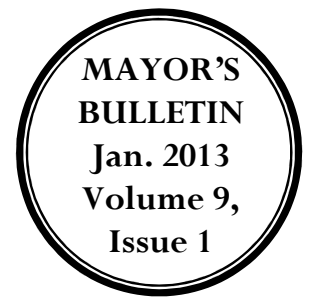




Village of Mariemont

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



IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING WITH ODOT SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 22

ODOT will be holding a public information meeting with the members of the Mariemont Community Planning Council (CPC) on January 22nd, at the Mariemont Elementary School Auditorium, from 6 to 8 PM. Residents of the Village are encouraged to attend this meeting and let ODOT know of your concerns and objections regarding the new preferred route for the Eastern Corridor, which would go right through the South 80 Gardens and Hiking Trails Park. The main objections to this rerouting of the Eastern Corridor include:

1. Destabilization of the Miami Bluff hillside and further loss of the Indian serpent mound earthwork at the top of the Bluff from landslides caused by major excavation at the base of a volatile hillside
2. Possible loss of National Historic Landmark Designation
3. Destruction of Native American Archeological Site (Prehistoric village just discovered by University of Cincinnati)
4. Negative environmental impact on our park and nature trails
5. Significant reduction in Village of Mariemont parklands
6. Increases in the amount of air pollution in the Village
7. Terrible noise pollution
8. Water pollution to the Little Miami River, which is listed as a National Scenic River and must be protected
9. Loss of wildlife habitat (In what other Hamilton County community can a short walk from your home lead you to a natural wildlife area and scenic river? Do we want to lose this unique characteristic of our Village?)
10. Destruction of the track used by our high school Cross-Country Track team
11. Impact on Concourse resulting in loss of one of the most beautiful valley views in Hamilton County
12. Major impact on the nearby Prevey Bird Sanctuary
13. ODOT's flawed analysis of alternative routes

It is important that we demonstrate to ODOT that our residents are united in our objection to this new preferred route and the impact it would have on the Village as a suburban community and a National Historic Landmark. A petition originated by CPC member Kevin Hassey has garnered approximately 1000 signatures so far, but we are hoping even more residents will sign the petition by visiting <http://www.change.org/petitions/ohio-department-of-transportation-do-not-relocate-state-route-32-through-mariemont-or-its-south-80-park>. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office has joined us in objecting to the new route and stated they "are very concerned about the potentially devastating impact this proposed project will have on the rich cultural history of the area". Renowned artist, Mary Louise Holt, who is a teacher at the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati at The Barn and who has featured Native Americans in many of her works, will be providing the Village an oil painting of the Indian village recently discovered in the South 80 by Professor Ken Tankersley. She will be doing the rendering with the support of the Mariemont Civic Association. Signed and numbered prints of Ms. Holt's work will then be made available as a way to raise funds should the Village need to enlist an attorney or other experts in our efforts. We must keep pressure on ODOT to ensure this project does not include a route through Mariemont!



One of many Native American paintings by Mary Louise Holt



TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 3rd

Another upcoming and important meeting to put on your calendar is this year's Town Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, March 3, at 1 PM in the auditorium of the Mariemont Elementary School. Town Meeting is just one of the many things that make the Village of Mariemont such a unique community. This forum allows all residents the opportunity to ask questions and comment on all aspects of Village policies and Districts 2, 3, 4, and 6 will be nominating candidates for the expiring Council seats in those districts. It is also a great place for new residents to meet neighbors and elected officials.

TREE LIGHTING AND LUMINARIA

Congratulations to Carri Ellis and the rest of the Preschool Parents Group members for the best Tree Lighting ceremony ever! The event was really well-attended and it seemed people did not want the evening's festivities to end. Everything ran so smoothly and several people commented on how much they enjoyed all the activities. The Preschool Parents Group really outdid themselves this year at what has become one of the most treasured Village traditions. Good job to all those involved! We also want to thank our Service Department and our Police and Fire Departments for their help, as well as all the sponsors, and, of course, Santa!



CONGRATULATIONS TO RAFFLE WINNERS!

The drawing for the Mariemont Civic Association raffle was held at their regular meeting in December. Mary and Irv Maxwell won the First Prize and chose to receive the framed needlepoint of the Bell Tower by Carillonist Richard Gegner. The 1952 Lionel Passenger Train set was won by Jim Simons and Mary Mariska won four tickets to the Mariemont Theater. Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to all those who supported the Civic Association by purchasing tickets and calendars. The next meeting of the Civic Association will be on Thursday, January 17th, at 7 PM in the Parish Center on Plainville Road. The featured speaker will be Bobby Slattery. Mr. Slattery is the proprietor of the new micro-brewery and restaurant, Fifty West Brewing Company, on Wooster Pike (used to be the Heritage Restaurant). He will be speaking on micro brewing and will have some samples of his new brews. Please invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

CHANGES FOR THE NEW YEAR

COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BEGIN AT 7 PM

At its regular meeting on December 26th, Council voted to change the starting time of Council meetings from 7:30 PM to 7:00 PM. This change will take place with the first meeting of 2013 on January 14th. Meeting days will remain the same, with regular meetings being held the second and fourth Monday of each month. However, during the summer months of June, July, and August, Council will only meet once per month. Those meetings will be held on the second Monday of each of those months.



NEW ON-STREET PARKING REGULATIONS

Another big change that will take place in 2013 concerns on-street parking on the more narrow streets in the Village. State law would allow us to prohibit *all* on-street parking on any of our roads that are less than 26 feet wide to allow for emergency vehicles to easily navigate those roads. We didn't want to do eliminate all parking on those streets however, because parking in the Village is already at a premium. Therefore, Chairman Dennis Wolter and other members of the Safety Committee began working over a year ago with Asst. Fire Chief Tim Feichtner to create a list of streets where parking should be limited to *one side of the street only*. This would allow for emergency equipment to safely access all points in the Village while maintaining as much on-street parking as possible. It was decided these changes would be made to only five streets at a time. This would give Council the ability to notify residents of the five streets in advance of making any changes and allow residents the opportunity to make Council aware of any concerns they might have about the proposed changes. This project was a long time in coming, but necessary to improve the safety of our Village. Council approved the plan and the Safety Committee recommended that the first five streets to be effected would be Harvard Acres, Park Lane, Petoskey Avenue north and south of Wooster Pike, and Denny Place. Council passed that recommendation with a vote of 4 to 2, with Mr. Andrews and Mr. Scheeser dissenting. The next five streets slated for changes are Cachepit Way, Murray Avenue between West Street and Grove Avenue, Murray Avenue between Rowan Hill and Lytle Woods, Pocahontas (north and south of Wooster Pike, between Mount Vernon and Hiawatha), and Lytle Woods Place.

YARD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGED

Beginning the first week of January, Rumpke will collect yard waste on Tuesdays ONLY through the months of January, February, and March. In April, yard waste will once again be picked up on Mondays and Tuesdays, in conjunction with your regular trash collection schedule. This change is taking place because the small amount of yard waste produced during the winter months can all be picked up on one truck, rather than the two trucks required during the rest of the year. All yard waste collected will still be taken to *Compost Cincy*, a company that processes the yard waste with composted materials to make usable landscaping material. This agreement between the Village, Rumpke, and the composting facility is another measure we are taking to promote environmentally responsible disposal of waste. It is part of what helped us achieve such a high recycling rate, which in turn leads to the Village receiving more in Residential Recycling Incentive funds.



ECOMONIC GROWTH ON TRACK AT THEATER

Construction continues to move along to enlarge the Mariemont Theater for the addition of two new screens which should be in sometime this summer. This project is a prime example of what can be accomplished when we all work together. That is why I want to extend a special thank you to the Mariemont School Board and to Spinnenweber Builders for their willingness to partner with the theater and the Village to make this expansion a reality and to bring more business into the Village.

DUKE ENERGY OFFERS APPLIANCE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Residents often call the Village office to ask how they can dispose of an old refrigerator or freezer. All we could do was refer them to companies who were certified to remove the freon, but would charge residents for that service and for taking the old appliance away. I attended the Hamilton County Municipal League meeting this month and a representative from Duke Energy introduced a new program that allows residents to recycle their old refrigerators and freezers for FREE! They will even pick it up for FREE! On top of that, if your appliance is still working, they will send you a check for \$30 for participating in the recycling program! This program was established to encourage homeowners to get rid of secondary refrigerators and freezers, which can add up to \$150 to a home's electric bill each year. It will also encourage people to upgrade to newer, more energy-efficient appliances. For more information or to schedule a pick up, please call 855-398-6200 or visit <http://www.duke-energy.com/ohio/savings/appliance-recycling.asp>.

SIDEWALK REPAIRS TO CONTINUE IN 2013

The program we started in 2012 to sand down sidewalk trip hazards caused by roots from Village-owned trees was very successful. We have had nothing but positive comments about the work that was done and we estimate that this method of repairing the sidewalks saved us \$10,000 over the traditional method of removing the damaged slabs and pouring new ones. We want to keep this program going, but we need your help to identify areas that need fixing. Please call the office at 271-3246 by the end of February with the address nearest to any slabs you feel should be sanded down to eliminate a trip hazard. We will add those areas to our list for review and get the work done as soon as possible.

EVENTS PLANNED AT THE BARN

On Friday, Jan 25 at 7PM at The Barn there will be a free play presented by Playhouse in the Park ("The Traveling Jekyll & Hyde Show"). In this play, suitable for ages 11 and up, a tiny theatre company attempts and hilariously fails to tell the infamous tale of the scientist who splits his good side from his evil one. To register to attend, please go to: https://thebarn.cincyregister.com/jekyll_and_hyde. A \$2 suggested donation may be paid at the door. Also, the Mariemont Garden Club is hosting a Wine and Cheese event at The Barn (6980 Cambridge Avenue) on Wednesday, February 6th at 7:30 PM. This is a great opportunity to learn about the Garden Club and share your ideas about gardening. Please RSVP to Laura McMahon at 513-828-9715 about this event.

Sincerely,

Dan Policastro, Mayor