



# Village of Mariemont

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



## OVERALL GENERAL FUND BUDGET SHOWS A SURPLUS FOR THE NEXT 4 ½ YEARS!

When it is said that a budget has a deficit, it means that anticipated costs will exceed projected revenues for that year. A recent article in the *Eastern Hills Journal* stated that the Village's annual budget would be operating at a deficit at the end of 2013, and according to Clerk Tony Borgerding's report from last year, that deficit would have left us with an ending bank balance in the General Fund of \$234,000. However, due to our proactive approach to reducing expenses Clerk Borgerding now anticipates the ending balance of the General Fund in 2013 will be \$934,000 (an increase of \$700,000!) and our General Fund *reserves* will leave us with a positive *overall surplus balance* for the next 4 ½ years! The Clerk now anticipates that not only will we end 2012 with a surplus of over \$1,000,000 again, but will be in good shape through the year 2016 (See circled figures below). This is the result of looking ahead and cutting expenses *before* we found ourselves in the same predicament as other communities. At a time when many local governments are having to cut services to the 'bare bone', eliminate jobs, and/or raise taxes, the Village of Mariemont continues to thrive. We have been very creative in finding ways to save your tax dollars. While we have made reductions in personnel, going from 24 full-time employees to 18, we have not had to do away with any services. In the past 12 months, we have saved money by having the Village Solicitor and Engineer attend just one Council meeting each month, using trees from the Mayor's Tree Farm instead of buying new ones, using postage stamps instead of leased postage meters in the Tax and Administration offices, and raised fines for traffic citations. We have pulled out all those traffic citations we had deemed "uncollectible" and enlisted the services of a collection agency to seek payment for them with very good results. We have assigned many maintenance tasks at the Municipal Building to our Fire Department, including maintaining police vehicles and mowing the grass there. Tax Administrator Darlene Judd resigned her full-time position and began working part-time, saving the Village in salary and benefit costs. We are no longer paying overtime for the Police Clerk to attend Mayor's Court or for the Administrative Assistant to attend Council meetings, allowing them equal time off instead. Our Police, Fire, and Service Departments continue to apply for and receive grant money. We contracted with Duke Energy Retail for a 15% reduction in our electricity rate. The trash recycling program has led to an ever-increasing amount of recycling being collected resulting in \$17,000 received from the Hamilton County Residential Recycling Incentive Program. (Placing recycling cans in all our parks helped us to become the #1 recycling community in the county.) We continue to pay for the fireworks display through donations. Collectively, these measures have added up to big savings that have resulted in a huge improvement in our financial outlook. The many volunteers in the Village have done a great deal to help us keep costs down and we will continue to look to them for the invaluable help they provide. We added more positions to our Swim Commission and Parks Advisory Board to expand the number of volunteers in these groups. Furthermore, we continue to look for ways to help our local businesses grow and increase our tax base and we have seen a 13% increase in payroll taxes. We are working hard to be good stewards of your hard-earned tax dollars. As you can see, we are doing everything possible to avoid having to ask for any additional tax dollars. No doubt we have taken quite a few blows from the State in the past two years. But through hard work, we are very fortunate to have a projected overall surplus balance of over \$1,000,000 at the end of 2012 and over \$900,000 for the end of 2013 and will be in good shape through 2016. Some officials are making statements that the glass is half empty, but I feel it is half full...maybe even three quarters full!

### CLERK'S PROJECTIONS FOR 2012 THROUGH 2016

Amounts Shown In Thousands of Dollars	Actual 2009	Actual 2010	Actual 2011	Estimated 2012	Budget 2013	Long-Range Forecast		
						2014	2015	2016
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$1,268	\$1,010	\$1,027	\$ 1,105	\$1,095	\$ 934	\$ 767	\$ 622
<b>Receipts:</b>								
Earnings Tax	1,747	1,681	1,857	2,000	2,000	2,020	2,060	2,102
Real Estate Tax	280	283	286	301	311	315	320	325
Personal Property Tax	48	27	24	5	5	5	5	5
Inheritance Tax	257	379	147	100	-	-	-	-
Local Government Funds	142	145	157	125	105	105	105	105
Trash Fees	142	166	201	205	205	205	205	205
Mayor's Court	117	121	115	125	125	125	125	125
Other	320	316	304	262	262	265	265	265
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>3,053</b>	<b>3,118</b>	<b>3,091</b>	<b>3,123</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>3,040</b>	<b>3,085</b>	<b>3,132</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>								
Salaries	1,735	1,610	1,695	1,698	1,721	1,738	1,756	1,773
Benefits	683	608	504	570	588	594	600	606
Other Operations	623	610	557	590	590	600	600	600
Trash	270	273	257	275	275	275	275	275
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>3,311</b>	<b>3,101</b>	<b>3,013</b>	<b>3,133</b>	<b>3,174</b>	<b>3,207</b>	<b>3,230</b>	<b>3,254</b>
<b>Increase (Decrease)</b>	<b>(258)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(161)</b>	<b>(167)</b>	<b>(145)</b>	<b>(122)</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$1,010</b>	<b>\$1,027</b>	<b>\$1,105</b>	<b>\$ 1,095</b>	<b>\$ 934</b>	<b>\$ 767</b>	<b>\$ 622</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>

The chart below shows the ending balances for 2011 through 2015, as projected by the Clerk at last year's budget hearing. The bottom row shows how much those estimates have improved since last year as a result of our cost-saving measures.

Clerk's Budget Report from 2011	Current 2011	Budget 2012	Long-Range Plan		
			2013	2014	2015
Projected Ending Balances (from Clerk's 2011 report)	\$ 838	\$ 683	\$ 234	- 229	- 707
How much the anticipated ending balance improved since last year's projections (per Clerk's 2012 report)		Increase of \$ 412	Increase \$ 700	Increase \$ 1305	Increase \$ 1329



**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

At the annual Police Appreciation Dinner on May 24th, Officer Phillip Mitchell received the Chief Chris Robisch Officer of the Year award. Officer Mitchell also received the 2011 Hamilton County Police Association "Award for Bravery" on May 18<sup>th</sup>. He was selected for the award for his selfless act of bravery during a January 2011 homicide in the Village. Officer Mitchell and Fairfax Officer Richard Kaiser entered the residence while there was a known armed assailant still inside. They entered to bring a resident out and take her to safety. This award is a very prestigious honor given each year to a deserving officer within the tri-state law enforcement community. We congratulate Officer Mitchell on his well-deserved awards and thank him for his dedicated service to the Village of Mariemont.

**SAFETY SERVICES NIGHT OUT**

The Mariemont Police and Fire Departments will host SAFETY SERVICES NIGHT OUT at Dogwood Park on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 9 PM. This is an annual FREE fun family event. There will be live music from the band MOST WANTED, as well as food and games. Representatives from the Hamilton County SWAT unit will be present, as will members of the Mounted Patrol. Displays will include police and fire equipment with officers and firefighters present to answer questions. See you there!



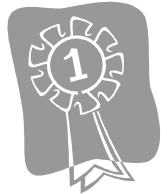
**RAFFLE WINNERS SELECTED**



At the Mariemont Civic Association meeting on June 21<sup>st</sup>, the winners of the Summer Raffle fundraiser were drawn and the top prize of a "Night in the Village for Two" went to Joe Witschger, owner of Eastern Hills Cleaners. The prize included dinner at the Quarter Bistro, tickets to the Mariemont Theatre, a one-night stay at the Mariemont Inn, and breakfast at the National Exemplar. The second prize was won by Mariemont resident Joe Stelzer, who received a baseball signed by Reds' Manager Dusty Baker. Raffle sales totaled approximately \$1000. The winter raffle fundraiser will be for a top-of-the-line Lionel Santa Fe diesel train with dual motors and aluminum passenger cars and a needlepoint of the Bell Tower by Carillonneur Richard Gegner. Please contact me at 561-2619 for information on purchasing raffle tickets. Your support of the Civic Association helps us to help those in need in our community and to support community events such as the annual fireworks display.

**BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST WINNERS**

Matt and Elizabeth Ross of 6635 Chestnut Street were the First Place winners of this year's Townhome Landscaping Beautification contest and were awarded a family membership to the Mariemont Swimming Pool. Second place went to Mike Calvin of 6713 Murray Avenue, and third place to Bill and Linda Swensson of 3912 Beech Street. Several consolation prizes were also awarded. A total of 14 townhomes were entered in the contest. Thanks to Kroger, Flip Daddys, Mariemont Theatre, Mariemont Inn, National Exemplar, Mio's, and Bob McGraw for donating all the wonderful prizes.



**KELLOGG EMPLOYEES HONORED**



Two employees of Kellogg's Mariemont facility were recently honored for their length of service and loyalty to the company. Bernice Lager (at left) began working for Kellogg on June 6, 1952, when it was known as the Strietmann Biscuit Company, and Jean Chambers (at right) began working there on April 30<sup>th</sup> in 1962. Each of them received a proclamation and a Key to the Village in recognition of their accomplishments with Kellogg. Mrs. Lager and Mrs. Chambers should both be commended for their exemplary employment records, and Kellogg can be proud of being the kind of company that has earned this kind of loyalty from their employees.



**HAVE YOUR TRASH READY TO GO**

It seems that number of residents calling in to complain that their trash was not picked up has increased. While most of the fault for this probably lies with the Rumpke employees, we want to do all we can to eliminate any reasons for service not being provided. One of the complaints we hear from the drivers is that trash cans are not always out and/or stickered when they arrive. They often encounter residents pulling cans out of the garage and/or running out to put stickers on as the truck is moving down the street. Because they run their routes differently from week to week, it is impossible to know exactly what time they will arrive at any particular house.

Therefore, **everyone must have their trash ready for pick up by 7 AM** on their scheduled collection day. Some residents say they do not like putting their trash out early for fear raccoons will get into it. Here are some easy steps to take to keep raccoons out of your trash:

1. Make sure your trash can has a tight-fitting lid. (The Village has an ordinance requiring tight-fitting lids.)
2. Use a bungee cord to secure the lid to the can. Hook one end of the cord to the handle on the can, run it through the handle on the lid and secure on the opposite side.
3. Place a heavy object, such as a cinder block or a brick, on top of the garbage can - the heavier the better.
4. Wrap particularly stinky garbage in double plastic bags before placing it in the garbage.
5. Place mothballs around the garbage area. Putting ammonia around the cans can also help.
6. Dust the trash can lids with baby powder. Raccoons don't like the feel of dust on their paws.



**REINING CATS & DOGS**



It seems that with each bulletin, I am asked by citizens to do whatever I can to get pet owners to "rein in" animals. From reports of cats running all over the neighborhood to dog feces not being cleaned up, I am surprised at the number of complaints the office consistently receives. Some residents have even taken to putting signs up in their yards. I am sure everyone wants to be thought of as a good neighbor. I am a dog-lover and owner myself, who walks his dogs every day. I would not want to disrespect my neighbors by allowing my dogs to go on my neighbors' property. It's just not the 'good neighbor' thing to do. Dog urine will cause grass to die and turn brown, especially in the summer heat. Please take care of your pets and help us to bring an end to these complaints.

**STUDY NEEDED FROM ODOT FOR ROUNDABOUT**

In response to developer Rick Greiwe's request to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Plainville Road, Madisonville Road and Murray Avenue, I have written what will be the first of many letters to ODOT asking them for a study to address the multiple concerns the Village has regarding this proposal. The letter was written at the request of the Planning Commission. A copy of that letter is attached to this bulletin.

Sincerely,

*Dan Policastro*  
Dan Policastro, Mayor