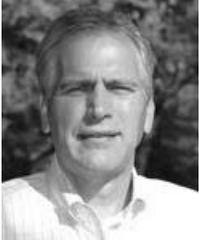




# Village of Mariemont

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## **JOE STELZER REPLACES ANDY BLACK ON COUNCIL**

In June, District 3 Councilman Andy Black gave notice that he would be moving out of the Village and would, therefore, have to vacate his seat on Council. Town Meeting held a caucus on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and selected Joe Stelzer to fulfill the remaining 18 months of Mr. Black's term. Mr. Stelzer is a Certified Public Accountant with American Financial and has been a very active member of the community. In addition to serving on the board of the Mariemont Recreation Association, he was the coordinator of the track team, a soccer coach, and a basketball coach. He is also a member of the board of the Mariemont Civic Association and spearheaded the development of the walking and biking trails in the South 80. An avid volunteer, Joe has been instrumental in the growth and success of the Jim Miller Memorial Warrior Run that takes place in Mariemont each October. At the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting, there was a vote to affirm Mr. Stelzer as Mr. Black's replacement. When the roll was called, there were four affirmative votes and one vote of opposition from Mr. Andrews. Councilwoman Denise McCarthy abstained from the vote. I feel we are very fortunate to have a person of Joe's talent and experience on Council.

## **PARKING LOT AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENLARGED**

At its regular meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, Council voted to provide \$29,300 out of the Permanent Improvement Fund to accommodate the Village's need for more parking by having the parking lot at the newly refurbished elementary school enlarged. In return, the school will allow the Village to use the parking lot after 4 PM weekdays and all day on weekends. These funds will allow for the parking lot to be expanded from 79 spaces to 101 spaces, for additional signage, and for landscaping. All the old hazardous sweet gum trees have already been removed. The Village, in partnership with the school board will select new trees that are more appropriate for the area and the community and Spinnenweber Builders will pay for them. These additional spaces were necessary to allow the Planning Commission to OK the addition of two new screens at the Mariemont Theatre. When the new school year begins, elementary school students may be dropped off ONLY at the drop-off area in the parking lot off Madisonville Road (shown in the photo) or at the drop-off zone on Plainville Road. As it was in the past, there is to be no stopping, standing, or dropping off of students on West Street. A Police Officer will be on the scene for the first month after school begins to make sure things go smoothly in the school zone. The safety of our children must be everyone's first priority. The Village is extremely grateful to the Mariemont Schools and to Superintendent Imhoff for their willingness to partner with the Village to help alleviate our parking problems and create a safer way for students to be dropped off and picked up each day.



## **EASTERN CORRIDOR PLANNERS INTRODUCE NEW PREFERRED ROUTE- A VERY UNACCEPTABLE DECISION**

Plans for the Eastern Corridor are continuing to be studied, but the latest projected route is simply unacceptable for the Village. Officials had previously stated that the location of the new highway would start in Fairfax, with a bridge across the Little Miami River at Horseshoe Bend, continue eastward on the south side of the river, and then connect to the new route of State Route 32. This route was also the best scenario for the Village as no Village properties would have been lost to the project or directly impacted. However, at a public meeting on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, ODOT announced a revised plan that would take the Eastern Corridor directly through the Mariemont Gardens and the South 80. It is imperative that we do all we can to prevent the development of this new route. I have written to Hamilton County Engineer Ted Hubbard and the County Commissioners (see attached letter) to let them know we will fight the destruction of the South 80 Park every step of the way. We cannot allow our National Historic Landmark community to be ruined by this new route that would be so invasive to the Village. We also must protect the stability of Miami Bluff. As you know, we have worked hard to prevent erosion of this hillside and there is a valid fear that the new route would weaken it. The County Engineer has reviewed my letter and forwarded it to ODOT and I am waiting for their response. If the arguments made in that correspondence aren't enough to persuade the Eastern Corridor planners to scrap this new design, I will be calling on volunteers to help gather as many signatures as possible on a petition in opposition to this plan. I will also put together a team of attorneys who live on the Bluff to help, pro bono, with any legal work, if needed.

## **DALE PARK SCHOOL BUILDING SOLD TO WALDORF SCHOOL BRINGING 40 NEW JOBS TO THE VILLAGE**

Economic growth in the Village continues with the Mariemont City School District's sale of the Dale Park School building to the Waldorf School, which will be moving its main campus in Mt. Airy to Mariemont. Not only will this save another of our important historic buildings, but the Waldorf School will also bring approximately 40 jobs to the Village, with 35 teachers and 5 administrators. When it opens in the fall of 2013, the school will have an enrollment of about 150 students in classes from preschool through eighth grade. I will be working with Paul Imhoff and Sarah Singer-Nourie, President of the Waldorf School's Board of Directors, to make sure the schools stagger the beginning and ending of their school days for a smooth flow of traffic. In my conversations with Ms. Singer-Nourie, I can see that the Waldorf School should be a great fit for the Village. We should congratulate the Mariemont School Board for being able to negotiate the sale of Dale Park School to a buyer who will use it as it was meant to be used and will preserve and improve this historic building with the tender, loving care it deserves. Mariemont Schools will net about \$700,000 on the sale.

## **PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT FUND RENEWAL LEVY ON NOVEMBER BALLOT WILL NOT RAISE TAXES**

Last month's bulletin gave an overview of the General Fund – the operating fund from which we pay for all normal, day-to-day expenses of running the Village. As stated, this fund is in good shape through 2016. In addition to the General Fund, the Village also has a Permanent Improvement fund for the major expenses necessary for improvements, updates, the replacement of out-dated equipment, and maintenance of our properties. Examples of how these funds were used in the past couple of years include the cost to remove and replace the diseased ash trees, the purchase and planting of 57 new trees, the new fence at the Tot Lot, trash cans for our parks to reduce litter and encourage recycling, a new cardiac monitor and computer for the ambulance, repairs and improvements to the Swimming Pool, including the new plumbing, pumps, and lights, installation of the new traffic signal on Wooster at Pocahontas to make it safer for students to turn left when going to the high school, a new snow plow blade for the Service Department, new vehicles for the Service, Fire, and Police Departments, maintenance of bathrooms and installation of a drinking fountain at the Bell Tower, maintenance of our athletic fields and parks, new playground equipment at Ann Buntin Becker Park, sidewalk improvements, repairs and equipment for the tennis courts, HVAC updates, new energy-saving windows, and other repairs to the Municipal Building and emergency generator, a new alarm system required for the Fire Department by Hamilton County. Another example of how this fund is used is the new ladder truck being purchased for the Fire Department. Revenue for this Permanent (or Capital) Improvement Fund comes from a 3.5 mil property tax levy that is renewed every five years. This November, we will be asking voters to renew the levy once again. Renewal of the levy does NOT raise taxes, but rather keeps them at the current rate.

### NEW FIRE TRUCK TO BE PURCHASED



Over the years, wear and tear has taken its toll on our ladder truck. It recently failed a state-required test, making the truck unsafe, and the open cab is now obsolete and not in keeping with State guidelines. The truck was purchased in 1989, and was slated for replacement in 2009, but through diligent maintenance, it lasted three years longer than expected. Assistant Fire Chief Tim Feichtner had anticipated the truck not being able to pass the annual test and had already looked into the cost to refurbish the truck, as well as the cost to buy a new one. Refurbishing estimates were over \$350,000. It did not seem prudent to put that much money into a 23-year-old emergency vehicle. Therefore, Council voted to purchase a new truck for a total cost of \$762,867.30. It will be paid for from the Permanent Improvement Fund over a three-year period. By paying for the new truck over three years, we will not deplete the Permanent Improvement Fund and that will allow us to address other expenses as they come up. We knew this day was coming, and we have been saving dollars in the Permanent Improvement fund since 2005 to put toward this purchase.

### MARIEMONT RESIDENTS HELP OUT AGAIN

A big thank you goes to the citizens of our great community! Whenever I have let the residents know that we are in need of donations, or help with a project, they willingly and eagerly come forth to help out. This was seen again on two occasions. First, I asked if anyone had a used freezer they would be willing to donate to the pool. John and Donia Swisher, Sam and Nancy Duran, and Jeff Ksiazek all had freezers they gave to the pool. This kept us from having to buy new equipment and saved us at least \$1000.

Next, I asked for donations for the fireworks and the response was even better than I hoped for. In all, we received enough money to pay for this year's display, with some left over as a head start for next year's fireworks display!

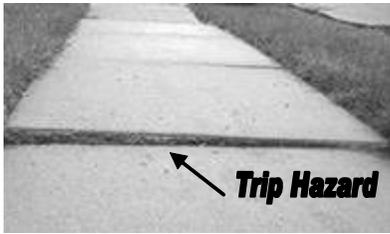
#### The top five donors were:

Tom Allman (\$1000)	Mariemont Civic Assoc. (\$1000)	Spinnenweber Builders (\$500)
RE Kramig & Co (\$500)	Clement Luken, Jr. (\$500).	

#### Other donors included:

Richard Gegner	Clifford & Mary Jane Clemons	Ed & Carolyn Tuttle	Karl & Peggy Braun
Peter & Kathryn Manning	Tom Lekan	Claire Kaeser	JoAnn Hopkins
Vanessa Nichols & Jim Vago	Audrey Sharn	The Mariemont Town Crier	Dennis & Cynthia Wolter
Nancy Becker	Don & Nancy Gurney	David & Donna Davis	Paul & Karri Haffner
Dennis & Bonnie Malone	Wes & Nina Iredale	Kevin & Lucianne Crowley	Gary & Lynne Long
Robert & Barbara Blum	Bill & Amy Kapcar	Kim Flick	Dan & Barb Policastro

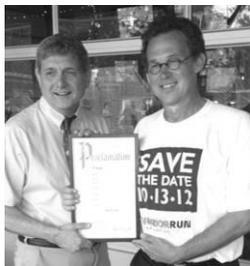
Thanks to all those who made donations! The fireworks were a success because of your generosity!



### SIDEWALK REPAIRS

Portions of the sidewalk in front of the Municipal Building were recently repaired with a new technique that levels out uneven areas that could pose a trip hazard. Over time, sections of sidewalks can become uneven at the joints due to the rise and settling of the ground and/or tree roots. These uneven spots can be a serious trip hazard and, in the past, the only way to fix the problem was to have the section or sections removed and have new concrete poured. This can get very expensive. This new method simply grinds down the surface of one section to the level of the abutting section. The cost is normally less than half what it would cost to replace

the slab. Not only does the process save a great deal of dollars for the Village, but also will help to save our street trees since we will not have to cut out roots to put in new concrete slabs. The method is also environmentally friendly, as all concrete dust is vacuumed up as it is produced and there is no concrete removed that would end up on a landfill. Please let me know if you have a section of sidewalk in front of your home which has become a trip hazard because of the roots of a Village tree, please contact the office at 271-3246 so we might inspect it and determine if it can be repaired using this new method.



### BOB RICH RETIRES AS REC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

After serving as President of the Mariemont Recreation Association since 2001, Village resident Bob Rich announced that he would be retiring from that position. He joined the Mariemont Recreation Association in July of 1995 and served as a coach for baseball and soccer teams. He also organized and established the track team for the Village that was eventually incorporated into the Mariemont Recreation Association. Bob was also active in Mariemont Cub Scout Pack #1, and for many years has volunteered his services as a cook for the Mariemont Elementary School Carnival. He did all this while successfully launching his own architectural business. Bob's retirement from the Recreation Association became official on July 17<sup>th</sup>, and he was presented with a proclamation at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Council.

### MEN'S SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS

Coach Cal Long and his team, the Sox, won the Mariemont Men's Softball 2012 Championship with a victory over Randy York's Lumbermen. Interest in this 'just for the fun of it' league reached an all-time high this year and was expanded to a total of five teams. It was great to see so many new faces on the field and, despite the unusually hot temperatures and rainouts, everyone had a good time and a lot of new friendships were formed. That is really what the league is all about. Congratulations to Cal and his team! We are already looking forward to next year's season!



### MARIEMONT'S FIRST ANNUAL PORSCHE RPM-RALLYE

The Village of Mariemont will host a gathering of the finest Porsches in the area on Sunday, October 7th, at an event sponsored by the Ohio Valley Region Porsche Club of America, which has a membership of almost 1,300 Porsche aficionados. Mariemont was chosen for this event because its tree-lined streets and its architectural theme are reminiscent of Porsches' German/European origins. The event, which includes a German beer-tasting, is free to the public. The "Concours" type car show will feature rare, vintage, racing and specialty Porsches. Visitors will be able to get up close, look, and ask questions of the car owners, who will pay a fee to participate, with a portion of the proceeds going to several charities. Event Chair Grant Karnes said that the charitable element is one of the driving forces behind the creation of this event. Karnes expects several hundred Porsches to participate in the event, with cars on display at the Village Square and along Wooster Pike, Miami Road, Madisonville Road, and Crystal Springs.

# GO REDS!

Sincerely,

Dan Policastro, Mayor