



Village of Mariemont

6907 Wooster Pike
Mariemont, Ohio 45227
(513) 271-3246
www.mariemont.org

MAYOR'S BULLETIN
Volume 7, Issue 5
JULY 2011

NEW STATE BUDGET CUTS DEEP INTO VILLAGE BUDGET



The State of Ohio has agreed on a new budget and it will have a huge impact on local governments, including the Village of Mariemont. Local government funds that come from the State of Ohio are being reduced by 25%. Tangible personal property taxes will be phased out in 2013 and the estate tax will be repealed after the 2012 year. The cuts from the new state budget will lessen revenue to the General Fund by about 10%. In other words, it will take about \$300,000 out of our \$3,000,000 General Fund budget. This means our five-year positive budget has been cut to about a three-year budget, so we are OK for the next two to three years. Over the past few years we have reduced expenses and increased revenue by measures such as accepting the donation of a \$1000 treadmill for the Fire Department and play equipment for the pool, obtaining grants, approving the zoning change to allow for the building of Emery Park and Nolen Park Condominiums, combining the Police Chief and Fire Chief positions, reorganizing our Police Department to have nine full-time and one part-time officers to keep our ten-man roster, laying off one Service Department laborer; laying off two full-time firefighters and bringing them back as part-time personnel to reduce salaries and benefits, and freezing wages for 2012. In addition to the reductions we have already made, I will be working with Councilman Andy Black and his Finance Committee, Clerk Tony Borgerding and Treasurer Andy Kulesza to find more ways to stretch our budget as we also look at ways to increase revenue. We certainly do not want to cut any services, but in order to maintain the services we now have, there is a good possibility we will have to put a 2 to 3 mil levy on the ballot in the near future. We have not had a new money levy since 1997. All we have done over the years is renew the three renewable levies we have on the books. This illustrates how hard Council has worked over the years to keep expenses down. I applaud them for their hard work and I am very grateful that we have been able to go so long without a new tax levy. In the next bulletin, I will share with you how all of the above affects us and will include a survey asking for your input on how we can further reduce expenses.

FIREWORKS ENJOYED BY ALL

Once again, the Fourth of July fireworks were a huge success! We had a great turn-out this year and everyone I spoke with said it was the best show yet! Of course, the patriotic Carillon concert performed by Dick Gegner always makes the Village's display of fireworks extra special. And, once again, our residents and businesses came through with enough donations to totally cover the cost of the event. The top donors were Spinnenweber Builders, the Mariemont Civic Association, and Cincinnati Steel Treating. They deserve our thanks, as do all of this year's donors:

R.E. Kramig & Co. (Andy Kulesza)
Greiwe Development Group
GrassCor Lawn & Landscaping
Cincinnati Steel Treating
Village Church of Mariemont
Jeff & Courtney Andrews
Nancy Becker
David & Nancy Boyles

Clifford & Mary Jane Clemons
David & Donna Lou Davis
Richard Gegner
Rick Hines, Police/Fire Chief
Robert Keyes
Dr. Thomas Lekan
Gary & Lynn Long
Dennis & Bonnie Malone

Ed McTigue
Joe Miller
Mary Anne Schwartz
Kevin & Melissa Taylor
Fran Turner
Joan Luppino & John Vago
Dennis & Cynthia Wolter
Dan & Barb Policastro

Now we need to start the building the fund for next year's show, so we are still accepting fireworks donations. If you would like to contribute, please drop your donation off at the Village office or mail it to 6907 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, OH 45227. Thank you.

SAFETY SERVICES NIGHT OUT ON JULY 26TH

This year's annual Police Night Out will be combined with presentations and information about our Fire Department and will be called "MARIEMONT SAFETY SERVICES NIGHT OUT". The event will take place on Tuesday, July 26th, from 6 PM to 9 PM at the Bell Tower. In addition to opportunities to meet the members of our Police and Fire Departments and learn about the many services they provide, the evening will be filled with good food, great music from the band, Most Wanted, a visit from the Air Care helicopter, and many more activities and displays. Recently retired Crossing Guard Patty Combs will be recognized for her many years of service to the Village. For information about the event, please call Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines at 271-4089.



FIRE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED \$4500 GRANT

Thanks to the diligence of Fire Marshal Tim Feichtner, the Mariemont Fire Department has received a grant in the amount of \$4,500 from the Ohio Department of Public Safety for EMS training and equipment. The funds may be used for tuition, fees, books, materials and other expenses related directly to a training program or for equipment as approved by the State EMS Board. Grants like this really help to keep our expenses down while allowing us to maintain the same high level of service. Thanks to Fire Marshal Feichtner for taking it upon himself to apply for the grant!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARIEMONT SCHOOLS

In its recent "Rating the Burbs 2011" issue, *Cincinnati Magazine* named Mariemont Schools as the Number One public school system out of 35 local area districts. The enthusiasm of the students and their academic scores are a reflection of the outstanding job being done by Superintendent Paul Imhoff and all of the excellent teachers in our schools. It is also an indication of the high level of participation by parents. The combination of all of these factors is a big part of what makes the Village of Mariemont such a strong and wonderful community.



MARIEMONT INN RECEIVES ACCOLADES

The Mariemont Inn was named the Number One hotel in the Cincinnati region for guest satisfaction by the website, Trip Advisor. Reviews of the hotel included wonderful comments about the combination of the historic building and the quality renovations done in the past couple of years. The Village of Mariemont is proud to be the home of the area's most well-reviewed hotels.



SECOND ADULT POOL PARTY

New speakers have been installed at the Mariemont Swimming Pool and more fun activities are in the works. The next Adult Pool Party is scheduled for July 30th from 6PM to 11PM. You do not need to be a pool member to attend. All residents over the age of 21 are welcome, as are their adult guests. Bring what you want to grill and a dish to share. You may bring your own alcohol, but no glass containers, dishes or cups are allowed. Plastic cups, plates and utensils will be provided. Cost is \$2 at the door. Proceeds will pay for the night's life guards and a fund for a new ping-pong table and hot dog griller. The final adult pool party of the season will be held on August 27th.

PING PONG TABLE & CERAMIC POTS NEEDED

To help keep fun things going on at the pool, we are in need of another ping pong table. The ones donated last year have been used so much that one of them is now on its last leg. If anyone has a ping pong table in good condition that they would like to donate to the pool, please call me at 271-2619 or call the Village office at 271-3246. We still need ceramic flower pots for the pool, too.



WARRIOR RUN

The Warrior Run Race for Life is an annual Village event featuring a 5K race and one-mile walk. It will be held on Saturday, October 8th at 5:30 PM this year, with the course starting and finishing at the Bell Tower. The family-oriented fundraiser benefits Cincinnati Children's Medical Center's "Surviving the Teens" program. Enjoy a fun-filled evening that includes the race, great food, fun music, carnival style kid's games and a movie at dark. Race & walk participants will receive a t-shirt and admission to the after-party. For information on registration, please visit www.cincywarriorrun.org. You may also support eh Warrior Run at www.DealsthatGiveBack.com, a local website that offers savings while giving you the opportunity to donate 10% of everything you spend to the Warrior Run Fund.

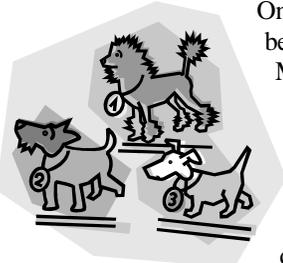
FOOD DRIVE STARTS AUGUST 1ST

The Mariemont Police & Fire Departments, the Mariemont Civic Association, and the Village Church of Mariemont will start their Thanksgiving Food Drive on August 1st by placing donation bins throughout the Village, with the main collection point being in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Please deposit canned goods and other non-perishable food items in the bins prior to November 18th. Thanksgiving baskets will then be assembled and delivered to those in need in our community. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving a Thanksgiving basket, please contact either Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines at 271-4089 or Pastor Tood Keyes at 271-4464 or me at 561-2619.



TASTE OF MARIEMONT & CANINE PARADE

The Taste of Mariemont, a favorite Village event, will be held at the Concourse on Sunday, August 28th from 4:30 PM to 7 PM. The "Taste" features several area restaurants, games for the kids, and entertainment. The Mariemont Preservation Foundation always does a wonderful job of planning and hosting this special Village tradition that is fun for residents of all ages.



Once again, the annual Taste of Mariemont will be combined with the Canine Parade. This year's parade will be much shorter, beginning at 4:30 in the Comey & Shepherd parking lot at the corner of Wooster Pike and Miami Road, then proceeding down Center Street and arriving at the Concourse at approximately 5 PM. Mayor Don Policastro will serve as Grand Marshall of the parade. He will judge the costume contest and the winning pooch will receive a bag of gourmet dog biscuits from The Sweeterie. Mariemont is a pet lover's community that prides itself on supporting charitable causes such as The League for Animal Welfare. This no-kill shelter has placed over 750 dogs in the Cincinnati area, and had 2 adoptions at last year's parade. The Adoption Van will be present at Taste of Mariemont again this year. A charitable donation to the League will be made by Comey & Shepherd.

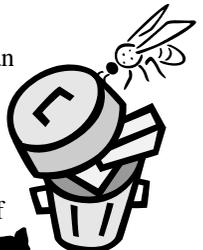
CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES WINNERS

The Mariemont Civic Association announced the winners of the summer raffle. The first prize went to Bob & Michelle Rich, who won a "Night in Mariemont" package, which included dinner at the Quarter, a movie, a night at the Mariemont Inn and breakfast at the National Exemplar. The second prize, an Major League Baseball autographed by Cincinnati Reds Manager, Dusty Baker, went to Mary Maxwell. Sales of tickets for the association's Christmas Raffle of a Lionel Train Set will go on sale in October. Please support this community organization that helps to support children and senior citizens in the Village. If you are interest in joining the Civic Association – or would just like to attend a meeting – please join us on Thursday, September 15th at 7 PM at the Parish Center. Our guest speaker will be Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune.



PUT A LID ON IT!

We have had several complaints about residents seeing rats in the Village. The only way that we can even begin to control the population of raccoons, rats, mice, flies, and other pests is if we have the help of EVERY resident! Trash is the biggest attraction for these bothersome and disease-carrying animals and insects. Trash cans without lids or with lids that can easily be popped off, offer a smorgasbord for the worst kind of pests. That is why the Village has an ordinance requiring everyone to keep a **TIGHT-FITTING** lid on each trash can. In the interest of the health and safety of all residents, effective immediately, the Police Department will be issuing citations to those who fail to comply with this ordinance and Rumpke is not required to take your trash if it is not in a proper container. So please be a part of the solution and PUT A **SEALED** LID ON IT! During the summer, if you have a garage, please put your trash can inside so rats and raccoons will not have easy access to it.



DON'T FORGET TO SCOOP!

Since we continue to get complaints about this, once again, I want to remind every dog owner that it is your responsibility to clean up after your pet. Again, this is a health issue and there is an ordinance stating that all dog feces must be removed from all public areas and private property other than that of the pet owner. It goes without saying that flies are fiercely attracted to feces, so make sure you put the dog waste into a plastic bag and tie it up until you can get it into your trash can.



Sincerely,

Dan Policastro
Dan Policastro, Mayor