 at noon by mail; Nov. 4 in person at county board of elections.

**Beware And Bewitch
Between 6 and 8 PM
On Halloween Night
Listen For The Siren
Watch Out For Ghosts
In All Shapes, Sizes**

WASTE WATER CORRECTION:

Last month's Village Views published inaccurate information regarding the fee paid to the Hamilton County General Health District for the inspection of mechanical systems that process waste water. Terry Hull, director of the district's water quality and waste management, addressed Council at its October meeting and explained the 40 Terrace Park homeowners who use aerobic systems are charged \$30 annually for inspections of their mechanical systems while homeowners using septic systems are charged a \$30 fee which covers a three year period.

When asked by Councilman John Finnigan about sewers, Mr. Hull explained the Metropolitan Sewer District had put together over the last two years the Quest Plan, which is an extensive plan for building sewers where they do not exist. As part of this plan, the map shows trunk sewers coming into Terrace Park from both ends. When asked about dates, Mr. Hull said trunk sewers would pass through neighborhoods which didn't have local street laterals. The 15 planned projects are mostly in the western part of the county where water doesn't drain like it does in Terrace Park. Mr. Hull concluded that currently sewers are basically being extended to those communities which want them.



Laura Nisonger Commended

Terrace Park resident Laura Nisonger has been recognized by the 1997 National Merit Scholarship Program as a Commended Student, placing among the top five percent of more than a million students who took the 1995 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

The Mariemont High School senior has been team captain in three sports, soccer, basketball and track. She was Most Valuable Player in soccer as a junior and Most Improved Player in basketball as a sophomore. Her track record includes: Most Valuable Player in tenth and eleventh grades and Most Improved Player in ninth grade. She finished tenth in the State Championship Track Finals in the 800 meter in her sophomore year. She also earned Cincinnati Hills League Scholarship Awards for Varsity Athletes as a freshman, sophomore and junior in track, basketball and soccer.

A member of the National Honor Society, she was the 1996 recipient of the Wellesley College Book Award for academic excellence and leadership within the school and community. She earned the American Greetings Award for Writing Excellence in the 1994 Power of the Pen interscholastic writing program and participated in the 1995 Miami University Scholastic Writing Awards Program. She has won district and state wide recognition for her performance on Ohio Tests of Scholastic Achievement in precalculus, second year algebra and geometry. She also received Magna Cum Laude ratings in the National Latin examinations for second and third year Latin.

Her summer was filled with lifeguarding at Hyde Park Country Club and visiting colleges in the east (Dartmouth, Yale and Cornell) and in the south (Duke and University of Virginia). She is the daughter of Amy and Harry Nisonger of Yale Ave.

Village Views Deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *Village Views* is the second Tuesday of the month. Anyone wishing to submit an article may send it to the editor at 107 Marian Lane. All letters to the editor must be signed.

Village Views Staff

Editor:
Ricki Schmidt 831-5708
Contributing Editor:
Ellis Rawnsley
Contributors:
Cyndy Finnigan
Marilynne Chapman
Elinor Winchester
Sandy Wittman-Shell
Business/Advertising Mgr:
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Letter to the Editor

Vandalism Victimizes All Village Residents

To the Editor:

The recent vandalism of, and theft from, 60 cars in Terrace Park have victimized not only the car owners but all of us residing in the section of the village which was hit. The perpetrators have stolen from all of us the precious sense of security we valued as residents.

If (when) apprehended, how will they compensate us for that? How will they be made to understand the scope of their irresponsible actions? i.e., destroying and stealing items which did not belong to them and trespassing where they were not welcome. And further, depriving us of something more important than material things: our sense of personal safety at home.

Theirs was indeed an ugly and sad episode in Terrace Park history. Let's hope they don't get away with it.

Ruth Lanner
621 Yale

TP Halloween Party

Put on your scary masks and join in the fun on Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. at the Community Building! There will be a live band to rock and roll with as well as sandwiches and drinks to enjoy. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes, so be creative! Everyone is Welcome! Send your check of \$15 per person to Janet Allen-Reid, 827 Douglas. The party is sponsored by the Newcomers.

MHS Homecoming Court Features TP Students

Terrace Park students elected to this year's Homecoming Court at Mariemont High School included: sophomores Chase Koehler and Spencer Dunning, junior Steve Early and seniors Naomi Howland, Page Koehler, Heather Minor and Andy Black.

Purchase Poinsettias From Mariemont PTO's

The Mariemont High School and Junior High School PTO's are once again selling Poinsettias to raise funds for their operating budgets for the school year. The Poinsettia Sale has been well supported in the past and the PTO's are hoping to continue the success in '96.

This year's Poinsettias are coming from the famous Paul Ecke Farm. The plants are available in seven beautiful colors and in three different sizes. For the first time this year, a garland of Douglas Fir, Red Cedar and White Pine will also be available.

The ordering deadline is Nov. 8. Please use the attached form or call Maggie Tobergte (831-7166) or Kay Callaghan (248-9239).

KinderKlaus Market Set For Nov. 9

Terrace Park Kindervelt's handpainted children's picnic tables will be sold again this year at the annual KinderKlaus Market set for Nov. 9 at the Cincinnati Music Hall Ball Room from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The local Kindervelt artists have also prepared birdhouses and photo boxes for the Market. Raffle tickets for a unique handpainted children's table and chair set may be purchased at the Mariemont Kroger on Oct. 26 or by contacting Mary Hyer (831-1626) or Marcy Kerr (831-5284).

Kindervelt members will begin selling picturesque note cards and prints of Terrace Park in November. More information will follow in the next issue of *Village Views*. Order forms for luminaria are included in this month's issue. Mark your calendars for luminaria night Dec. 8.

TP Students At CCDS Aid Peers In Computer

Junior Matt Colston and sophomores Matt Buban and Adam Parrish, all Terrace Park residents, are helping their peers become comfortable with the new computers and software distributed to every student in grades five through 12 at Cincinnati Country Day School in a unique partnership with Microsoft and Toshiba.

Country Day is one of only 50 schools nationwide offered the opportunity to participate in the Microsoft Schoolbook program. No other school in Cincinnati is participating in the program which provides universal computer access enabling students to synthesize and analyze information in new and powerful ways. Because student-centered activities involve projects, the environment more easily supports collaborative, cooperative and discovery activities. Teachers are becoming facilitators of student learning as well as learners in their classrooms.

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Terrace Park Trees To Be Pruned As Phone Cable & Poles Replaced

by Liz Martin

The Sept. 19 public forum on trees and utilities focused on Cincinnati Bell's plan to prune trees as the company replaces three miles of cable as well as 46 telephone poles in Terrace Park. CG&E will prune on streets where work is due on their regular pruning cycle.

Close to 50 residents, including Mayor Jennifer Comfort and Building Official Tim Harth, attended the forum at Terrace Park Elementary School presented by the TP Tree Advisory Committee under the auspices of Village Council. Julie Rugh, Council's Buildings and Grounds Chairperson, presided over the forum.

The program featured Randy Haller, Village Arborist, John Stemmer of Cincinnati Bell and Rich Harnell, Dave Browning and Dan Frazier of CG&E. Rick Ezzbert, Cincinnati Urban Landscaping and Allen Bunker, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, rounded out the roster of participants.

Haller cited factors such as compliance with local sidewalk and street ordinances and regulations of utilities and companies such as Rumpke for clearance needed for trucks which make maintaining a viable urban forest challenging and difficult.

CG&E's Browning cited a drop in incidents resulting in power outages since inception of regular tree maintenance. Only eight outages have occurred since 1992. Life Squad member Kathy Schneider corroborated this noting fewer tree related emergency runs during storms.

Cincinnati Bell and CG&E indicated they will use the same contractor for their work and will make an effort to have it done simultaneously. Pruning will be minimal and supervised by certified arborists from both CG&E and the village.

A lively and informative demonstration of proper pruning techniques to be applied by utilities and individual property owners was presented by Rick Ezzbert. He also had exhibits of tree healing resulting from both correct and incorrect pruning.

During a question and answer period several issues were addressed. The answer to the often asked "Why does the village choose to plant one species per street?" is for maintenance and economics. A problem relative to a particular kind of tree can be treated with greater efficiency and at lower cost if the species is in one general location.

A question of village right of ways was also posed. These vary by street. Maps of the village indicating the right of ways were provided to forum attendees and are available to residents at the village office.



Garden Club Schedules November Workshop, December House Tour

The November Garden Club meeting will feature a design workshop by Terrace Park resident Elizabeth Bieser. Under her tutelage "A Basket For All Seasons" will be created at the Nov. 12 meeting which begins a 12:30 p.m. at the Community House. For reservations, which are necessary, please call Susan Amis at 248-2906.

M s. Bieser is also chairman of this year's Garden Club Holiday Tour of Homes, set for Sun., Dec. 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. The homes featured on this year's tour include: Fletchers, 731 Elm; Groppes, 408 Yale; Kaesers, 808 Elm; Reids, 827 Douglas; Ryalls, 214 Rugby; and Smiths, 625 Elm.

Tickets, which are \$10, are available only through Garden Club members. For advance ticket reservations, call Elizabeth Bieser (248-1318), Jane Bosse (831-2669), Marilynne Chapman (248-4705) or Sandy Wittman-Shell (831-6090).

Halloween Can- A-Thon

Following a creative dinner and costume contest, the Youth Group of St. Thomas Church will trick-or-treat for canned goods again this Halloween. Any canned or boxed food items are welcome. Interparish Ministries will fill Thanksgiving baskets for the less fortunate with the food collected by the Youth Group. If the youth miss stopping at your house, you can bring your food donations directly to the church.

If you are in junior or senior high school and want to participate in the festivities, please call Hawley Todd at St. Thomas, 831-2052, or the Comforts at 831-2293. A head count will make sure there's enough food and treats for everyone!

Sam Pruett Named To ADAS Board

Sam Pruett, Terrace Park resident and retired Vice President of Human Resources for Procter & Gamble worldwide, was named a director of the Hamilton County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ADAS) Board.

The ADAS Board is responsible for the planning, funding and evaluation of alcohol and other drug treatment, education and prevention services for the residents of Hamilton County. It contracts with a network of private agencies for service provision. ADAS-funded agencies treated 5,500 individuals last year.

Stepping Stones Offers Community Swim Lessons

Stepping Stones Center will offer swimming lesson for five to 12 year olds in its heated swimming pool. The next six week session will be held on Tuesday evenings from Oct. 29 to Dec. 3. Classes will be at 6 and 7 p.m. and cost \$40. The goals of the program are to introduce basic swimming strokes, safety skills, and have fun! For more information, please call 831-4660.

1996 Standardized Test Results

	U.S.	Ohio	Mariemont	Indian Hill	Mad-eira	Wyo-ming
'95 SAT V	504	536	450	502	481	564
'95 SAT M	506	535	507	560	517	553
% Tested	41	23	79	78	68	89
'96 SAT V	505	536	530	571	543	577
'96 SAT M	508	535	531	564	531	577
% Tested	41	24	72	92	75	83
'95 ACT	20.8	21.2	22.8	23.9	24.2	23.9
% Tested	37	59	72	92	71	68
'96 ACT	20.9	21.3	22.8	24.7	22.5	24.4
% Tested	35	58	71	100	71	66

Maximum SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) score is 800, while the maximum ACT (American College Testing) score is 36. The % Tested is the % of seniors tested.

Stepping Stones Hosts Community Halloween Party

For the second consecutive year, Stepping Stones Center will host a Community Halloween Party. This year's festivities, for the entire family, will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Fri., Nov. 1. The party will feature a "not so haunted" trail, games, a parade of costumes, refreshments and fun for all. The cost is just \$5 per family or \$2 per person. Stepping Stones Center is located at 5650 Given Rd. Call 831-4660 for more information.

CCDS Rummage Sale

Where can you find trinkets, treasures and tremendous bargains? At Cincinnati Country Day School's Annual Rummage Sale on Sat., Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school on Given Road. The sale includes a boutique, sports equipment, toys, linens, books, furniture, housewares, jewelry, clothing and more. All proceeds support various school programs.

TP Students Featured In Music Magazine

Terrace Park Elementary School music teacher Pam Henley submitted her students' work for publication in the Ohio Music Association's magazine, "Triad." The September-October issue of the magazine features the written work on the meaning of music by third graders Dan Austin, Nicholas Denietolis, Logan Free, Julie Keys, Anne McCormack, Allison Perry and Sarah Swart. Also published were seventh graders Ellen Baird, Courtney Callaghan, Laura Date, Amy Fisher and Emily Holmes and sixth grader Chelsea Mitchell.

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Welcome Home

by Cyndy Finnigan

Steve and Missy Brown, residing at 125 Wrenwood with son Colin (3) and newborn daughter Nina, moved to Terrace Park from the eclectic streets of Mt. Adams. "It was fun and interesting living in Mt. Adams," states Missy, "but we were looking for a better place to raise kids and more room for all of us." The Browns are originally from Colorado and both Steve and Missy are in marketing and sales.

Marshall and Betty Fromby, along with daughter Allison (9), moved to 815 Douglas Ave. from Atlanta, GA. Marshall is a pilot for Delta; they were looking for a "hub" to live in and decided Cincinnati was the place. They came to Terrace Park for the "schools and the village life," says Betty, who is in teaching. "To say people have been friendly is an understatement" she claims. "School is now three houses away where before my daughter faced a long bus ride every day."

William and Julie Gislason and daughter Lindsay (5 months) are enjoying Terrace Park life at 615 Yale. The Gislasons moved here from Mariemont. Julie is from Michigan and William grew up in Terrace Park, where his dad John and his sister Amy Timmers still live. "I wanted to give our daughter what I had growing up," asserts William. "It's so safe and pleasant here." William is vice president for commercial sales at Western Printing. Julie, now home with Lindsay, worked at Union Terminal's Museum Center in corporate development.

St. Thomas Choir Recruits Boys

The St. Thomas Choir of Men and Boys continues to welcome new members. Using boys to sing the highest parts and the men the lowest, the choir faithfully recreates the sights and sounds of the choirs that have sung in English cathedrals for the past several centuries.

Under the direction of its founder, Charles Olegar, the new choir is presently rehearsing with 18 boys and 18 men, coming from as far away as Dayton. The principal performance venue is the English cathedral-style Evensong, a late-afternoon service of choral music and readings, presently monthly. Striving for a high professional level the full choir rehearses once a week, with the boys having additional weekly training sessions. The professional orientation of the choir is underscored by stipends that the boys receive for dedication to the program.

With the goal of 30 boys in the program, recruitment continues. Parents with sons eight and older, with unchanged voices, are invited to investigate membership by calling Olegar at 831-2052. Boys are admitted on the basis of natural ability, primarily in the areas of rhythmic sensibility and ability to match pitches; no previous training is necessary, although many of the boys presently enrolled have sung in school and church choirs. Although most of the positions for men are presently filled, there are still openings for tenors.

The boys make their debut at St. Thomas Community Church's 11 a.m. service on Nov. 3. The gentlemen will sing their first public Evensong Nov. 17 at 5 p.m. at the church.

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GHOSTS AND GOBLINS of all sizes, including the young one above, were on hand at Terrace Park Elementary School Oct. 18 for the PTA's annual Pumpkin Festival. The Fright Ball Toss was a favorite with this young man, left, while this happy customer, right, beamed her approval of the "horrific" hair streaking professionally provided by PTA moms. PTA treasurer Sandy Wittman-Shell reports this year's bank deposits were very close to last year's, with \$10,000 coming from the Friday night festival and close to \$1,500 from the Boutique. She notes an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000 will probably come in from the Bid n Buy.



Dulcimer Concert Set Oct. 26 At 8 pm In TP Community House

The Cincinnati Dulcimer Society's continuing education concert series brings Robin Mohun's strumming of the Appalachian mountain lap dulcimer to Terrace Park Oct. 26. Dulcimerist Mohun has presented mountain dulcimer workshops and concerts at folk music gatherings across the United States. Most locally, she appears annually in concert at the Great Smoky Mountain Dulcimer and Harp Convention in Cosby, TN.

Robin's workshops and concert Oct. 26 are open to the public, according to Lew Washburn, treasurer of the Society. The choice of the Community House provides a hall and stage intimately suitable to the sweet sound of this American folk instrument. Workshops will be conducted in DAD tuning. Beginners are scheduled from 10 to noon Saturday, and intermediates from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. To register for a workshop call Fran Booth (891-7037) or Nan Cook (752-0136).

The evening concert begins at 8 p.m. Donations: Adults, \$5; Children 2 to 12, \$2

Other master teachers and strummers brought to Cincinnati by the Society for workshops and concerts have included Madeline McNeil, Tull Glazener, David Schnauffer, Bill Taylor, Susan Trump and "Sweetwater."

The Society's mission is to aid in the preservation and promotion of the music and cultural heritage of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer. To this end, groups of members play approximately 70 playdates each year, by invitation to schools, libraries, parks, nursing homes, retirement centers, churches and historic festivals. There is no fee. To schedule a playdate for your group, call program chair Helen Meyer, 248-1277

Suzanne Sudbrack-Kite Joins West Shell Realtors

Terrace Park resident Suzanne Sudbrack-Kite has joined the Mariemont office of West Shell Realtors as a sales associate specializing in residential sales.

She obtained her real estate license nearly seven years ago and is a third generation realtor, following her grandfather, father and several other family members into the industry. Prior to entering the real estate field, she was in retail sales. A graduate of Indian Hill High School and the University of Cincinnati, she resides with her husband and two children on Miami Ave.

TP Students Included In National Trend Of Increased Alcohol and Marijuana Use

Mark Twain's suggestion that it takes ten years longer for everything to reach Cincinnati does not seem to hold true with teen age use of alcohol and drugs.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services marijuana use by 12 to 17 year olds in 1995 was 14.2%, which more than doubled the 1992 rate of 6.9%. Alarming as these figures are they indicate fewer teens are using marijuana than in 1979 when 21.3% of teens used the substance.

Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) statistics for the same time period indicated Ohio eighth graders were using more than teens on the national level, with 16.2% using marijuana in 1995 and 7.4% using it in 1992.

Students in grades 7 - 12 throughout Hamilton County were surveyed by Citizens Against Substance Abuse (CASA) in 1995 which found 28% of the 39,000 surveyed used marijuana, up from the 19% who used it in 1993.

This is the first in a series of Village Views articles to examine alcohol or drug (AOD) use by Terrace Park teens. The VV originated in 1969 when village residents were alarmed by teen age crime and drug use. This is not a new problem, but it is of utmost concern to both the VV and the families of Terrace Park.

The June, 1995 issue of the Mariemont High School newspaper, The Warpath, published the results of a survey distributed through all the teachers in the English department to the entire school in grades 9-12. Then co-editor of The Warpath, Megan DeHaan said they tabulated the 276 surveys returned. She noted they threw out 24 because they considered them too extreme. DeHaan explained other drugs were reported but basically they wanted to center on marijuana.

The survey, never advertised as scientific, indicated 49% of Mariemont High School students claimed to have used marijuana at least once, while once a month use was 14%. Once a week use was also 14% and once a day use was 9%. The once a month users at 14% were less than the Hamilton County CASA survey indicating 28% usage, but right on target with PRIDE's Ohio usage at 16.2% and the national usage at 14.2%.

The Mariemont School Board hired an outside agency to conduct a district wide survey which indicated students use of drugs and alcohol was a community wide concern. That survey indicated 47% of the high school students surveyed were significantly more dissatisfied with the substance abuse prevention program than nonstudents at 17%. According to the survey "Many focus group participants believe this difference indicates students have a greater awareness of the seriousness of the problem than parents."

SAPC: Its Charge And Its Members

Superintendent Gerry Harris specific charge to the Substance Abuse Prevention Committee (SAPC) was:

"In light of recent local, state and national studies demonstrating a sharp increase of the use of controlled substances by young people, you are charged with reviewing the K-12 Mariemont school district's substance abuse prevention program. Your study should review the adopted course of study, auxiliary programs, and other district activities designated to help our students make good decision. If the result of your review is that modification, replacements, additions or other charges are needed, you are to explore and recommend such to the superintendent."

The committee members included: Rick Koehler and Jane Portman, Terrace Park parents; Antoni Gambetta and Stephanie Spreen, high school students; Ann Arbogast and Terri Thomas, high school teachers; Kathy Hollenbeck, Jim Counts and Kris Safford, elementary school teachers; Jim Mason, Yvonne Hummendorf and Patricia Wells, parents and health care professionals; and John Laudeman, high school principal.

SAPC Asks: Who & How Many Use

SAPC met with the district's three police chiefs and conducted public information-gathering sessions. The open forums included the public, parents, students in grades 7-12, and the high school teaching, counseling and administrative staffs.

The SAPC reported "there are varied opinions and estimates as to the actual number of Mariemont school age students using alcohol or drugs (AODs)." The committee decided statistics would be difficult and probably inaccurate, the conclusion, however, was that use is significant enough for community concern.

Mariemont, like all other schools in the area, has good reason to be concerned about the reported rise in use and abuse of AODs, particularly marijuana, according to the committee report.

At this time, the SAPC reported, there "does not appear to be any serious cause for concern at the elementary levels, although parents and school personnel must be ever alert and responsive in keeping our youngest children distant from the influences of AODs."

The SAPC did learn that the users of AODs at Mariemont do not fit the stereotype description. The students reported athletes, academic achievers, and class officers can be among those students who use AODs. The committee reported experimentation is attractive to ALL students although certain risk factors in students' lives may make them more susceptible to ongoing use than other students.

Student use of AODs, according to the SAPC report, takes place primarily outside of the school facility. "Weekend parties with friends are the most frequent and common source for consumption of alcohol and use of other drugs."

The SAPC reported: "The committee learned that too many young people view the use of AODs as a 'normal' sequence of their 'rite of passage' stage of adolescent development. Many are fascinated by and curious about the potential mind-altering side effects of AODs and feel invincible about the documented harmful effects. They are too cavalier about their behavior/life style, to the point of openly discussing their weekend exploits with some teachers."

PTO Invites Agent Who Busted Grad. Party To Speak at MHS Nov 13

The Mariemont High School PTO meeting Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in room C-20 at the school will feature guest speaker Earl Mack, the agent in charge of the Cincinnati District Office of the Ohio Department of Public Safety Liquor Enforcement Operation. In his speech on "Teen Alcohol Abuse" he will provide parents with strategies to guide their students as they deal with peer pressure.

He will describe Ohio's laws regarding the possession and use of alcohol by minors and parent responsibility, ie: keg laws. He will also share his personal experiences throughout the state. One of those experiences includes the arrest of a Mariemont graduating senior and his father, who hosted an after graduation party that offered beer and wine-coolers to minors. There were close to 200 teens present at the party in Sardinia celebrating the Mariemont High School graduation.

Police officers, under Agent Mack's direction, charged 17 to 19 year olds at the party with the misdemeanor of possession of beer by a minor. After the arrests, Mack said he wanted to send a message to parents that he is going after them for serving drinks to minors.

It's Everywhere

Congressman Rob Portman, of Terrace Park, who has a comprehensive community anti-drug coalition in the greater Cincinnati area, opened a public meeting on drugs last year at Sycamore High School where Superintendent Bruce Armstrong shared the results of the survey of Sycamore's sixth and eighth graders. The results appeared to shock some of the people who filled the auditorium.

The survey revealed the district's 396 sixth graders used within the year: cigarettes (7.4%); beer (14.7%); wine coolers (14.1%); liquor (7.2%); marijuana (1.0%). The district's 429 eighth graders used within the year: cigarettes (32.8%); beer (31.8%); wine coolers (28.9%); liquor (20.1%) and marijuana (13.7%).

The survey went even further, asking the students where they used marijuana. The eighth graders used marijuana: at home (5.4%); at school (1.9%); in a car (2.3%); at a friend's house (8.6%) and other (6.8%). Asked when they used marijuana, the eighth graders reported: before school (3.3%); during school (1.9%); after school (4.4%); weeknights (4.7%) and weekends (11.7%).

The head in the sand approach to the problem did not appear to be working. Superintendent Gerry Harris recommended the school board establish three ad hoc committees to review the district's Code of Conduct, Substance Abuse Curriculum and High School Extra-Curricular Code. Although the work of each of these committees will be reviewed in this Village Views series, this issue will begin to review parts of the report by the Substance Abuse Prevention Committee (SAPC), which was chaired by Terrace Park Elementary Principal Jerry Sasson.

Superintendent Harris and Mariemont High School Principal John Laudeman should be applauded for their courage in allowing The Warpath to publish its survey and then developing strategies to deal with the information gathered in that survey as well as the 1995 district wide survey of residents and students.

Ricki Schmidt
Editor

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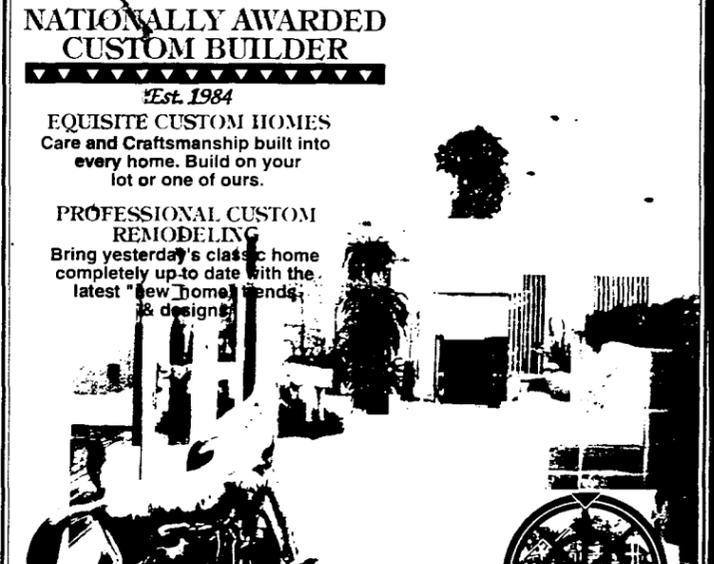
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TP Poet Published

Terrace Park Elementary second grader Henry White will have his poem, "The Yummy Carrot" published in the spring issue of the children's magazine, "Boodle". The son of John and Emily White of Myrtle Ave, Henry wrote the poem while he was a student in Judy Bernard's first grade class. In addition to rabbits, Henry like to play, color and skateboard on his driveway.

The Yummy Carrot
by Henry White

There was a little bunny.
He smelled something yummy.

It was a juicy carrot,
The bunny couldn't bare it.

The smell smelled so delightful,
He could just imagine a bite full.

The little bunny's tummy
Grumbled yummy, yummy,
yummy.

The hungry little bunny, looking for a
snack,

Ate the juicy carrot crunch, crunch,
crack.

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