



Happy Valentine's Day!

When Worlds Collide
The Gentrification vs. Traditional Flats Folk
A Convocation

This edition dedicated to how we all learn to live together: The Homeless, The Panhandlers, The Emerging Residential City Dwellers, Businesses, Industry, Commercial, Entertainment, Rowers, Bicyclists, Joggers, Retailers, Shipping, Marine, Pleasure Crafters and The Trucks. Stir the pot! An initial group met on Tuesday, February 8, 2005 to discuss some of the issues. Below are articles from some of those in attendance. We decided to meet on a monthly basis to continue the discussion. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 10:00 AM, Flat Iron Café, Upstairs.

Cleveland Police Department 2nd District
by Commander Hector Cuevas

After digesting all sides of the "homeless" issue discussed at today's meeting, it is clear that tolerance, understanding and acceptance will go a long way in quelling concerns whether actual or perceived. As a native Clevelander, part of the soul of my City is its diversity. Diversity takes shape in our cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic make-up. Although law enforcement's role will certainly assist in addressing obvious violations of law resulting in a safer neighborhood, we can do little about perception, at least in the context in which it was discussed at the meeting. The Second Neighborhood Police District will continue to enforce City Ordinances and State Statutes to the best of our abilities, however, we will also honor the rights of all citizens afforded them under the Constitution of the United States. I am confident all interested parties will work together and accomplish a reasonable solution, which will prove to be mutually beneficial.

Cleveland Police Department 3rd District
by Commander Andy Gonzalez

We have unique challenges in the Third District. One of those challenges is how to manage the problems associated with aggressive panhandlers. Not all panhandlers are homeless and not all homeless are panhandlers. We try to balance the needs of those who truly require assistance with the needs of our residents and businesses.

We have been actively working with the Mayor's Office and Councilman Cimperman to adopt a new Aggressive Solicitation Ordinance. The proposed ordinance is designed to protect both the solicitor (panhandler) and the person being solicited. The ordinance requires the solicitor to be civil and non-threatening. The ordinance also places some distance requirements, which protect our citizens while conducting business at ATMs and restaurants.

The men and women of the Cleveland Division of Police will be fair in protecting the personal rights of all while fulfilling our mission to protect the citizens of Cleveland.

Stonebridge Management
The K & D Group
by Doug Price
as related by Tom

Doug Price, Principal with Stonebridge Development, reported that he has spent \$75 million constructing 159 apartment units in the first two buildings and 158 units (90 condos and 68 apartments) in the 3rd building, 50,000 square feet of office and retail in the 4th building. New construction is planned for the Cantina site for additional condos with 10 to 14 stories. "It is very difficult to sell upscale condominiums when the first view potential purchasers see is the 'welcoming committee' harboring around W. 25th and Detroit/Washington." With the changing neighborhood, safety for new and potential residents becomes a primary concern. Stonebridge has private security, which is costly but mandated by the nature of the area. Doug feels if we work together with the Church and they were stricter with those that utilize their property, the neighborhood would be safer and more attractive.

Stella Maris

Star of the Sea - guiding sailors home safely from the sea
by Margaret Roche

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and other members of the Flats Oxbow Group to discuss the issue of panhandling and solicitation by "street people" who frequent our neighborhood. For over fifty-seven years Stella Maris has served a homeless, and/or medically indigent population who suffer from addiction and/or mental illness. We provide excellent medical care, housing, outpatient, and twelve-step meetings to support men and women in the recovery process. The ultimate goal is to restore our patients and residents through sobriety to become responsible citizens and improve the health and safety of our community.

The Board and staff of Stella Maris feel very strongly that the problem of panhandling and solicitation confronting us, is not the result of social service agencies, such as Stella Maris and St. Malachi providing care to the needy of our community. Our clients are not immune to these disturbances and are very often approached by this transient, "street" population. Staff and clients have been educated that doling out money is not the solution. Making these persons aware of services in the community that are available to them for housing, food, and mental health care is the proper way to handle the situation when confronted. But of course, we all understand that long waiting lists and the availability of such services are very limited in our community.

We welcome the opportunity to continue working with the coalition to address these problems and find creative solutions to insure the safety of our community, and at the same time, improve the quality of life for the less fortunate in our neighborhood through a comprehensive array of social services.

Jacobs Investments, Inc.
The Nautica Entertainment Complex
The Apartments at Nautica
by Suzanne Scheiman & Michael Cimballa

The meeting held on February 8th at the Flats Oxbow Offices pertaining to panhandling and the problems / concerns around the Flats area were informative. The situations that concern us are the following:

- The aggressiveness of panhandlers to our patrons of The Nautica Entertainment Complex and residents of The Apartments at Nautica.
- Slow response times when law enforcement is needed
- Loitering in front of the entrance ways to the buildings and parking lots.

We understand that these situations are not going to be solved overnight, but with education, patience and cooperation from all parties affected we could find a solution. The first step to help find a remedy has already taken and with the monthly meetings scheduled – we are on our way!

St. Malachi Center
by Cathy Saegel, Executive Director

Historically the residents of the "Angle" area of Cleveland have been poor. From the Irish settlers who settled the west side of the Cuyahoga River bluffs and built a ghetto of tar paper shacks to the current residents of Lakeview St. Malachi Church has ministered to and been a resource for our neighbors. Our current ministry includes: the Backdoor, providing sandwiches, soup, donuts, and coffee every day from 8:30 am until 3 pm; the Monday Night Meal, serving 400 individuals each week a hot meal; St. Malachi Center, providing program and services to over 150 families and youth each week.

St. Malachi Center's ministry nourishes families and youth on the Near West Side of Cleveland in spirit, mind, and body to support their self-development. Programs include GED for adults, after school activities for youth, teen programs, job readiness for young adults, and a bi-monthly health clinic. Services include clothing distribution for families, income tax preparation, hygiene assistance, phone and computer access, and referrals to agencies that assist with issues such as mental health, housing, legal assistance, and utility assistance programs.

Our homeless neighbors are consciously included as part of the families that we serve. We do not exclude individuals in any of our programs, unless there is an age requirement such as for the After School Program. Many of the volunteers that assist our ministry are our homeless participants. They assist with grounds keeping, custodial needs, sorting donations of items, preparing meals and a variety of other activities. I know often times I have relied on these volunteers to increase my sense of safety on nights and weekends where I work after hours.

All are welcome to participate in the ministry of St. Malachi Center. The needs are great for the people who visit the Center. I personally have been enriched for journeying with all of the individuals that I have met here at St. Malachi Center. I would like to extend an invitation for anyone interested in participating in our programs and services. I can be reached at (216) 771-3036.

St. Malachi by Fr. Anthony Schuerger

Since its founding in 1865, St. Malachi Church has provided for the spiritual, pastoral -- and, often, material -- care of the people of the Angle. It has always been -- and continues to be -- our mission.

I see our February 8 meeting as a coming together of friends and neighbors around our common concern for the well-being of our community, both those who live here and those who come here. I do not believe that ours can be a "problem-solving" agenda. Such a mentality leads inevitably to diminished energy and discouragement, because fixing "problems" is never life-giving. I believe that we are coming together because of our common concern for one another and for all the people who come here. I believe that our concern is for the common good of the community as a whole, its constituent groups and, ultimately, for each individual.

Bishop Anthony Pilla has often remarked that when people are strangers to one another, there is a natural hesitancy and holding back; usually, little can be achieved. When strangers become friends, much can be done. I see our meeting as beginning a process of becoming friends with each other and with the many diverse individuals and groups who are part of the Flats-Oxbow area in many and diverse ways. In listening and learning from one another, in sharing our varied perspectives, talents, and resources we can become something more -- and much can be accomplished.

St. Malachi Church by Kevin McKenna, Deacon

I certainly enjoy reading: That's one reason I became an English teacher. Lately though, I have learned to enjoy a variation of reading: audio books, especially books on CD. The ones I have been enjoying the most are those that are read by the author-himself or her-self rather than by a professional reader. This past weekend I listened to a book by former President Jimmy Carter, entitled [An Hour Before Daylight: Memories of a Rural Boyhood](#), a recollection of his upbringing in rural Georgia, largely during the Depression. And in his own Southern, non-professional voice, Mr. Carter gives us a rich picture of rural American life in the 1930's. One episode in particular made a deep impression on me.

As late as 1938, fully one-fourth of Americans were unemployed and many men and even some families were on the road looking for work. Many passed the Carter farm on their way to Savanna or Columbus Georgia. We learn that Mrs. Carter never turned away these visitors, providing them at her back door with a drink of water, or a biscuit, or some left over fried chicken. One day when Mrs. Bacon from the neighboring farm was visiting, Mrs. Carter remarked about the number of homeless travelers they had received that week. Mrs. Bacon replied: "I'm thankful they never come into my yard." Two days later when a handful of men knocked at the Carter backdoor they were asked why they stopped at some farms and not at others.

The men hesitated to answer the question. Finally, one of them admitted that a set of simple symbols were used by the poor to indicate the attitude of each family. The marks on the Carter's mailbox indicated that no one would be turned away and no one would be mistreated. When the men left, Mrs. Carter and her children walked down to their mailbox and noticed some inconspicuous markings. She told her children never to alter or to obscure those marks.

This holy season of Lent is the annual time to ask ourselves a question: do I bear the marks that identify me as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Is the manner in which I live, the way I spend my time, and the choices that I make, a clear set of consistent signals that reflect the compassion of a follower of Jesus Christ?

The marking on the Carter mailbox were small and inconspicuous, but they conveyed a message that was vital and life-giving. Our

efforts in Lent are small and inconspicuous, but they dispose us to better receive God in Word and in Sacrament. Mrs. Bacon, the neighbor, viewed the traveling poor as a nuisance. Mrs. Carter knew them as sacred opportunity. Lent is the church's annual retreat, our annual opportunity to clean house and to make ourselves and St. Malachi into a place where God might wish to dwell.

Am I My Brother's Keeper? by Tom L. Newman

Are We Our Brother's and Sister's Keepers?

As a local community development corporation we are prohibited from endorsing political candidates. We may at times, however, endorse issues.

Listening to Barack Obama's keynote speech at the Democratic National Convention, I was struck by this statement:

"It's that fundamental belief -- I am my brother's keeper, I am my sister's keeper -- that makes this country work. It's what allows us to pursue our individual dreams, yet still come together as a single American family. 'E pluribus Unum.' Out of many, one."

Tears came to my eyes; goose pimples lined my arms and the back of my neck. What beautiful sentiments, the simplicity of it all! I remembered the discourse between Scrooge and Marley's ghost in Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol":

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were all my business. The dealings of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

As Scrooge was haunted by Marley's ghost, so I am haunted by these sentiments -- "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The morning after hearing Obama's speech, I exited the Shoreway at about 7:00 AM only to be accosted by a panhandler man approaching cars stopped on the ramp. He was begging for a handout. I waved him by.

Making the left-hand turn toward St. Malachi's I saw the morning selection of homeless or hungry sitting on the wall, waiting for their morning coffee and donut, or just waiting for whatever. I cast my eyes away, not wanting to make eye contact and hurriedly turned to go down Washington.

The crazy woman with the frazzled hair is waving down cars. I heard she is asking people for money and stabs them with a syringe if they say "no." I will run her over if she gets in my way. My car windows are shut tight.

How often people in need approach me in the Flats; "I need a few dollars to get milk for the baby." "The baby needs diapers." "My car was towed and I just need \$5.00 to get it out." "I ran out of gas." "Do you have some spare change for food?"

I wave them away, shaking my head, "No!" I walk faster, hurry to get into the office, make sure my car doors are locked, and close the office door tightly behind me. This is a daily occurrence. Sometimes I give them a few dollars. Sometimes I pay them to take the garbage down to the Dumpster at the end of the street.

But the reality of handouts is that the vagabond returns for more handouts. The doorbell rings, I answer, it's a panhandler. I tell him or her we have no work, no money, no anything! I do not feel like E pluribus Unum. I ponder, "What is my Judeo-Christian duty? Am I really my brother's and sister's keeper?"

Broken car window glass litters Elm Street under the Viaduct from the events of the night before. More cars have been broken into. The panhandlers sit on the white railings by Nautica looking for a handout, Styrofoam cups in hand.

The words of my mom, bless her sainted soul, haunt me: "Tom, you can't feed the world." I don't even try anymore. I've become callous, annoyed, bothered. I just want to be left alone. Let St. Malachi's handle it. That's the church's mission, not mine. But what happened to "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!" I guess we ripped all the gold off the door and sold it at the scrap yard.

Wouldn't it be nice if one could just pick the brother's and sister's one wanted to keep?

Grouching

grouching - definition from *moby-thesaurus* 69 Moby Thesaurus words for "grouching": beef, beefing, bellyache, bellyaching, bitch, bitching, complaining, complaint, complaintful, crabbing, crabby, cranky, croaking, destructive criticism, disappointed, discontented, disgruntled, displeased, dissatisfied, dissent, envious, faultfinding, grievance, gripe, griping, groan, groaning, grouchy, grouse, growling, grumbling, holler, howl, kick, kicking, malcontent, malcontented, murmuring, muttering, out of humor, peeve, peevish, peevishness, pet peeve, petulance, petulant, protest, querulant, querulous, querulousness, rebellious, resentful, restive, restless, scolding, sniping, squawk, squawking, sulky, unaccepting, unaccommodating, uneasy, unfulfilled, ungratified, unhappy, unsatisfied, whining, whiny, yapping

We hear a lot of GROUSING from Flats folks about the deteriorated state of things in the Flats. Perhaps one solution might be to **SUPPORT** the establishments that **ARE** in the Flats? Like having a morning donut at Gilly's, a delivered luncheon calzone from The Pizza and Calzone Company, lunch at The Flat Iron, Harbor Inn, Major Hooples, Rock Bottom, an after work libation at McCarthy's, Shooters, an evening at Beach Club or Heaven & Earth? How about an end-of-the week business breakfast at Pat's In The Flats? It's one your business associates will never forget! We promise! Have you tried the new Ponte Vecchio upscale restaurant on the Old Superior Viaduct? And for the more prurient interests, there is the eternal Circus In The Flats, Christie's and reportedly a terrific complimentary dinner buffet every evening from 5 to 7. How about picking up some tools at Samsel's, buying gas, having your car serviced or getting it washed at Ecke's, catching a show at the Improv? Printing and engraving – Lake Erie Graphics, Precision Engraving? Drinking more but enjoying it less? Stella Maris! Need a blessing? St. Malachi's! We've got it all! Catch a bargain at Malachi Mart. Right here in Them Thar Flats! If we missed your business, we'll catch you in the next bitchin' blastin' blurb!

Cuyahoga Chuck Harbinger of a Late Spring

On Wednesday, February 2, 2005, Cuyahoga Chuck prognosticated a delayed coming of spring when he poked his head out of the cement stairway next to the Flats Oxbow corporate office and saw his shadow portending 6 more weeks of winter. Bummer! As the day was partially cloudy, perhaps we can adjust that figure by a few days.

FLATS CLASSIFIEDS

Accounting, Bookkeeping, Financial Statements, Analyses, Taxes. \$25.00 discount on Tax Preparation for fellow Oxbow Members.

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FLATS CATS by Schvitzky and Blinka

Fat Cat recipe of the month for eaters on the go. Toaster Waffles. Buy a package of toaster waffles – we prefer Eggos. Take package out of freezer. Remove waffles from box and take off plastic wrapping. Address toaster. Put waffles in toaster. Push toaster handle down. While ticking, prepare butter and syrup. When waffles pop up, put on plate, slather with butter (no imitations – PLEASE) apply syrup and eat. We have found it most important to remember to **remove** the plastic wrap from the waffles before putting in toaster or you have to buy a new toaster. Happy Fressing!

Recipe from the
Archives of Chief
Dolores Newman

Flats Oxbow Meetings and Dates:

Flats Oxbow General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 24, 2005
Tour of Fire Museum &
Roast of James Whitney Pressler
~ Sponsored by National City Bank ~

The Flats Oxbow General Membership Meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 24, 2005 @ 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM at The Western Reserve Fire Museum, 310 Carnegie Avenue**, at the top of Commercial hill across from the Gillota Marathon station. The program will include a tour of the 1926 fire station and Cleveland Fire Alarm Office and Dispatch Center which is virtually unchanged as a telegraph system which connected to all of the fire alarm boxes in the City. Additionally, the program will include a roast of Flats Oxbow departing Executive Director James Whitney Pressler. Invitations included in this mailing and on the FOA website.

Flats Oxbow wants to thank National City Bank for underwriting this event. The sponsoring of events like this helps underwrite the operations of Flats Oxbow.

Board of Trustees

FOA Board to meet Wed., 3/16/05 @ 11:30 AM @ FOA's office.

FOA Design Review Advisory Committee

The committee will meet at 5:00 PM on **Tuesdays, 3/1 & 3/15, 2005**. The Flats Oxbow Design Review Committee meets every first and third Tuesdays of the month when there are items for review. For the next two upcoming meetings, **complete plans must be submitted to the City's Building Permits Desk by Noon on 2/23 & 3/9/05, respectively.**

This information is brought to you by The Flats Oxbow Association, "The Voice of the Flats", the non-profit membership driven Development Corporation for the Flats. Flats Oxbow offices are at 1283 Riverbed St., Cleveland, OH 44113. Phone (216) 566-1046, Fax (216) 566-0222, e-mail: flatsoxbow@ameritech.net

Proposed Panhandling Legislation
not yet introduced!

WHEREAS, this Council believes that persons should be able to move freely upon the streets and sidewalks of the City without undue interference or exposure to intimidation or harassment; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines that the free flow of pedestrian and vehicular traffic is of vital importance to the economic vitality of business and the City as a whole; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes in free access and enjoyment of public places; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that the prohibitions contained in this ordinance are necessary to ensure protection of pedestrian and vehicular traffic and free access and enjoyment of public places ; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines that forcing oneself upon the company of another as proscribed in this ordinance is conduct that would intimidate a reasonable person; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance constitutes an emergency measure providing for the usual daily operation of a municipal department; now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CLEVELAND:

Section 1. That the Codified ordinances of Cleveland, Ohio, 1976, are supplemented by enacting new Section 605.031 to read as follows:

Section 605.031 Aggressive Solicitation

(a) For purpose of this section:

(1) "Aggressive manner" means as follows:

- A. Approaching, seeking or following a person before, during, or after solicitation if that conduct is intended, or likely to cause a reasonable person to (I) fear bodily harm to oneself or another, (ii) fear damage to or loss of property, or (iii) be intimidated;
- B. Intentionally or recklessly touching or causing physical contact with another person without that person's consent in the course of soliciting;
- C. Continuing to solicit from a person after the person has given a negative response;
- D. Intentionally or recklessly blocking the safe or free passage of a person or vehicle by any means, including unreasonably causing a pedestrian or vehicle operator to take evasive action to avoid physical contact. Acts authorized by a lawfully issued permit shall not constitute obstruction of pedestrian traffic for purposes of this section; or
- E. Intentionally or recklessly using obscene, abusive or threatening language, or gestures, toward a person being solicited.

(2) "Automated-eller machine" means a devise, linked to a financial institution's account records, that is able to carry out transactions, including, but not limited to account transfers, deposits, cash withdrawals, balance inquiries, and mortgage loan payments.

(3) "Automated-teller machine facility" means the area comprised of one or more automated-teller machines, and any adjacent space that is made available to banking customers.

(4) "Solicit" or "soliciting" means to request an immediate donation of money or other thing of value from another person, regardless of the solicitor's purpose or intended use of the money or other thing of value. The solicitation may be without limitation, by the spoken, written, or printed word, by gesture or by other means of communication.

(b) No person shall solicit:

- (1) In an aggressive manner in a public area;
- (2) Within twenty feet of any automated-teller machine without the consent of the owner or other person legally in possession of the machine, provided, however, that when an automated-teller machine is located within an automated-teller machine facility, the distance shall be measured from the entrance or exit of the automated-teller machine facility;
- (3) Within twenty feet of a bus stop, rapid-transit shelter, or bus shelter;
- (4) Within twenty feet of a line of pedestrians waiting to obtain access to a building or event;
- (5) Within twenty feet of the area of the sidewalk used by an outdoor restaurant under a temporary public right-of-way occupancy permit issued under Chapter 513 of the Codified Ordinances by a vendor under a permit issued under Chapter 508, Section 675.06, or Section 675.07 of the Codified Ordinances;
- (6) Within twenty feet of a valet zone established under Section 451.33 of the Codified Ordinances;
- (7) Within fifteen feet of any pay telephone, provided, however, that when a pay telephone is located within a telephone booth or other facility, the distance shall be measured from the entrance or exit of the telephone booth or facility;
- (8) Within fifteen feet of the entrance or exit of any public toilet facility;
- (9) Within ten feet of an entrance to a building; and
- (10) Within ten feet of an entrance to a parking lot.

(c) Whoever violated division (b)(1) of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for a first offense, a misdemeanor of the third degree for a second offense, and a misdemeanor of the first degree for a third and subsequent offense. Whoever violates any provision in division (b)(2) through (b)(10) of this section shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor for a first offense, and a misdemeanor of the fourth degree for a second and subsequent offense. A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or on which an offense occurs or continues.

Section 2. That this ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure and, provided it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its passage and approval by the Mayor; otherwise it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.