

Village Views

Volume 14, Issue 2

Terrace Park, Ohio

February, 1982

Crime Awareness Seminar Draws Concerned Throng

Elinor Winchester

"Crime awareness" was the theme of a seminar held on February 1 at St. Thomas Church. Speaking to a predominantly-female audience of about 60, Terrace Park Police Chief Ron Pottorf and Hamilton County Sheriff's Department Detective Kathy Meinke stressed the theme in many ways--not always agreeing on tactics but agreed on the basic necessity for women to be aware of their surroundings, stay calm but prepared at all times.

By way of introduction, Colonel Pottorf said that while similar crime awareness gatherings have been held for some time, in the past month he has participated in about five each week. He cited an attendance of 500 at one meeting in the Richmond area.

On the home front, he urged citizens to keep doors locked and to team up with neighbors for mutual assistance.

"There is no way the police can watch everything," he emphasized, pointing out that our police force of six is tightly scheduled and stretched rather thin." He referred to the "corridor of crime" running through our village--Wooster Road--and cited the recent King Kwik robbery and the potential for more violent crime, since the man robbing another King Kwik within the same week also shot a policeman.

A rash of burglaries in Mariemont and Indian Hill, plus recent break-ins in Terrace Park, reinforce this theme.

Detective Meinke suggested that people check on the adequacy of outside lighting, and on shrubbery around the house. Could it hide a burglar trying to gain access? On the subject of strangers at your door, perhaps claiming to be checking on gas leaks or phone problems--if you haven't called them, don't let them in; phone and check first.

On automobile safety: The first principle is to keep your car always in good running condition. Lock your doors; check the back seat before getting in. If you have a breakdown, and someone stops to help, don't get in the other car; ask the person to go for help. In parking lots at night, seek out a well-lit area. If possible, park under a light. Never park between two cars. Pick-up trucks or other vehicles which obscure your view. Similarly, when walking, women especially should seek well-lit, public areas.

Develop a 'Game Plan'

Detective Meinke devoted the bulk of her talk to "self-defense" and the need to develop a "game plan" ahead of time for facing dangerous situations. She pointed out that while women are strong--childbirth takes strength--most are brought up to fight as boys are, and need to overcome that and convince themselves that they can fight.

The first step, she said, is thus "mental fighting" and preparedness. Women should be aware of their surroundings--not thinking of "ten other things" nor concentrating on an objective in "tunnel vision" fashion. When alone in, for example, a parking lot, and with someone possibly following you, they should keep keys--a potential weapon--in hand and should stand erect, walk straight and purposefully, breathing slowly so as to have a reservoir of air with which to scream.

She recommended turning and making eye contact, with the purpose of warning off someone who is unintentionally invading your space." If someone asks you for something--a name, the time--don't let them get close to you; make up an answer if you wish but **don't stop**; go on or back to your car. If you have gone on and he continues to bother you, Detective Meinke recommends that you turn and say something loud, offensive and/or vulgar--a few four-letter words if you can dredge some up. Show confidence and aggressiveness. This is the stage of "verbal fighting"; you think he means you harm and your object is to catch him off guard, to frighten him and gain extra time. People aren't used to having someone attack them verbally.

Attack — And Don't Be Gentle

This is the stage of physical action. The "follower" has been invited and is threatening--definitely invading your space. The aim is to stop him and, to do this, Detective Meinke feels, you must injure and temporarily incapacitate him, not just cause him pain. People under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or in certain mental states, she pointed out, have a higher tolerance than normal.

As demonstrated to the spellbound audience ways for women to make a surprise attack on her assailant in the places where she has the best chance of stopping him cold--by surprising him trouble with breathing, seeing or moving. Also,

Bus Service 'In Jeopardy' Despite New Fare Increase

Terrace Park's bus service is "in jeopardy" because of the Metro system's financial problems, village council was told at its February meeting.

Bolton Drackett, chairman of the inter-community affairs committee, reported that a 10-cent fare increase is in prospect for Terrace Park users but abandonment of service still is possible.

He rejected as "not practical" any suggestion that the village help to subsidize Metro service. Cincinnati councilman Peter Strass has proposed that outlying suburban communities contribute to the Metro subsidy, a proposal that Drackett called "throwing us a curve."

In view of the light passenger load, he was critical of Metro use of full-sized buses to Terrace Park and Milford instead of a minibuss shuttle to Mariemont.

With Councilmen Rodger Miller and Rich Gilchrist

absent, council action was limited to mostly routine matters. It did, however, pass on first reading an ordinance to formally name Police Chief Ron Pottorf as street commissioner at \$750 a year. There were too few councilmen present to push the ordinance to final passage.

Under provisions of state law, other police chiefs here have held the title of street commissioner also, without extra compensation. Pottorf will have overall responsibility, with crew foreman Marvin Alexander handling operational details.

In reports and discussions:

- Councilman Bob Payne, finance chairman, noted that the village gets "not one dime more" as a result of real estate revaluation and increases many villagers have found in their tax bills.
- Councilman Les Overway said that it had become

Cold Cuts TV Cable, Completion Is Pushed

Cold weather caused two outages in cable-TV service in Terrace Park as Warner-Amex technicians worked to get the bugs out of the new system.

In other developments:

Residents on private lanes learned it is up to them to make their own arrangements for cable service.

Councilman Les Overway reported some installation difficulties, because of an insufficient number of taps to the cable in some areas, are being corrected, and some residents are still to be contacted about taking service.

Warner-Amex announced addition of five new channels, including CBS Cable devoted to theatre and dance. The addition involved a new channel, with subscribers

getting new station-indicator cards for their control boxes.

Concerning private lanes, a Warner spokesman said "we cannot do any construction on non-dedicated streets" and said residents would have to apply for service either singly or as a group depending on circumstances. Differences in length, number of homes, and existing utility service make it necessary for each situation to be handled individually, the representative said.

Loss of service on Sunday, January 10, and Friday, January 22, was blamed on extreme cold weather causing contraction and snapping of cable connections. Each lasted for about three hours.

Village's Tax Rate Ranks Third Highest

Lists published by the county auditor's office show that Terrace Park's tax rate is the third highest in the county.

Wyoming is at the top with a total levy of 79.38 mills. Greenhills is second with 77.66 mills. Terrace Park's total is 77.54 mills.

School taxes made up much of the total in each case. The communities ranked in the same order in

Greenhills-Forest Park 49.96 and Terrace Park-Mariemont 49.74.

The village ranked fourth in the county in its levy for municipal operations. Lincoln Heights stood first with 17.84 mills. Cleves second with 15.52. North Bend third with 15.56, followed by Terrace Park with 15 mills. The Greenhills municipal levy is 14.9 mills and Wyoming's 10 mills. The Indian Hill levy is 11.50

evident that no state aid would be forthcoming for replacement of the Elm Avenue railroad overpass with a ground-level crossing. He said he and Village Solicitor John Getgey would again try to persuade County Engineer Don Schramm to undertake the project.

Mayor Charles Rockel noted that Getgey already has received an inquiry concerning sale of the Brendamour property. The village acquired the tract for \$145,000 only last month in an agreement which ended 10 years of dispute and litigation over proposals for its development.

Rockel's comment came as council became involved in a long discussion of procedures and financial control. Councilman Bill Konold had proposed formation of a special committee to deal with any proposed disposal or use of the Brendamour property. He said that as matters now stand, "nobody seems to be putting their minds" to the question.

Konold proposed as well formation of a code of council procedures, citing what he called incomplete records which he said raised the possibility of legal difficulties.

It was in that connection that Drackett raised the question of financial control, protesting what he called "after the fact" approval of expenditures and saying he believed council committee chairmen should have more voice in spending. Noting that Overway had described last fall's street resurfacing as "a terrible job," Drackett questioned whether much could be done about it since the bill has been paid.

He was told that under state law the village clerk is the chief financial officer, responsible among other things for budget control. Rockel commented that two-thirds of the village budget is for the safety department and said he had "full confidence" in the ability of Police Chief Pottorf and Fire Chief Pierce Matthews to keep spending in bounds.

In other matters

- Drackett reported that Payne would continue as the village representative on the OKI eastern corridor study commission, formed after state plans to relocate US 50 were sidetracked.



Chief Ron Pottorf
... here six years after ten
with Mariemont



Jerry Rowe
... five years here, two with
Newtown



Kevin Fryman
... here three years after three
years with Kings Island safety
force



Charles McComas
... former Ohio State park
policeman, here 1½ years



Mark Garner
... completing his first year
on village force

More on Crime Awareness

(Continued from Page 1)

holds. Neither felt that the criminal deserved compassion. The woman would also be screaming, and would break and run immediately. If she reaches her car, she should honk and leave.

Detective Meinke recommended that each woman set up her own "game plan" of what she would or could do in such circumstances. Her keys, carried in her hand, can be a weapon. An air whistle is also useful. What a woman should not do is carry a gun concealed; it's illegal.

Colonel Pottorf feels that a tear gas cannister is "the best weapon for the public to carry"--especially if a woman feels she cannot cause injury. Detective Meinke added that "it's better than nothing" but warns that a woman can accidentally turn it on herself. But--adds Colonel Pottorf--at least it won't be lethal: "A child won't die from it."

If you do elect to carry a whistle or tear gas cannister besides your keys, have it ready--not at the bottom of your purse.

If, alas, you reach the fourth stage--you're captured--the watchword is to stay calm. Breathing deeply helps. And talk; try to set up a dialogue with your captor. Your aim is to save your life. Hang in; use your brain; watch for an opportunity. A member of the tense audience suggested that psychology can be a potent weapon. The loss of control over your being is more unsettling than physical rape. Later on, fear and--yes--guilt are what are so hard to get rid of.

Keep Cool And Watch Your Chances

What if you are faced with a gun or knife at any stage? "Do what your captor says," advises Colonel Pottorf. Again, use your brain. Don't try to fight until you know he's about to use the weapon on you. In the last analysis, you and you alone have to decide when and whether to make a stand. Here, again, is where your game plan comes in.

Asked about the present investigation, Detective Meinke discussed it briefly, distinguishing between "leads" and "suspects." She praised the computer system available to police here which can narrow down the area of search considerably. It can, for example, print out the owners of all 1964 Chevrolets in a given area.

Also emerging from the question period were Colonel Pottorf's strong feelings on the subject of plea bargaining in the courts. He doesn't like it, especially where there are mandatory sentences for a felony. He feels, too, that parole boards are paroling too many offenders who should not be paroled. It seems to come down to whether the public is willing to put pressure on judges to convict and on parole boards to keep criminals in jail. And, corollary: to vote for taxes to provide the jail facilities.

Women who missed this seminar but would like to attend one are urged to check their newspapers or call Local Police, who will attempt to inform those individuals where they may locate one, or to set up one for groups.



Richard Ideker
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years on Christ Hospital security

Seven Sign For Squad Training

Seven village residents have begun training for service on the volunteer live squad, but Fire Chief Pierce Matthews said the squad is "not yet out of the woods."

Because of depletion of the daytime force available, the Milford squad is covering for Terrace Park on Thursdays on a mutual aid basis. Matthews said the arrangement would continue until the day force here can be built back to strength.

The seven in training are Connie Wilson, Sally Pschesang, Sally Gilchrist, Mary Malotke, Bob Jenkins and Dick Mittendorf. To reinforce the life squad as quickly as possible, they are taking in twice-a-week sessions the required 90-hour course to qualify as Emergency Medical Technicians.

State law requires that a life squad vehicle be manned by at least two EMTs, although a non-certified person is allowed as the driver.

With more help sure to be needed, Matthews said he contemplated trying to start a new training class later in the year.

Building Activity Shows Increase

Building activity is up in Terrace Park even though real estate sales showed a slight dip in both number and valuation last year.

Building Inspector John Eberhard reported to the February council meeting that building permits in 1981 numbered 72, as against 64 in 1980. Permit fees amounted

to \$980.75 in last year and \$849.05 the year before.

Eberhard said he was unable to put a dollar figure on the new construction, most of which involved remodeling and additions.

He reported issuance of a permit for a new home in January.

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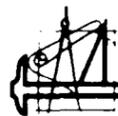
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Promoted

Village Treasurer Don Head has been named a vice president of the Central Trust Co., heading the bank's financial services department.

Head joined the bank in 1977 as senior analyst in the trust investment division. He was named the division's director of research in 1979.

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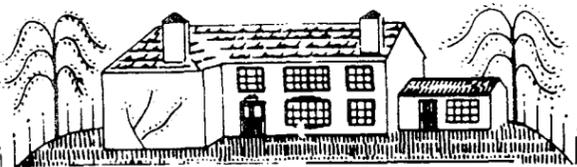
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Mrs. Hugh Haller, president of the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati, takes a microphone at a reception honoring Ellis Rawnsley, editor of Village Views, on his retirement after 23 years as garden writer for The Enquirer. Acting for the Garden Writers Association of America, she presented a plaque awarded on Rawnsley's election as an honorary member of the association. Only 12 other persons have been so honored since GWAA was organized in 1948. (Photo by Gerry Wolters of The Enquirer)

Swim Club, Nearing Its 26th Season, Seeking To Enroll New Members

By Trish Bryan

The Terrace Park Swim Club, now approaching its 26th season, has been a very attractive asset for the Village of Terrace Park. The club, located on Elm Road at Stumps Road, has a 25 meter Olympic pool, two fenced-in kiddie pools, six tennis courts (two are lighted) a bath house, a pavillion, a play area, a food concession, and ample parking. Special activities it provides are: free Red Cross swimming instructions, free tennis clinics for children up to sixteen years of age, team swimming, team tennis for all ages, and many social activities. Private swim and tennis lessons are available for a fee.

The Swim Club is a private, non-profit corporation, owned and maintained by the bondholders. At present, the \$300,000 leaseable bond and the \$500 initiation fee can be paid on a scheduled basis. Dues are payable once a year. The Swim Club first opened in August of 1956, and six original bondholders are still members. They are Gordon Hickenlooper, Judd Gale, Bob Garmons, Bill Nunn, Stewart Proctor and Robert Schmitt.

It all began when a group of men began talking about constructing a private pool for Terrace Park residents. John Lee, Bob Leming, and Bill Nunn decided to meet formally in Bob Leming's basement. In years before, the Recreation Commission had twice obtained sufficient signatures to petition for a community pool, but the efforts failed for lack of interest and financial support.

John Lee, now a resident of Indian Hill, was very instrumental in getting the project off the ground. Bill Stevens, who built many houses in Terrace Park, was so much in favor of the idea that he donated his services as contractor and bought several bonds to assure the financial goal. Among others involved in the initial stages were Gordon Hickenlooper, Bob Jenkins, Bill Lahke, Bob Leming, Bill Nunn, Jim

Parker, Dave Robertson, Syd Davis, and Ken Troy, who was mayor at the time.

The cost of construction was \$30,000, and it was Troy who came up with the idea of selling bonds. A number of people bought several bonds in order to reach the goal, including Mrs. Eileen Errett who didn't even own a bathing suit. Stewart Proctor lived in Milford at the time and bought one even though his house was not built in Terrace Park until 1957.

Construction of the pool was indeed a community effort. Volunteers went down with picks and shovels. Others campaigned door to door for members. Many residents were dubious but courage prevailed and the Swim Club did open.

During the construction period, John Lee served as president, Bob Leming as secretary, and Dave Robertson as treasurer. Gordon Hickenlooper was elected to serve the first term as president, John Lee as vice-president, Bob Jenkins, secretary, and Dave Robertson, treasurer. The Board of Trustees included Bill Lahke, Bill Stevens, and Jim Parker.

Tennis courts were built two years later. Two and a half acres were leased from the Swim Club by the Tennis Club which was a separate entity until the mid 1960s. Boots Deusing recalls the courts (now Courts 3 and 4) were sloped towards the nets. The asphalt company which constructed the courts thought that would be advantageous to allow for drainage.

The original pool was 42 feet x 82½ feet, extending from the diving area towards the parking lot. The kiddie pool closest to the bath house was built then as well. The 25 meter swimming pool, tennis courts #1 and #2 with lighting, the pavillion, the second kiddie pool, and bath house improvements were added in the mid 1960s.

Many people were involved in the origins of the Swim Club, many not mentioned here but all applauded for

their efforts in making the Swim Club a reality, a place for many residents, since then to enjoy and to benefit from the social and instructional opportunities it provides.

With summer approaching, the Terrace Park Swim Club is encouraging potential members to join.

For information, contact Janet Stollmaier, membership chairman, or Trish Bryan, membership campaign chairman.

Terry Bernard Again Heads Rec. Committee

Terry Bernard, 321 Rugby Avenue, was re-elected president of the Recreational Committee at this month's organizational meeting for the year.

John Gislason was re-elected vice-president and John Sheridan was named treasurer. A secretary will be chosen at next month's meeting to succeed Mary Lou Field, who relinquished the post.

Reporting to village council at its February meeting, Gislason called the committee's affairs "healthy" and thanked council for its support.

He emphasized, in response to a question, that the recreation group is now making no use of the school athletic field. Any groups using the field, he said, are doing so through direct arrangement with school authorities.

All Recreation Committee activities, he said, are now concentrated at Drackett Field, its new facilities near the Swim Club.

Tennis, Anyone?

There will be at least one opening on the women's "C" tennis team for spring and summer. Anyone interested should call Carol Cole, 831-6771 by April 1.



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Kitty Debnar In New Concert

In the third concert of the St. Thomas Concert Series, Kitty Debnar, soprano, will present a program of opera, light classical songs and show tunes on Sunday, March 14, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. A reception will follow the concert.

Her guest soloist will be Robert McSpadden, tenor, who will sing "If I Were A Rich Man" from "Fiddler On the Roof," as well as joining Ms. Debnar in duets. This concert will be a benefit for Multiple Sclerosis, from which Ms. Debnar is in remission.

Church Soloist's Concert Slated

For several years, Tom Bennis has been tenor soloist at St. Thomas Church, and parishoners and villagers have enjoyed his fine voice on Sunday morning, at Artists' Choir Concerts and in Cincinnati Choral Society Concerts.

On Monday, March 8 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall downtown, Tom will present an evening of Lieder, songs of Schumann and Schubert, in collaboration with the internationally-known Austrian pianist, Jorg Demus.

For ticket information call 831-5117 or 871-2079.

Nursery School Registration Open

St. Thomas Nursery School is accepting applications for the 1982-83 school year. The school offers morning classes for three-year-olds from 9-11:30 and morning or afternoon classes for four-year-olds. There is also a cooperative Mothers-Day-Out program for two-year-olds one morning per week.

Contact the school office at 831-6908, for more information.

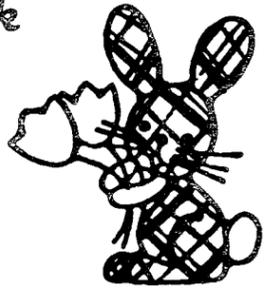
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