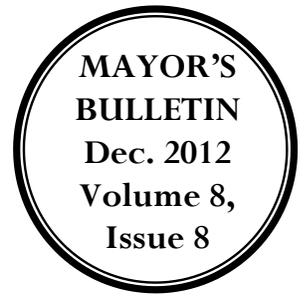




Village of Mariemont

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



MARIEMONT PROUD – MARIEMONT STRONG

With this being the last bulletin of the year, I would like to start it by saying how proud I am to be Mayor of the Village of Mariemont. When so many other communities are struggling, we remain strong and continue to grow and plan for the future. In 2012, we saw many of those plans come to fruition, such as the development of the South 80 Hiking Trails Park which became a reality through the hard work of a strong team of volunteers. We also enjoyed the completion of Emery Park Condominiums and the groundbreaking for the Nolen Park Condominium project. Work to enlarge the theater by adding two new movie screens is well underway. Kellogg has expressed its appreciation of the strong relationship the Village has with its businesses and new businesses, like Roosters Men's Grooming Center, are moving in. The newly renovated and enlarged elementary school opened and the Waldorf School chose Mariemont as its new location when they purchased the Dale Park School building. We have purchased a new fire truck to replace the 23-year-old ladder truck that could no longer provide safe service to our residents. Safety in the Village has been improved by extending the school zones on Plainville and Madisonville Roads. We have added to our sidewalk system, keeping us one of the most 'walkable' communities in the State of Ohio. We have also eliminated trip hazards at about 70 locations on sidewalks throughout the Village. Using a new method of sanding down the raised concrete joints, we have been able to fix those trip hazards for about \$10,000 less than the cost of the old method of removing the slab and pouring a new one. (If Village tree roots have caused the sidewalk in front of your home to raise and/or buckle, please let us know so we can add it to the list of improvements to be included in next year's budget.) This method also saves the trees, since we do not have to cut out the roots that caused the sidewalks to rise. Planting of trees in the Wooster Pike island near Starbucks will start soon. This will add to our long-standing designation as a Tree City USA community. The Village also received another award for being the Best Recycling Community in Hamilton County with a population under 10,000 residents. We have a strong, well-organized, hard-working committee made up of Mariemont residents who are helping us in our effort to keep ODOT from relocating State Route 32 through the South 80 Gardens and Hiking Trails Park. The Village remains one of the most sought-after neighborhoods for homebuyers because of our outstanding school system and the level of services we are able to provide. In comparison to the rest of Hamilton County, homes for sale in the Village sell more quickly than in other areas. We continue to draw great events to the Village, such as the annual Fourth of July Fireworks, the Kiwanis Art and Crafts Fair, the Tree Lighting and Luminaria, the Warrior Run and the first annual Porsche Rally, and even a Farmers Market. In addition to being part of the enjoyment of living in Mariemont, these events bring in visitors who support our businesses. Mostly, however, I am proud of the wonderful people who make up this community, especially the countless citizens who volunteer throughout the year. I would like to thank all of you for keeping our Village the best place around to call home!

PARKING AT THE EXECUTIVE BUILDING – WE MUST PROTECT OUR VILLAGE BUSINESSES!

The businesses in the Village of Mariemont are an important part of our community and our economy. Taxes collected from these businesses help to keep our General Fund healthy and the overall budget balanced. We work hard to bring new businesses into the Village, but we must also work hard to retain the businesses we have. It is much easier to keep the businesses we already have than it is to create new ones. The 20 professional companies located in the Mariemont Executive Building and the Strand cannot do business if their customers have no place to park and this could cause us to lose those businesses. That is why the parking areas at the Executive Building must be reserved for customers of those businesses ONLY. The parking lot in and around the Executive Building is not part of the elementary school campus, and therefore, if you are NOT doing business in the Mariemont Executive Building and/or the Strand, you should not park there. This parking restriction is not about the owners of the Executive Building or the Elementary School Administrators. This is solely about the businesses and the need to protect them. We must make sure that those companies whose tax dollars help to sustain our community do not lose customers because of lack of parking. Visitors to the elementary school must use the school's parking lot. We ask residents to remember that the Executive Building and the Strand parking lots are private property and parking spaces there are for customers of those businesses. It is NOT a municipal parking lot and may not be used as such. Please make sure your friends and family members who may visit the school are aware that they should park in the school's parking lot.



BOY SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREE & GIRL SCOUT DECORATIVE WREATH SALES

The Mariemont Boy Scout's have started their annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser on the front lawn of the Municipal Building at the corner of Wooster Pike and Crystal Springs Road. Scout Troop 149 is again providing premium quality cut Christmas trees for the holiday season -- providing the finest quality trees and service since 1992. This year the 7th and 8th Grade Girl Scout troops are providing decorated wreaths for the sale. "Shop Local" - all of the scouts and their families work hard during this sale to raise funds for all their activities and adventures throughout the year. Hours: M-F 4-9 pm, Sat 9am-9pm, Sun 11am-6pm.

NEW LIGHTS ON THE SQUARE THANKS TO MARIEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Over the past several holiday seasons, we have tried to add more lights to the trees on the Square, but all of our old lights were completely worn out. I would like to thank the Mariemont Civic Association for donating \$300 toward the new lights. I think everyone will be pleased with how nice the Square looks and we will continue to improve on the decorations over the years as the budget allows. Please support the Mariemont Civic Association by purchasing a 2013 calendar with beautiful photos by Joe Stoner, our Village photographer, at a cost of just \$10. You may obtain a calendar by calling the Village office at 271-3246.



NEW OFFICER JOINS MARIEMONT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Following the recent resignation of Police Officer Keith Lewis, Dan Lyons was hired as an officer in the Village of Mariemont Police Department. Dan is a 12 year veteran law enforcement officer. Dan was hired as a patrol officer for the Mariemont Police Department on October 22, 2012. Officer Lyons comes to the M.P.D. from the Lockland Police Department where he worked as a patrol officer for the past 8 years. Dan is a member of the Hamilton County Police Association's Underwater Search & Recovery Team. He is a certified Police Bicycle Patrol officer, and will participate in the police department's bike patrol unit next spring. Please join us in welcoming Dan to the Village.

AAA SAFETY AWARD

For the third straight year, the Village of Mariemont Police Department received the "Platinum Award" for traffic safety from AAA. Several local Police departments were recognized for organizing and implementing safety programs, such as bicycle safety, DUI enforcement and teen driving education. AAA partners with community organizations and police departments throughout the year to encourage motorist and pedestrian traffic safety. There are three levels of awards – Silver, Gold and Platinum. Of the thirteen departments that were recognized this year, Mariemont was one of only nine to receive the highest Platinum level award.





NATIVE AMERICAN VILLAGE UNEARTHED

Archaeological geologist and Quaternary scientist, Dr. Kenneth Barnett Tankersley, and a group of graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Cincinnati just recently uncovered evidence that a Native American village once existed near the foot of the bluff in the South 80 Gardens and Hiking Trail Park. A plethora of artifacts collected from the earthwork mound and the site of the newly discovered village are consistent with the Fort Ancient peoples (AD 1740-1000, ancestors of the present day Shawnee). The earthwork was first documented and mapped by Dr. Charles Metz in the 1870s and a hundred years later (October 16, 1974) it was added to the list of the National Register of Historic Places (#7400157). The significance of this important historical site provides us with yet another reason ODOT should not relocate State Route 32 through the South 80. There is to be no digging by any unauthorized person at this location. Digging in this area is a violation of our ordinances. If you witness someone digging there, please notify the Police Department by calling the non-emergency number of 271-4089. Dr. Tankersley will be the speaker at the December 20th Mariemont Civic Association meeting to speak about this important recent find. Everyone is invited to attend at the Parish Center at 7 PM.

SAVE THE DATE – JANUARY 22 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT MEETING WITH ODOT REGARDING EASTERN CORRIDOR

ODOT has agreed to hold a public “Community Involvement Meeting” for Village of Mariemont residents on Tuesday, January 22nd, from 6PM to 8PM at the Mariemont Elementary School Auditorium to discuss the Village’s objections to the Eastern Corridor running through the South 80 Gardens and Hiking Trails Park. Thanks in large part to Dr. Tankersley’s discovery of the Native American village and the hard work of the outstanding citizens committee, especially Karen Sullivan and Councilman Joe Stelzer, working to oppose routing the Eastern Corridor through the South 80, ODOT revealed at a meeting on November 30th that they are now investigating the possibility of putting a bridge over the Little Miami River downstream from Horseshoe Bend so the road would run south of the river. As you may recall, the original plan for the Eastern Corridor called for a bridge to be built over Horseshoe Bend near the intersection of Redbank and Wooster Roads. Environmentalists objected to this plan. They said that part of the river was too wide for a bridge to be built without pillars having to be placed in the water and they feared the structure would endanger the river, fish, and other wildlife in that area. In August, ODOT took us by surprise when they announced they had decided to abandon the Horseshoe Bend Bridge plan and run the Eastern Corridor through the South 80 Gardens and Hiking Trails Park. We immediately let our objection to this plan be known to ODOT and provided them with a long list of valid reasons that the new route was unacceptable. After taking our objections into consideration and realizing they would not only be destroying open space parkland, as well as disturbing what may be one of the most important archeological finds in the area, ODOT said they are now considering building a bridge downstream from Horseshoe Bend where the river is narrower and would not require pillars to be placed in the river itself. While we are encouraged by this possibility, we know that ODOT continues to consider the route through the South 80 as a viable alternative. We cannot take this new statement from ODOT at face value! History has shown that ODOT has completed other such projects despite strong opposition from the public. We will need to continue to monitor this situation closely and make sure our voices are being heard at every step of the way as the project moves forward. That is why a strong turn-out at the Community Involvement Meeting scheduled for January 22nd from 6-8PM at the Mariemont Elementary School Auditorium is so important. Please plan on attending.

RUMPKE CONTRACT RENEWED

After much discussion and consideration, Council has decided to sign a new two-year contract with Rumpke for collection of trash, recycling, yard waste, and large items. We did receive a bid from Forest Green Waste Services, which, on the surface, appeared to be lower than that of Rumpke. However, aspects of Forest Green’s bid gave Council some serious concerns. To start with, in order to get their best rate, the Village would have to change the days of trash collection from Monday and Tuesday to Thursday and Friday. The Health Committee felt this would be confusing to residents and cause a lot of disruption of service, especially in the first few months of the contract. Additionally, if Forest Green failed to pick up someone’s trash or recycling on a Friday (and mistakes do happen), **there would be no way for the Village to arrange for that error to be corrected prior to the following week, leaving residents with full trash cans throughout the weekend.** More importantly, however, the decision to stick with Rumpke was a financial one. As you know, the Village consistently ranks as one of the communities with the highest recycling rates. The higher our recycling rate, the more money we receive from the Residential Recycling Incentive (RRI) Fund of Hamilton County. Our recycling rate is determined by dividing the number of tons we recycle by the total number of tons of waste generated in the Village. Rumpke helps us to keep our tonnage down and, therefore, our recycling rate up, by taking all of our yard waste to a composting facility that processes it and turns it into usable landscaping material. Forest Green offers no such service. **They would simply dump the yard waste, which can be extremely heavy, into the landfill.** That would increase our total tonnage and decrease our recycling rate, and could result in the loss of those Residential Recycling Incentive funds. For the calendar year 2011, we received \$17,079.29 in RRI funds, and for the first half of 2012, we received \$8,435.42. Finally, we are very proud of our standing as the Top Recyclers for Communities in Hamilton County with a population under 10,000 residents. What we might have saved by going with Forest Green just did not seem like enough to risk what we could lose – good service, Residential Recycling Incentive Funds, and a reputation of one of the ‘greenest’ communities in the county.

THANKS TO RICH EWALD AND ALL THE BULLETIN VOLUNTEERS

I would like to thank the many residents who have called me, e-mailed me, or just stopped me on the street to say how much they enjoy receiving the Mayor’s Bulletin throughout the year. I also want everyone to know that it wouldn’t be possible to get the bulletins out to everyone if it weren’t for the citizens who volunteer to distribute them. Those volunteers include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wendy & Steve Ackenbach | Jennifer & Bill Ebelhar | Stacy & Brian Wilson | Mary & Richard Marchal |
| Maria & Michael Bailey | Sara & Paul Hoffer | Rebecca & Mark Bruggeman | Nancy & Dave Boyles |
| Joan & Bill Bender | Gretchen Thomas | Jani & Kevin Viox | Carolyn & Brian Caperton |
| Sharon & Rex Bevis | Beth & Frank Moone | Tony & Maria Borgerding | Sally & Dave Alexander |
| Becky Jones | Kelly & Gordon Rankin | Laura Cruickshank | Wes Iredale |
| Merret & Scott Collister | Terri & Steve Spooner | Kelly Jasper | Don Slavik |
| Jeff Sturtz | Mike Eisenhauer | Ray Colton | Cal Long |
| Carolyn Tuttle | Mary Ann Schwartz | Darla Michael | Carole & Dick Demaret |
| John & Michelle Widecan | Syd Sabo | Marilyn Illig | Charles Short |
| Jerry Flick | Cathy & Larry McGonegle | Bob Naugle | Nancy Stelzer |

However, even this wonderful team of volunteers couldn’t get the job done without the “Bulletin Distribution Coordinator”, Rich Ewald. It is Rich who comes to the office, picks up the 1500 copies of the bulletin as soon as they are printed and delivers the correct supply to the home of each volunteer to distribute. If any volunteer is unavailable, it is Rich who finds another volunteer to fill in. He does all this on what is sometimes very short notice and still has time to volunteer for other projects, such as creating the flier urging people to vote for renewing the tax levy last month. Rich has been volunteering his time in our community for many years. Thank you, Rich, for always being willing to help!

*Wishing Everyone
Happy Holidays!*

Sincerely,

Dan Policastro, Mayor