

Mariemont TOWN CRIER

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Look Out for Fairies!

By JOAN WELSH

With springtime come thoughts of the outdoors. Many of you are preparing your garden beds and sprucing up your yards. Mariemont resident and District 6 Village Council representative, Mary Ann Schwartz has already begun plans for her annual Fairy Gardens. For those of you new to the concept, fairy gardens are enjoying an astonishing surge in popularity, with all ages involved in creating enchanting miniature landscapes, complete with pint-sized accessories, diminutive plants, and quaint fairy figures. These gardens are a new take on an old favorite, the terrarium: tiny worlds complete with miniature furnishings, fairy-scale plants and plenty of mystique. Small plants including mosses, ferns and succulents are part of the design.

Mary Ann became interested in fairy gardens a few years ago after a friend introduced her to the idea of miniature gardens. After seeing an exhibit at the Krohn Conservatory displaying gorgeous fairy gardens, Mary Ann was determined to try her hand at it. Apparently the trend for these tiny gardens is very popular in New England and now they are popping up in the Midwest.

Mary Ann is most interested in gardens and houses that use natural materials. For her houses she likes to purchase a base and then embellish it with birch bark for the roof, tiny acorn caps for the sides, and small stones for detail. Moss and leaves provide additional accents. These natural materials are glued on to the house and, surprisingly, stay in good shape throughout the warmer months and weather. Mary Ann brings her houses inside during the winter and freshens them up each spring. She keeps a larger house set up in her dining room which she



Council rep Mary Ann Schwartz creates fanciful fairy landscapes.

decorates for Christmas and other holidays. A creative idea is to use one of these larger houses at weddings. A slot can be carved into the roof where guests can slip in their cards during the reception. The bride and groom then have a lasting memory from their wedding to use in their garden.

Three years ago Mary Ann bought her first fairy garden from Pipkin's Fruit and Vegetable Market on Cooper Road. They assisted her with the container, appropriate miniature plants, pebbles and darling accessories. Mariemont resident, Kim Pipkin, is the curator for all of their Market's outdoor art. Kim reports the fairy garden accessories have always been a trend but now are a booming market. She states, "Customers love to build a miniature home where the fairies may come. It's all about creating a magical world." Every year there are new items and creative ideas to

add to existing gardens. The market sells tiny fairy babies and children to place in the gardens along with miniature animals, bridges, benches, ladders, and stones. Kim also reports she's observed mothers who reward their children with the privilege of picking out "one more" figure to add to the family's existing fairy garden. Pipkin's will be offering a class on creating fairy gardens this spring. For more information see their website at www.pipkinsmarket.com or visit their store. There are always fairy garden experts on hand. A search on the internet will also unearth a multitude of sites with information and creative ideas for those seeking to create their own fairy gardens.

Our Mariemont Public Library has a fairy garden. You can view this garden through the alcove window where Reserve

(cont'd on page 5)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An Example – How Local Government Can Cut Expenses

We read Dick Wendel's letter in the *Town Crier* relative to combining our police force with Fairfax. We whole-heartedly endorse this idea. We are new to Mariemont and intentionally picked this Village. We love the history, the architecture, the real sense of community and the fact that people live here for years, leave and come back. Our initial impression is that the government here, unlike most governments, is run quietly & efficiently. Volunteers from the Village doing traditional government work to improve their community are quite impressive and unusual. However there is always room for improvement.

As an example, we moved from Springboro Ohio, just south of Dayton, where several governmental efficiencies were put in

place. As a result, property tax was **reduced by 15% for 5 years** and the EMS/fire department was **stopped from increasing their property tax portion by 94%.**

The fire department wanted this increase primarily to continue to pay the salaries & added facilities of the large number of new employees who were hired with temporary "stimulus" money, during a period when the number of EMS/fire runs was decreasing. Efficiency measurements were lower than nearby areas. The effectiveness of governmental services actually improved while giving financially impacted taxpayers a break.

Dean & Betty Clingerman
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Editor's Note:

We apologize that your April issue of the *Town Crier* may have been delivered later than usual. The delivery date fell on Easter weekend and many of our young carriers were out of town.

We appreciate your patience!

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(Siblings listed together share routes;
siblings listed separately have
their own routes)

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The deadline for the
next *Town Crier* is
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The Town Crier is published monthly from September through May as "The Voice Of The Village Of Mariemont." **The Mariemont Town Crier, LLC** is published as a service to the residents and organizations of the Village of Mariemont. Articles (typed and double-spaced) and photographs are welcomed. They may be dropped off or emailed by 5 pm on the article due date. Signed Letters to the Editor are accepted as space allows. The Town Crier reserves the right to edit letters for length. Letters to the Editor reflect the opinions of the authors and do not represent the views of **The Town Crier** staff. Photographs will not be returned unless indicated. Due to limited space, the editorial staff reserves the right to select and edit articles for both content and space. As a public service to the non-profit organizations of Mariemont, **The Town Crier** does accept inserts for a fee. The editorial staff reserves the right to select and edit inserts. Inserts and ads of a political nature are not accepted.

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VILLAGE

books that are held for patrons are kept. Children can also view this garden through the window in the Children's section. Librarian Cathy Plichta reports that the garden "was a big hit with our patrons last summer, and we look forward to the fairies return April 1 (They flew south for the winter!)" She recommends two books which are filled with whimsical ideas and practical tips for new fairy gardeners. *Fairy Gardening 101: How to Design, Plant, Grow and Create Over 25 Miniature Gardens* by Fiona McDonald; and *Fairy Gardening: Creating Your Own Magical Miniature Garden* by Julie Bawden-Davis and Beverly Turner. Both titles are available at our library.

When Mary Ann Schwartz retires she plans to dedicate more time to her gardens. In the meantime, she enjoys sharing and creating her gardens with her grandchildren. She's not alone. It seems the most fun of fairy gardens is the joy of sharing and creating them with a child. Mary Ann currently has seven fairy gardens with hopes to develop more. One of her favorite

benefits of fairy gardening is the community involvement she has enjoyed. Neighbors will stop by to look at her gardens. Anonymous visitors will leave the fairies notes of appreciation. Perhaps a new stone or a sweet addition to her gardens will appear. Visitors are welcome to walk throughout her front yard. Mary Ann encourages all Mariemont residents to stop by and enjoy the magic of her gardens any time after May at 6615 Chestnut Street. Who knows? You may be inspired to start your own fairy garden!



The fairy houses at the library.



Fairy houses are a fun project for all ages.



A fairy garden in your yard might entice fairies to visit!

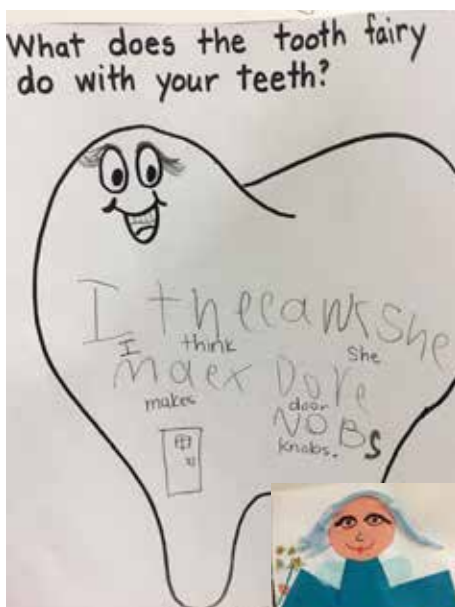
Creative Showcase

By Karen Kennedy

Here is a thought-provoking question that a creative kindergarten teacher asked her class

to ponder! Mrs. Trisch Short, of Mariemont Elementary School asked her students..."What does the 'tooth fairy' do with all those teeth that she collects?" It was fun reading all the

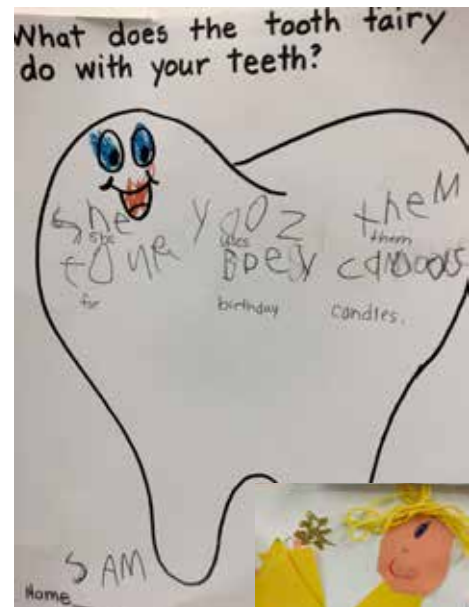
ideas...things not many of us ever thought about! Here are three unique responses to the prompt from Sam Zuckerberg, Maddie Lundeberg and Gwyneth Page.



Fairy and tooth by Gwyneth Paige



Fairy and tooth by Maddie Lundeberg



Fairy and tooth by Sam Zuckerberg

The Tradition Continues for the Mariemont 5K

We're pleased to announce the date of this year's Mariemont Memorial Day Weekend 5K Run/Walk! The event will be held on Sunday, May 24 at 9 am. The USATF certified course begins and ends at Kusel Stadium on the Mariemont High School track and follows a scenic loop through the Village. All ages and abilities are encouraged to participate, from casual walkers to those seeking a new Personal Record. We're also looking for a few volunteers to direct runners along the course – must be at least 15 years old, and it's a great way to earn community service hours! To register online or download a form to mail, go to sprunning.com. For volunteer or sponsorship opportunities please contact co-chairs Laura Karnes (lkarnes@me.com) or Linda Bartlett (bartlettfive@gmail.com).

Please visit and thank our wonderful sponsors:
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Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Go out to the family of Mark Lippert, United States Ambassador to South Korea, who was viciously attacked and seriously injured last month in Seoul, Korea. Mark, his sisters Ann, Amy, and Susan, and Mom and Dad (Susan and Jim) lived in the Village throughout Mark's youth including his time in college. The family lived originally on Murray Avenue (at the intersection of Rowan Hill Drive) and subsequently on Hammerstone Way. Mark attended Mariemont Schools graduating from Mariemont High School, where he played football and baseball, in 1991.

Jim and Susan Lippert have been long-time supporters of Mariemont youth sports programs and strong role models for many youth in Mariemont. They currently reside in Anderson Township. The *Town Crier* staff extends our wishes to Mark Lippert for a speedy recovery. To his parents and sisters, we remember you fondly. Know that your friends in Mariemont share in your pain at this tragic event.



Runners move toward the finish line of the Mariemont Memorial Day Weekend 5K Run/Walk.

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Mariemont/Great Oaks DECA chapter Shines at State Competition

Mariemont High School students from the Great Oaks/Mariemont High School Satellite DECA chapter competed at the Ohio DECA Career Development Conference. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Many of the Mariemont High School students placed in the top in the state.

Mike Barrett and Will Hobart were named State Champions; Nick Payiatis received 2nd place recognition; Sarah Morgan and Owen Dingle received 3rd place recognition; Morgan Rowe, Sarah Bell and Maeve Harrington received 4th place recognition; and Madeleine Hoffer, Jonathan Hanley, Audrey York, Madeleine Falknor, Mackenzie McNeil and Drew Fiorenza were named as finalists.

Jonathan Hanley and Audrey York were recognized with State Emerging Leader Awards.

DECA is a non-profit student



Members of the Mariemont High School DECA chapter display the hardware won at the state competition.

organization with members in all 50 states of the United States, the District of Columbia, Canada, China, Germany, Guam, Hong Kong, Korea, Mexico and Puerto Rico. The United States Congress, the United States Department of Education and state and international departments of education

authorize DECA's programs. The High School Division includes 190,000 members in 3,500 schools, and the Great Oaks/Mariemont High School Satellite DECA chapter advisor is Debra Baas.

Congratulations to our DECA Warriors!

Mariemont House Tour 2015 Gears Up

Set aside some time on Sunday, June 7 to enjoy a walking tour of Mariemont's beautiful homes while supporting Cincinnati Children's Medical Center Heart Institute/Kindervelt Neurodevelopmental and Educational Clinic.

All the homes will be revealed in the May Town Crier, but here are some hints to

get you interested:

House #3...."Our house sits on three streets with only two street signs. We have a view of the Mt. Washington water tower. While standing in our front yard, one can not see the next door neighbors' homes on either side."

House #4...."We share a roof with many. We share the same architectural features



as much of the Village built 90 years ago but still might be considered the 'new kid on the block'. We have three front doors!"

House #5...."We may still have some decorations up from the graduation party we are throwing the night before the House

Tour. We enjoy a park view. Our new four-bedroom house reflects the charm and ambiance of the 1940's, the decade in which it was built."

June 7 will be a fun day to explore five very interesting homes in Mariemont!

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SCHOOLS

Foundation Focuses on Improving Educational Experience

The Mariemont School Foundation (MSF) recently launched a fundraising campaign to support innovative learning at Mariemont Junior High School. By providing an educational furniture system that is beneficial for collaboration, group discussions and other project-based work, the Mariemont School Foundation (MSF) is hoping to better prepare district students for the future.

"Most classrooms have had the same furniture and configuration for decades. Today, we have a beautiful and inventive alternative to support the learning tools and styles that are now needed to successfully prepare our students for college and careers," said Jon Dill, president of the Mariemont School Foundation.



"ignition initiatives" this year — a push to think differently and develop unique experiences for students," said Steven Estepp, superintendent of Mariemont City Schools. "As part of this initiative, our junior high principal is infusing project-based learning into the educational experience. Project-based learning is about putting students in real-life situations and working with experts to create authentic products, bringing the real world into the students' learning."

is an adaptable furniture system that facilitates the use of multiple teaching and learning practices, creating an optimal and personalized experience for both educator and students. This educational furniture system includes tables with locking wheels, wheeled chairs with attached, movable desks and modular whiteboards. The furniture system supports traditional classroom seating arrangements and easily reconfigures to small groups to support project-based work.

"Giving students and teachers an innovative, flexible learning space provides

cont'd on next page



The Mariemont City School District already utilizes a few modern learning spaces, such as the Collaboration Café at Mariemont High School and the Libraries of the Future, which include an enhanced space at the junior high school for group projects with modern research technologies. This effort by MSF is directly in line with very successful initiatives that are already occurring throughout the district, and which MSF has helped fund in the past.

"In the spirit of our Destination 2026 work, principals were challenged to create

The Node Classroom, researched and identified by the Mariemont Junior High School history and language arts teachers,

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SCHOOLS



volumes of impact on learning. In the months spent developing this idea and sampling the design in our classrooms, I have been increasingly impressed and excited about how our students will benefit,” said Molly Connaughton, Mariemont Junior High School Principal. “From providing movement in learning, to more student-centered seating, to allowing the setup of the room to change in mere moments – this type of learning space

was designed with students in mind. Anyone who has spent any time with junior high students knows that sitting still in straight rows doesn’t match their developmental needs, nor does it match a collaborative, active classroom model. We are grateful to MSF and our community for bringing this opportunity to our students.”

MSF is asking the community to help support the cost of this investment in modular furniture and the future of learning at Mariemont Junior High. Donations of any amount are welcome to support this exciting project. Contributions at the following levels will be recognized on a plaque to be placed in the Mariemont Junior High:

Donations to support this important initiative can be sent to The Mariemont School Foundation, Attention: Node Classroom, 2 Warrior Way, Cincinnati, OH 45227. You can also make your donation via the MSF website, www.mariemontschoolfoundation.org.

Classroom Innovator: \$1,000 and above

At the Rolling Table: \$500 – \$999

Sitting Pretty in a Node Chair: \$350 – \$499

Whiteboard Warrior: \$100 – \$349

Roll it in Place: \$50 – \$99

org. For more information about the project or questions about how you can give, please contact Julie Nerl with MSF at info@mariemontschoolfoundation.org.

“Mariemont City School District teachers and staff work hard every day to bring excellence in education to all students, and from time to time, we have the opportunity to support them in a unique way,” said Jon Dill. “We are seeking the community’s support to directly and positively impact the educational experience of our district students for years to come.”

Photos courtesy of Steelcase Inc.

Nominations Due for MHS Alumni Award

The Mariemont School Foundation and the Mariemont High School Alumni Association are seeking nominations for its Distinguished Alumni Award. A nomination form and guidelines are available on the School Foundation website, www.mariemontschoolfoundation.org or by contacting Julie Nerl of the Mariemont School Foundation at info@mariemontschoolfoundation.org or (513) 272-7509. Nominations are due May 31, 2015.

The Distinguished Alumni Award will recognize Mariemont High School graduates of at least 10 years who have notably distinguished themselves by their significant contributions in their life or in their work. Full qualification criteria can be found on the Mariemont School Foundation website.

Nominations will be considered by a committee comprised of Mariemont School Foundation trustees and Mariemont High School Alumni Association members. The number of recipients each year is at the discretion of the committee. Nominations

will remain on file five years.

This year’s Distinguished Alumni recipient(s) will join the ranks of two previous rounds of recipients of the Mariemont Distinguished Alumni award, whose backgrounds can be found on the

Mariemont School Foundation website.

Distinguished Alumni Award recipients will be recognized during Mariemont’s Homecoming Weekend in the Fall of 2015. A permanent, dedicated space at Mariemont High School also honors recipients.



Jeffrey R. Anderson

Harry N. Walters

Pamela J. Coburn

**Mariemont High School
2014 Distinguished Alumni**

VILLAGE Let's Take a Walk

BY DELTA CRABTREE

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time. Had Steven Wright visited Mariemont he might have said instead "Walk everywhere in Mariemont – you have the time!"



Now that the snow and ice that plagued us the first months of the year have been replaced by budding trees and chirping birds, it is time once again to enjoy what Mariemont has in abundance. Wonderful places to walk, run, or bike to!

How fortunate are we to live in a neighborhood where walking is not only done for recreation and/or cardiovascular health but also to get to desirable destinations. We can walk to restaurants, shopping, and our very own movie theater. Venture outside the village a quarter of a mile in either direction and now you have nail salons, banks, a hardware store, more restaurants and if you don't mind the uphill trip home – both Kroger and Walgreens!

Special mention must be given to my favorites - Starbucks and Graeter's. Both provide the pick-me-up you may need if you walked too far or too long. Iced coffee or coffee ice cream anyone?

Now on to the New Neighbor News! The conventional wisdom that spring is a particularly busy time for real estate transactions certainly has been proven true in our community. In the last two months I have sent out twenty-four letters to new Village residents. My letter requests information of our new neighbors to feature in this article. So far, the return response has not been very good. This may be attributed to general life busyness or perhaps being new to Mariemont they simply are not sure by whom they are being asked personal questions and to what end!

If you are an established resident, please meet and encourage your new neighbors to contact me any time to have their moment in our friendly neighborhood spotlight.

Here are some of the streets that I know have new neighbors. Indianview, Cambridge, Pocahontas, Nolen Circle, Grove, Spring

New Neighbor News

Hill, Homewood, East Center, Petoskey, Elm, Grace, Hammerstone Way, Oak and several in the West Street condos.

I can't offer a prize for participation, but I may be able to convince the editor to feature a good kid and/or pet picture. Who doesn't like to see their picture in the paper?

As always, I can be reached via email at dcrabtree@comey.com or my cell 513-304-4719. I work at the Mariemont Comey & Shepherd office, so if you are walking by feel free to stop in and say hello!

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VILLAGE

Tennis News

Perfect tennis weather is just around the corner, and the Mariemont Tennis Courts are the place to enjoy it! There's no better tennis value around, either. Whether you're a seasoned player or new to the game, our pro Dave Russell can help you improve your game. He has several clinics scheduled for men, women and kids, and would love to provide more according to members' interest level. Pick up an individual or group lesson – there are price breaks if you pre-pay five or ten weeks ahead. Contact Dave at 859-512-4041 or mmdrussell@hotmail.com.

If you're feeling competitive, the ladies' interclub team might interest you. We work on doubles strategies and drills with Dave in our Thursday practice and compete against other local clubs on Fridays from mid-June to mid-August. There are divisions for various skill levels, and with enough players, we can

easily work around your vacation schedule! Please email me at bartlettfive@gmail.com if you'd like to know more.

Remember, you must be a Mariemont resident to join the Mariemont Tennis Association and get full use of the courts (and member pricing on available programs). You can find more information, online membership, and downloadable forms on Mariemont.org, Mariemont.com, and our Facebook page (Mariemont Tennis Association).

SAVE THE DATE: The annual "Memorial Day Tennis Games" will be held at the courts following the Memorial Day Parade. We gather at 10:30 am to play in a round robin format. Players of all skill levels are welcome, and beverages and snacks will be provided. Dave will lead the fun-filled event,

Racquet Swingers Hot and Bothered – The season of the challenge is again with us. The lusty wallop of the challenger and the condescending pat of the defender resound throughout the land. Lady Luck smiles first on one then upon the other..."

*Mariemont Messenger,
June 19, 1931*

culminating in prizes awarded in several offbeat categories.

Annual Kiwanis Golf Scramble Set for May 9th

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont will hold its 15th annual golf scramble on Saturday, May 9 at Reeves Golf Course at

Lunken Airport.

Hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Mariemont, this annual event is the club's

spring fundraiser for local scholarships. Each year, Kiwanis Club of Mariemont raises nearly \$15,000 for students in Fairfax, Terrace Park and Mariemont.

Cost is \$70 per golfer and includes all fees, golf cart and lunch. Participants can form their own foursome or ask to be organized with others. Prizes will be awarded. Contact Ted Beach at 513-252-4258 to sign up or visit MariemontKiwanis.org for more information. Interested supporters can also become a hole sponsor. The deadline to register is May 2.

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont meets every Tuesday morning at 7:45 am in the Mariemont Elementary school cafeteria. A continental breakfast is served at 7:15 am. Meetings last less than one hour and feature a local speaker. We invite you to be our guest at an upcoming meeting.

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VILLAGE

MariElders News

Volunteer Drivers Needed

THE MARIELDERS needs your help. We have members who do not drive and need rides to their medical appointments. If you can spare 3 to 9 hours a month, we sure can use you! Please call Kathy for more information.

"Junque" Sale

The date has been set – Saturday, June 13. Get ready to shop! But first we need your unwanted items. Starting April 1 we will be accepting items for our sale. We take almost everything including the kitchen sink. The only items we do not accept are: clothing, shoes, belts and broken electronics. If you have small furniture you would like to donate please bring it to our Center starting June 1. Thank you to the community for your support each year!

Coffee Talk – Paris, France

Have you ever dreamed what Paris would be like in spring? Local Mariemont resident and half year Paris resident, Gene Johnston will be at the Center to tell you all about this romantic city. All are welcome to this one hour talk on Tuesday, April 14 from 10:00 am.

Italian Festival

On Friday, April 17 the Center will be hosting an Italian Festival fundraiser. This family fun event is getting more popular each year and now includes a complete Italian dinner, live music from the Pete Wagner Band, raffle baskets, and other great entertainment. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 12. You may pick up your tickets at the MARIELDERS, 6923 Madisonville Road, weekdays from 9-4:30. Call the Center for



more information at 271-5588.

Italian Festival and Dinner Hosted by MariElders

THE MARIELDERS, a non-profit senior center founded in 1977, is hosting an Italian Festival on Friday, April 17 from 5:30-9:30 pm. The event will be held at the Fairfax Recreation Center, 5903 Hawthorne Avenue, Fairfax, 45227.

This fun family event is getting more popular each year and now includes a complete Italian dinner, live music by the Pete Wagner Band, raffle baskets, and other great entertainment. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 12. You may pick up your tickets at the MARIELDERS, 6923 Madisonville Road, weekdays from 9-4:30. Tickets will also be

available at the door for \$12.

The dinner includes your choice of spaghetti or ravioli with meatballs, salad, Italian bread, dessert, coffee and tea. Beer, wine and soda will be available for purchase. New events this year include a game of Heads or Tails at 7 pm and both a child's ring toss and an adult ring toss. There will also be raffle baskets and split the pot.

All proceeds help THE MARIELDERS provide transportation and activities to adults age 55 and older residing in Mariemont, Fairfax, Madison Place, Plainville and Terrace Park. Bring your family and friends for an evening of dancing, food and games, while supporting a truly wonderful center for older adults, THE MARIELDERS (271-5588).

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V I L L A G E

What's Happening at the Mariemont Branch Library - April

All Ages

Opera at the Library! ROKCincy Opera presents *Hansel and Gretel*. Saturday, April 18, at 2 pm. All ages.

Children

Stuck on Reading Book Club: Each month the club features a children's book series. Read at least one book from the series, and then stop by the branch to complete an activity and earn a magnet. Collect three magnets to receive a free pizza coupon from Snappy Tomato Pizza.

Movers & Shakers: Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Bring the little ones for stories, songs and dance as they learn about the Library. Ages 1-4.

Library Babies: Wednesdays at 11:30 am. Lap songs and books for infants.

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. Join us for stories and crafts. Ages 3-5.

Crafty Kids: Thursday, April 23, at 4 pm. Ages 5-10.

Teens

Maker Monday: Create something new using gadgets, tools, art supplies — even food! Ages 10-16. Monday, April 20, at 4:30 pm.

Adults

Book Club: *The Husband's Secret* by Liane Moriarty will be discussed Thursday, April 30, at 6:45 pm. Copies are available at the branch.

Downloads Class: If you are struggling with downloading eBooks to your Kindle or other device, we offer an introductory class Mondays at 6:30 pm. Please call to register as this is an individual, one-on-one session.

Which Craft Needlecraft Club: Stop by with your current work in progress for pointers or just to have fun with co-enthusiasts. Knitting, crochet, needlework — whatever you like to do. Saturday, April 4, and Saturday, April 18, at 10:30 am.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8 pm.; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm.
Mariemont Branch Library, 3810 Pocahontas Avenue, 513-369-4467



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New Resident Finds Happy Trails

BY ELIZABETH MILLER WOOD

Moving to a new neighborhood comes with a whirlwind of emotions: enthusiasm, fear, excitement, stress. But at the top of that list, for me, is the anticipation of discovering all the local gems. The arts, the history, the shops, the restaurants, the parks. And in Mariemont, those gems are wonderfully endless.

When my husband and I moved here last September, we made it our mission to not just live in Mariemont, but to be part of Mariemont. See the sights. Taste the tastes. Be in the action. It wasn't enough to have a pretty little house on a pretty little street. We wanted to discover everything that made this

New Kid on the Block

community tick. And once we got used to some of the quirks (ahem, trash stickers), we jumped right into the adventures.

Via this column, which you'll hopefully see regularly in upcoming issues, I'll be sharing those adventures with you, my new and beloved neighbors, in hopes that you'll be inspired to seek a new Mariemont adventure for yourself—or re-visit one that's already a favorite.

First on the bucket list was the South 80 Trails, which, thankfully, we visited long before they became part of the South 80 "Lake." It was a balmy, 43-degree day in late December when we ventured out. The sky was gray and stormy, but the ground was dry—which was fortunate, because I'm a wimp about mud and this column might not have happened if it had just rained. We chose the red trail, the longest of the three routes at 1.25 miles. It ambled gracefully along the Little Miami River, canopied by svelte trees that stirred periodically with the scurry of little furry things. And surrounding us everywhere was solitude. Pure, beautiful solitude.

I'm no hiking connoisseur, so I don't



have much to use as comparison, but the South 80 Trails seemed exceptionally well maintained. Clear routes, debris-free paths, and even ample room in some parts to walk two-by-two, Noah's Ark-style, which is a nice alternative to staring at your hiking mate's heels. Plus, the red route provided just enough incline—and just enough challenge—to justify the scoop of Graeter's (or three) I was planning to enjoy later that night.

We came upon the camping and bonfire site, complete with a charming little enclave of tree stump seats. And just as we thought

our adventure was coming to an end—surprise! A bamboo forest! I have a million questions about how it got here and why it's stayed, but we'll save those answers for a future column. For now, I'm content to let it be a lovely mystery.

Our hike came to an end with the satisfaction of being one step closer to knowing our new community. And as soon as the flood waters recede, we'll eagerly be back. I hope to see you out there.

Have a suggestion for my next Mariemont adventure column? Drop me a line at elizabethmillerwood@gmail.com.

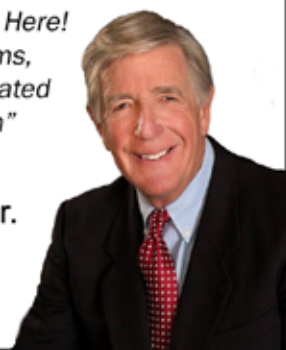
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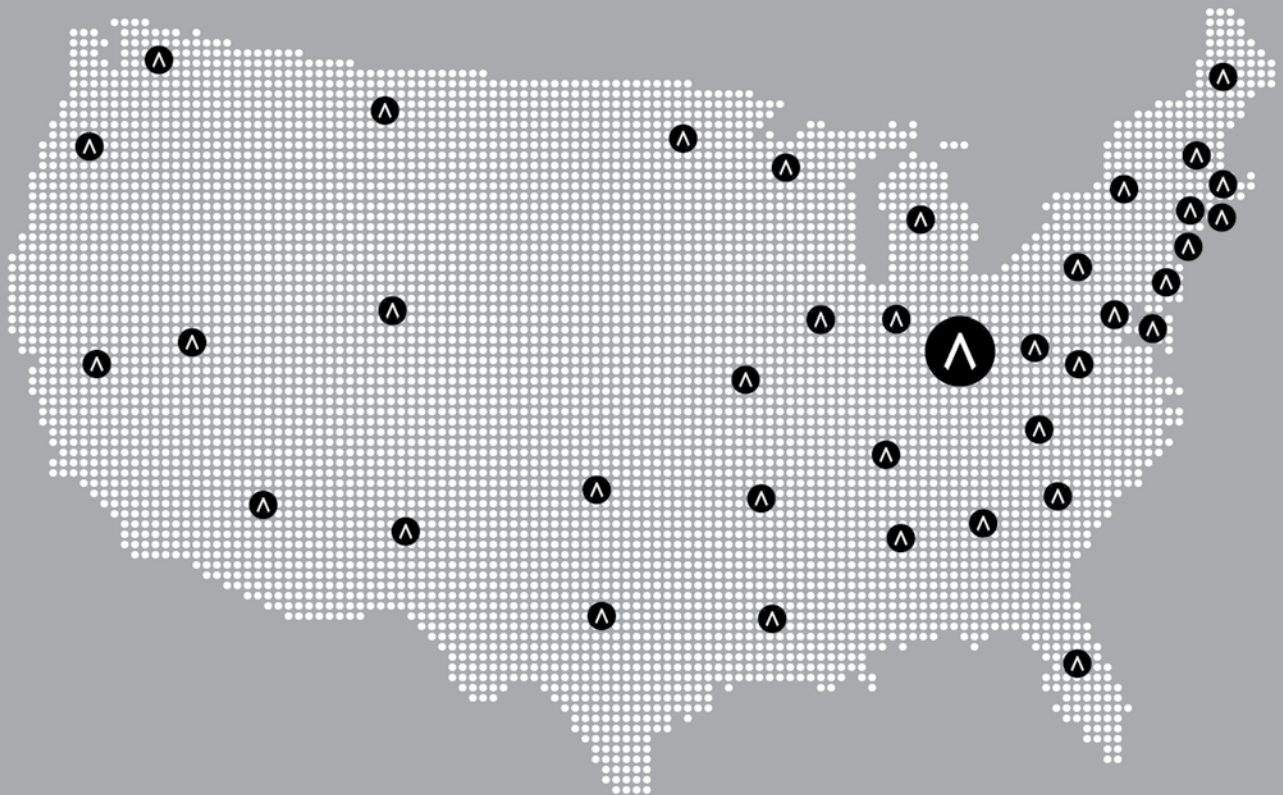
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VILLAGE Snow Fun!



Livingood Park Groundbreaking Ceremony Held

On March 19, Rick Greiwe and partners celebrated the groundbreaking for Livingood Park, the fourth and final Greiwe Development project in the Village of Mariemont. The event drew over 50 people, including Mayor Policastro and the grand-daughter of Charles Livingood, for whom the complex is named, along with craftsmen who will build the new landmark, members of Mariemont Preservation Foundation, and representatives from Greiwe Development, North American Properties and Sibcy Cline Realtors.

Livingood Park, an 18-unit, three-level residential building, is the final phase of development in Mariemont and should be completed in December 2016. Two units from the 18-unit development have already sold in advance of construction. The units are priced from \$675,000 to \$1.6 million. When Livingood Park is completed in December 2016, Greiwe's four luxury condominium developments will have brought a total of \$73 million in new real estate to Mariemont. The building will stand at the north entrance to the Village,

and has been designed with a three-story, rounded section with lots of glass, creating a "lantern" effect to welcome people to Mariemont.



A sketch of the new Livingood Park development.



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Mariemont Tax Office Ready to Help

All Mariemont residents over the age of 18 are required to complete and file a Mariemont tax return whether or not a tax is due (except those whose status has been changed to "Retired" by the Tax Office). All applicable documentation must be attached to be considered complete. This includes W-2s, front page of the Federal form 1040, Schedules C, E, F, 1099s and gambling income.

As a service to Mariemont residents, personnel in the tax office will complete your Mariemont return. There is no charge for this service but you will need to bring the above documents with you. Scheduling an

appointment would be appreciated.

The Tax Office recently converted to a new software program. We are currently checking every account to insure that the information converted properly. As soon as this process is complete, we will have a notice on our website helping you to file online. In the meantime, you may download a blank Mariemont return form from our website www.mariemont.org or you can have us complete a return for you.

If you have not filed a prior year tax return, it is imperative that you contact the tax office as soon as possible. We would like to help you bring your account up to date without the

additional expense of court costs being added to your outstanding balance. A payment plan can be arranged if needed. If you have a Federal extension, you need to send us a copy of that extension by April 15 to avoid a late penalty.

If you have any questions you may call the office at 271-1606 or stop in at 3814 West Street, Suite #315. Office hours are 8:30 – 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. There is also a mail slot in our door to drop off information and payments.

Submitted by Patricia Busam – Mariemont Tax Administrator

A Flag-Waving Salute to the Founding of Mariemont

The Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF) is offering official Village flags for sale to commemorate Founder's Day - April 23, 1923. Yes, it was 92 years ago that Mary Emery took silver shovel in hand to break ground for the new town of Mariemont. To commemorate that event, Mariemont created the flag shown here. MPF is asking residents and businesses to display the Mariemont flag in a spirited salute to our Founder's Day on April 23.

In 1965, Village resident Carolyn Schwenkmeyer designed the flag that flies today

at the Municipal Building and a few homes and businesses. Her design used the iconic Bell Tower in Dogwood Park as the main image, and was chosen as the winning image as part of a Kiwanis Labor Day Festival. Mrs. Schwenkmeyer was well known in the Village for her charming portraits of children, many of which are in living rooms throughout Mariemont.

If you don't own a flag, you can order one online from MPF or stop in and purchase one. The cost is \$39 per flag, plus tax (\$35 for MPF members). The flags measure 3'x5' and



are 100% nylon to withstand the elements. They feature brass grommets for hanging and are available in a limited quantity, so get yours soon! Just go to MPF's gift shop at www.mariemontpreservation.org, or stop in the MPF museum on a Saturday morning. MPF is located at 3919 Plainville Road, across from the tennis courts.



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Great Food for a Great Cause!

The National Exemplar Restaurant has a history of generosity which is illustrated by two recent events, the Cancer Support Community benefit on March 9 and the upcoming dinner to honor former employee Brandon C. Gromada.

Since 1994, The National Exemplar has donated more than \$56,800 to help fund Cancer Support Community's free programs of support, education and hope for those impacted by cancer. All who attended enjoyed delicious food, beverages and great friends. This year the proceeds exceeded \$4,300 to be donated. For more information about CSC's mission, visit cancersupport.org

The National Exemplar will again host Great Food for a Great Cause on Monday, May 4. This special fundraising dinner benefits The Brandon C. Gromada Head & Neck Cancer Foundation, which funds research for the development of treatments for head and neck cancers – most of which are some type of squamous cell carcinoma. Brandon, a lifelong Cincinnati, worked at The National Exemplar before being diagnosed with cancer in March 2010. Brandon died June 2, 2012.

"Brandon's life and fight continues to inspire us all," said Mike Pardo, chief operating officer at The Phoenix Restaurant Group, which operates The National Exemplar. "His foundation works tirelessly to end head and neck cancers, and we're proud to participate in Great Food for a Great Cause to help them reach this goal."

During the event, all net proceeds from dine-in and carry out orders from The National Exemplar's dinner menu will go to the Foundation. "The name of the event says it all," said Pardo. "Brandon was a great friend of The National Exemplar, and we're honored that Chef Chase Blowers' delightful cuisine will help raise money for a great cause."

"This is a great way to close out a month of events and activities tied to Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month in April," said

Karen Gromada, Brandon's mother and chair of the board of his foundation. "We're so grateful to The National Exemplar for their continued support of Brandon's memory, his family and the foundation through this annual fundraiser." "Brandon didn't lose to cancer – he never let it beat the authentic him," Gromada said. "This fun night, filled with good food and drinks, is exactly how he would've wanted to celebrate his foundation and raise funds to continue the foundation's work."

The National Exemplar will host the event from 5-9 pm on Monday, May 4 in the main dining room of The National Exemplar, 6880 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, Ohio 45227.

Reservations are encouraged, and carry out orders will count toward the fundraising event. Please call 513-271-2103 or visit www.nationalexemplar.com for



more information or to make a reservation. For more information about the Foundation, visit <http://www.gromadacancerfndn.org/>

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SCHOOLS

Hats Off!

Art students from Mariemont City Schools participated in the 25th "Festival in the Woods" art show in Blue Ash. Festival in the Woods is a "celebration of visual arts from our local student artists" in grades K through 12. Ten other school districts also participated in the show, including Indian Hill, Madeira, Sycamore and Summit Country Day. The open house was held on February 28 and included activities such as music, crafts, face painting and magic. The festival is free and open to the public, and it runs through March 14 at the Blue Ash Recreation Center. Congratulations to our student artists for their talented participation in this annual festival.

Congratulations to the nine Mariemont High School art students, whose photography was selected at the regional competition to be included in the Ohio Governor's Youth Art



Max Miller, 3rd grade at Mariemont Elementary.

Exhibition. Alex Vago, Alex Wilson, Collin Widecan, Carson Fields, Hannah Ripley, Amanda Lewis, Lena Murauskas, Connor Osgood and Samantha Telgkamp all had artwork selected for state judging later this month. Each year, approximately only 20% of the entries are selected to enter state judging. Congratulations to these fine photographers!

During the March board meeting, the Mariemont Board of Education recognized all of the high school swimmers that competed at the state swimming tournament, including Claire Gilmore, Katie Gaburo, Sadie Decamp, Makayla



Mariemont swimmers honored at Board of Education meeting.

Valentine, Rachel Munschauer, Nina Morgan, Leah Dupre, Brooke Woellert, Scott Overbey, Chris Spooner, Mac Lewis, Hayden Seeger and Collin Widecan.

"We had an outstanding swim season again, and we're so proud of these student athletes," said James Renner, principal at Mariemont High School, as he presented the students to the Mariemont Board of Education. "The high school has a long history of outstanding swimmers - state swimmers, all Americans and even an Olympian. And then you have a year like this team has had and we're all just so proud. It's such a joy to have so many accomplished swimmers."

For the first time in the history of Mariemont City School District girls' sports, the girls swim team was state runner up. The boys' team finished in an impressive 17th place.

"Each year our goal is to qualify all swims back to finals. This year we were close to perfection with 18 of 19 swims making it back for finals," said Kevin Maness, head coach. "Finals was so exciting with our Water Warriors battling hard in each of the relays and individuals moving up in places for some events, which led to our 173 points and bringing home the trophy the girls named BAE (Before Anyone Else)."

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Mariemont Elementary Brings the Carnival to Town

Thanks to the Mariemont Elementary PTO (MEPTO) the carnival came to town on February 28. Students and their families were invited to enjoy the festivities at the Elementary School, which included 4 huge inflatables, games, refreshments, and a Cake Walk.

The event was the MEPTO Annual Winter Carnival and was chaired this year by Jill Welch. "This year's carnival was a great success thanks to a dedicated committee, our parent, faculty, and other volunteers, as well as a supportive community. This is an event that requires the involvement of many but anyone who took part in the fun on February 28th will agree it is more than worth it! The MEPTO looks forward to building upon the success of this year's Carnival year after year," said Welch.

Games, which were set up all around the school, included Angry Birds, Pringle Ring Toss, Wimpy Kid vs. Warrior, 2-Liter Ring Toss, and the Super Hero Slide. Along with the games, the gymnasium was filled with a Photo Booth, an 18-foot inflatable slide, and 3 other bounce houses for the kids to enjoy. Students from Mariemont Junior High and High Schools, members of the staff of Mariemont Community Church

New Date for Presentation

The presentation by Mary Louise Holt announced in the last edition of the Town Crier has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 12 at 7 pm at The Barn on Cambridge Avenue. Ms. Holt will be joined by noted wildlife artist John Ruthven and Dr. Ken Tankersley, who has led recent excavations in Mariemont's South 80.

Ms. Holt will present her painting, which imagines a day in the life of the Native Americans who lived in our area.



The Ellis brothers wait their turn at the Carnival photo booth.

and Champions, as well as members of the Mariemont Elementary parent community volunteered to work the game booths and helped to make the event a huge success.

The Cake Walk, facilitated by members of the Mariemont Elementary School faculty, has become a crowd favorite at the Carnival and this year was no exception. The Cake Walk was held in the auditorium and was one of the most visited activities at the event. The planning committee is

extremely grateful to all of the teachers who volunteered their time and goodies to the Cake Walk.

In addition to the support of the families and faculty, this year's committee was also fortunate enough to find a number of local businesses who were willing to support the event. From donations for the raffle baskets to game sponsorship, the committee was thrilled with the outpouring of support. A big thanks to the Mariemont Theatre, The Quarter Bistro, Graeter's, Web Extreme Entertainment, Mac's, Northland Ice, Madison Bowl, Lolli's, Pomegranate & Lime, The National Exemplar, the Dilly Café, Starbucks, Larosa's, Skyline Chili, Dunkin Donuts, Fifty West, Madtree Brewery, Flip Daddy's, Lobsta Bakes, El Trio, Mango Tree, Marco's Pizza, Magic Wok, Out-a-Site Control, Time Timer, Eyecare on the Square, Image by Biro Photography, Eads Fence (Matt Welch), Comey & Shepard Realtors (Katie Kauffeld), Kellogg Company, Kroger, Play it Again Sports, and Coca Cola for their generous support of this year's carnival.



Village Residents Contribute to Cincinnati Flower Show Rebirth

The Dramatic Table Settings exhibit is always a big crowd pleaser at the Cincinnati Flower Show, and this year four dynamic ladies from Mariemont are designing a table titled "Fifty Years of Giving," representing one of their passions, the Art & Antiques Festival. A benefit for Convalescent Hospital, the Festival celebrates its 50th Anniversary in October, the inspiration for the table's theme.

Residents James and Jenny Ferguson, Peter White and Marie Huenefeld are assisting with the Show. Jennifer Moriarty, Terrace Park, is also on the Dramatic Table Settings team.

This year's event will take place April 15-19 at Yeatman's Cove. Historically popular events such as the Opening Night Gala, Ladies' Day, English Afternoon Tea and Spring Fling return. New additions include a Bourbon tasting and Backyard Grilling with

Rob Rainford.

You can also experience the Artists' Studio, "Ask the Experts", Creative Containers, Children's Pavilion & Potting Program, Dramatic Table Settings, three spectacular horticulture pavilions, Blooming Plant & Garden Marketplace, and Brimming Window Boxes. Special events include the Amateur Flower Show & Fine Food Show (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) and Proven Winners Day on Saturday.

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Advance adult general admission tickets, \$15, are available at area Kroger stores. Special Event and advance general admission tickets can also be purchased on line at cincyflowershow.com.

Community Gardens Update

By DOUG WELSH

Now that the floodwaters have receded, we are gearing up for another spectacular season of gardening. In 2014 we saw a record number of gardeners, the installation of a new hand pump—which brought easier access to water—the clean up of overgrown plots, and several harvest picnics where we all could sample the fruits of our labor, so to speak.

Starting in January, enough new inquiries about gardening plots began surfacing that we are expanding the garden area by another row, which will add 30 new 25 ft x 25 ft plots. About a fourth of these

new plots have already been reserved.

We realized last year that many new gardeners, eager to participate, did not have equipment to do the initial ground preparation. To assist, Mariemont Boy Scout Troop 149 graciously offered the use of their rototiller. After some welding repairs by local resident Dennis Wolter, the tiller will hopefully make

it through this season—helping first-time gardeners get off to a good start.

As we look forward to the new growing season, if you are out walking around the South 80, stroll through the garden area and witness the different styles of gardening, the diversity of vegetables being grown and feel the energy that comes from a community of gardeners.



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C'est Magnifique Party with Pissarro!

Food – Check; Wine – Check; Band – Check; Invitations – Check; Raffle Prizes – Check. The boxes are all checked, meaning it is time to “Party with Pissarro”, a fabulous soiree planned at The Barn. All that is left is for you to sign up and join in on the fun on Friday, April 24 beginning at 6:30 pm. Enjoy Provencal cuisine by La Petite Pierre, fine wines, and live music with the Faux Frenchmen. Up in the Loft, an apple tree will be filled with original paintings of apples available for purchase and a swing in the tree will send you soaring! Merci Beaucoup to our generous sponsors Barbara and Bill Weyand, Diana and Tim Kilfoil, Jill and Larry McGruder, Nancy and Jonathan Reynolds, the Helms Foundation, Donna and Don Wymore and Karen and Bill Herkamp. Corporate sponsors include Cincinnati Asset Management, Inc., BadGirl Ventures, ArchitectsPlus, Porsche of the Village, the Mariemont Inn, and Creative Photo Booths. Hardworking co-chairs for this event are Jan Ring and Donna Wymore. Tickets for this evening are \$50 per person and registration is open at www.artatthebarn.org.



Two Grants Awarded to The Barn

We give our sincere thanks to ArtsWave for their award of \$3500 toward purchasing audience seating for the Loft project “Kids Aloft”. Currently, cultural performances take place in the Gallery, where the stage usually takes up 50% of the space and seats only 80 people. The Loft, the large and currently unused space on the second floor of the Barn, can accommodate up to 250 seated audience members. This will be the future site of performances by Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Madcap Puppets, Children’s

Theatre of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Opera and other outreach touring shows...thanks, ArtsWave, for providing comfortable seating for all!

MPF Continues support of “Mariemont Preservation Presents...”

Children and families of all communities will get to enjoy a third season of quality family time together at The Barn in 2015-2016, thanks to a \$1500 grant from the Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF). This grant will underwrite next year’s season of “Mariemont Preservation Presents...” a program of family-friendly cultural, performing arts events and hands-on craft activities held one Saturday morning a month at The Barn.

Cincinnati Opera, Cincinnati Ballet, Playhouse in the Park, and MadCap Puppets are just a few of the wonderful groups who have performed in the Mariemont Preservation Presents series. Musical and craft workshops have also been popular additions to the Saturday morning fun. Thanks to the MPF grant, the cost to attend each event has been kept to a very affordable amount and families have responded with enthusiasm.

This is the third year that the MPF has awarded a grant to The Barn to underwrite the program. As Dick Adams, Board Member of MPF and head of the Grant Committee said, “The Grant Committee as well as the entire MPF Board of Trustees believes this family-focused program at The Barn represents the best of what Mariemont is all about. Mariemont Preservation Foundation is pleased to award this Grant as a footprint to the preservation of the future of The Village of Mariemont.” Thanks MPF, we appreciate all you do for the Village!

In the Gallery...

The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati will hold its 122nd Annual Juried Art Exhibition and Sale from Wednesday, April 8 through Sunday, April 26. Yes, 122nd Annual Exhibition — the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati was founded in 1892 and is the oldest existing Woman's Art Club operating



without interruption in the United States.

The opening reception is Friday evening, April 10th from 6 – 9 pm. Awards will be presented at 8 pm and the public is invited to attend. (Awards total more than \$3,500.)

This competition is traditionally open to women artists 18 years and older from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. This year more than 75 artists submitted entries.

The exhibition, selected and judged by Joseph Lombardo who is an artist and adjunct professor at the Columbus College of Art and Design, promises to showcase and offer for sale exceptional works by regional female artists.

Come to the opening reception Friday, April 10th from 6 – 9 pm or visit the exhibition and sale during gallery hours: Wednesday – Sunday, April 8 – 26, 1 – 4 pm. Free admission



New Classes Starting in April....

Costumed Portrait Painting and Drawing with Deborah Ridgley - Wednesdays, 12:30 -3:00 pm. Registration for two –four week sessions. Session 1- April 1,8,15, 22; Session

(cont'd on next page)

W O M A N ' S A R T C L U B C U L T U R A L C E N T E R

2 – April 29, May 6, 13, 20. Fee: \$120 for the 4-week session plus a \$30 modeling fee. All levels welcome. Limited enrollment to 10 students. Contact Deborah to register at 513-259-9302 or DGRstudios@aol.com or <http://deborahridgley.com> for more info.



Weekend Weaving Workshops with Susan Austin – Come and learn about weaving during this fun two-day workshop, Friday, April 10 from 9 -noon and Sunday, April 12 from 1-4 pm OR April 18 & 19 from 1-4 pm. Contact Susan at fabulousfibers2015@gmail.com or more information and to register.



New! Yoga for Teen Girls with Karen Johns - Mondays from 4 pm to 5:00 pm. Contact Karen at www.karenjohnsyoga.com for more info.

Montage with Amy Burton – Tuesdays from 7-9:30 pm, April 7-21. Fee: \$80. See contact info for Amy below and learn how to make a montage using at least 25 glossy photographs cut and pieced together into a fine work of art.

One-day Monoprinting Workshop with Amy Burton – Monday, April 13 from 1-4:30 pm. Class fee is \$65. Using printmaking ink and a small etching press, you will create an exciting print from your own photograph. Register for the class or workshop by emailing Amy at aburtonstudio@yahoo.com or call 513-561-6949.

Learn to Sew with Carole Price - Would you like your child to learn to sew? Perhaps you have a budding designer who is ready to tackle the next step in putting together a garment? Or simply know how to hem a skirt? Carole Price is your answer. She is offering sewing lessons various days and times through the week. Please contact her at carole.price66@gmail.com.

Time for Summer Camp!!

Registration is Open. Join us this year for summer camp! We've got something for everyone, for kids entering grades 1 to 12 this fall! Prices range from \$30-\$60 per class per week. Registration has begun and can be done online at www.artatthebarn.org. These camps are fun and affordable. But, they fill up quickly, so don't delay and sign up now!

Mariemont Preservation Presents...

There are two Saturday morning family-friendly activities left this year: April 18 – “Bird Brain”, a performance by Playhouse in the Park Off the Hill group and May 2 – “Bi-Okoto African Drumming Workshop”. Cost is \$5 per person.

For more information and to register, please visit the website at www.artatthebarn.org, and follow the link to The Barn Events.

Bird Brain, by Verne Thiessen, is the story of a kindhearted woodcutter who comes across a nest of freezing baby birds and gives them a warm home under his hat. The problem is he lives in a world where tipping your hat to others is not only a courtesy, but also the law, with severe punishments for disobeying. The woodcutter finds himself torn between doing what he feels is right and following the social norms. Will he follow the rules, or follow his heart? This charming fable about choosing to be different is full of laughs and the lesson that strange behavior isn't always foolish.

Recommended for ages 5 and up.

Bi-Okoto African Drumming – Bi-Okoto is an internationally acclaimed African traditional dance company and cultural organization. Following a performance, a member of Bi-Okoto will teach everyone a song, dance, various greetings, and some basic West African music rhythms that they will be able to perform. For preschoolers - adults.



FAB Collective Forms at The Barn

Do you knit, crochet, sew, quilt, weave, do mixed media kumihimo, create with paper or make 3D mixed media fiber pieces? Do you paint on fabric? Do you hand dye your own supplies? What is your passion? This new and exciting group may be for you!

“FAB Collective” will meet for the first time with the intent of forming a monthly meeting group. The group members will share projects, successes and failures, upcoming shows and fiber arts classes hosted at The Barn We are hoping to not only attract people that have a passion for their particular genre of the fiber arts, but also those who want to learn a new skill.

We are meeting on April 15 from 7-9:30 pm at the Barn. Please come with your enthusiasm and a project to share! Bring ideas on how to make this group the most fun, social Fiber Arts Group in the greater Cincinnati area! Need more information or unable to come Please contact Susan Austin at fabulousfibers2015@gmail.com.

Welcome New Trustee, Doug Welsh

The Board of Trustees of the Barn is very pleased to announce that Doug Welsh has accepted our invitation to join the Board. Doug is a long-time Mariemont resident and has supported the Barn for many years. He is President of Strategic Sales Planning and provides strategic sales planning and process development to companies, divisions and groups. At the Barn, Doug will be instrumental in developing and implementing a revised strategic plan, necessitated by the continued growth and success of the Barn as a vibrant community arts center.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Council Meeting FEBRUARY 23, 2015

Mayor Policastro said he is sad to announce that this will be Mr. Tinkham's last meeting, since he has resigned from Council. He read and presented Mr. Tinkham with a Proclamation and declared Tuesday February 24, 2015 as "Jim Tinkham Day" in the Village of Mariemont.

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to pay the bills as approved by the Mayor, Fiscal Officer and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Mr. Marsland asked if the log splitter purchased for the South 80 will make firewood available for residents. Mayor Policastro said there are several areas in the Village that the South 80 group wants to clear out. To those that help there would be free firewood. It was discussed that the firewood could be sold fairly inexpensive. Mr. Wolter said there were so many Ash Trees to get rid of and to let them go to waste would be a sin. The group had been renting a log splitter for \$75-80 per day so he sees this as a good investment. They also plan on taking some of the wood to the elderly residents. Ms. Palazzolo asked if moving the Ash Tree wood was okay. Mr. Wolter said it is okay as long as it stays within the county. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro said Superintendent Scherpenberg had discussed the possible purchase of an Asphalt Hot Box with the Villages of Fairfax and Newtown. At the Permanent Improvement Budget meeting Council appropriated approximately \$20,000 for the purchase. Both Villages are not able to commit to the purchase at this time. Superintendent Scherpenberg found a demo that can be purchased for \$11,925.00. It is 3-4 years old and in good shape. The present cold patch does not last very long. If we had something like this we could do more timely repairs. Mr. Wolter said the other communities that do not want to participate have indicated that they would rent the equipment from us which will reduce the bottom line – at least he believes the Village of Fairfax is willing to. Mayor Policastro said we have money set aside to buy this equipment and he trusts Superintendent Scherpenberg's judgment that it is in really good shape. Mr. Tinkham asked if there was adequate storage

Council Representative Information

District 1:	Dennis Wolter	dwolter@mariemont.org
District 2:	Joe Miller	jmiller@mariemont.org
District 3:	Eric Marsland	emarsland@mariemont.org
District 4:	Maggie Palazzolo	mpalazzolo@mariemont.org
District 5:	Mary Ann Schwartz	maschwartz@mariemont.org
District 6:	Jim Tinkham	jtinkham@mariemont.org
Mayor:	Dan Policastro	mayordan1@gmail.com

space. Mayor Policastro said yes there is. Mr. Miller said everyone knows we have high taxes but this is the type of thing that makes those taxes worthwhile. Mr. Wolter said this will help extend the life of our streets. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to approve the purchase of the Asphalt Hot Box. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter, to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee to purchase new playground equipment for Ann Buntin Becker Park. The committee recommends the purchase of the Walnut Ridge Commercial Playground Structure in primary colors for a cost of \$20,453. The Committee further recommends the purchase of the Cyclone Challenger climber for a cost of \$2,010, which includes the structure and the shipping. The total cost for both playground structures is \$22,463.00. Part of that cost will be offset by the \$1,500 grant we received making the cost \$21,263. Installation of the climber will be done by our Service Department. The Service Department will always prepare the ground around and under the equipment with wood chips, as is required for safety. The Committee also recommends removing the existing skateboard ramp and offering it for sale on E-bay. In response to a request from the Waldorf School, the Committee recommended allowing them to put in a sandbox made from natural wood stumps anchored into the ground and filled with fine play sand. They have also been granted permission to put in a garden measuring approximately 40'x100'. Mr. Tinkham clarified that the skateboard ramp was coming out along with the teeter totter while the swing and slide were staying. Mr. Wolter said this gives us a park for older children than those that go to the Tot Lot. Mayor Policastro said the north side of the Village needs a good park. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee to consider a request for a No Parking zone on West Street. After consideration, the Committee decided to recommend that there be No Parking on the north side of West Street from Madisonville Road to Thorndike and No Parking on the south side of West Street within 15' of either side of the fire hydrant. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mayor Policastro read the following miscellaneous announcements: Outstanding Citizen Nominations are due to Mrs. Van Pelt by Thursday March 19, 2015. Village Offices will be closed Friday April 3, 2015 in observation of Good Friday.

MARCH 9, 2015

From Service Superintendent Scherpenberg: February 2015 Monthly Report. Mr. Miller asked how the new equipment is working. Superintendent Scherpenberg said it is working well. He got several compliments from the Spring Hill area saying how well the hill stayed cleared off. He thanked the Fire Department for their help keeping the sidewalks and parking lots cleared during the last snow storm. Mr. Wolter said the Maintenance Department and Fire Department did a great job clearing the Village.

From Clem Luken: E-mail Dated March 1, 2015 re: Town Meeting Caucus – Mr. Lorne Hlad. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Hlad was nominated to be the Council Member to represent District 6 to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Tinkham. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of Town Meeting to have Mr. Hlad become a member of Council. On roll

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

call; five ayes, no nays.

Engineer Ertel said at the next meeting Council will need to pass an emergency ordinance for the Safe Routes to School Project. We were awarded funding in 2012 and it will finally go to bid in April. It is 100% paid by ODOT as long as it comes in under the engineer's estimate as expected. There is \$230,000 in the grant and the engineer's estimate is \$187,000. This will be the Hawk Signal which will be on Plainville Road in front of the Elementary School. It will move the crossing guard to another location if need be. The project will also include a sidewalk on the south side of Wooster Pike between Park Lane/Harvard Acres to the corporation line. He has permission from the property owners to allow for the work to be done. The lines on Wooster Pike will be re-striped and bike signals will be installed in the pavement from the west corporation line to West Street. It will be a "share the road" with a wider lane indicating that cars stay to the left and bikes stay to the right. There will be more signage in the Village around the school with most already having been installed. We also received funding from OKI to install a rectangular rapid flashing beacon in the Homewood/Settle/Wooster Pike area to make motorists aware of a crossing area. It will provide a safety area in the middle should they not be able to make it all the way across Wooster Pike. ODOT will pay 80% of the project and the Village will pay 20% with the

work tentatively scheduled for 2016. Another project with 80/20 funding from OKI is the proposed bike trail along Murray from Settle Road to Plainville Road. Construction is not scheduled until 2017-2018. He is researching grants to help cover the Village's 20%.

Planning Comission Meeting FEBRUARY 26, 2015

The first request was from Julia Pentecost on behalf of Michael and Lindsey Iwanicki, 3845 Oak Street, Mariemont, OH 45227, for a Property Variance to permit extended off-street parking off of Lane F at the northeast corner. Mrs. Garber questioned why the decision was to go with gravel. Mr. Iwanicki said it was more of a design decision to make the area look more natural and blended in. They will not park cars there the whole time. The gravel will be packed and not loose. The project rationale is to get the cars off the street and to facilitate a safe passage through a narrow street for residents and potential emergency vehicles. It will also establish a safe area for them to put their children in/out of a car.

Mr. Vianello asked if this would be setting a precedent. Mayor Policastro said we have already set a precedent for this with a request on Chestnut. He would like to see more parking pads put in back yards so we can take the cars off of the street. He is constantly

fielding calls from people complaining that there is not enough parking available.

Mr. John Swisher, 6624 Wooster Pike, said he is concerned with setting a precedent in the area. At 6612 Wooster Pike there are several times when the driveway is empty but the homeowner is parking in one of the on-street spots. Residents in the area do not want parking in the green space. For the most part he favors the request but he is not sure he is a fan of the aggregate.

Mr. Vianello said Mr. Swisher's concerns echoes those who live on Homewood and Settle especially when children come home from college. He is in favor of letting the homeowner decide whether to put in aggregate or concrete. However, he would like to address that it is maintained and not out in the middle of the lane.

Mayor Policastro moved, seconded by Ms. Reed to allow the property variance. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Mr. Vianello moved, seconded by Mrs. Garber to nominate Mayor Policastro as Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2015, Ms. Reed as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission for 2015 and Mr. Vianello as Secretary for the Planning Commission for 2015. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Village Resident Earns Pilot Certificate

Congratulations to Mark Glassmeyer who earned his Private pilot certificate in January. In order to receive his Private certificate, Mark had to pass an oral and a flight exam with a Federal Aviation Administration-designated flight examiner. Mark, a resident of Mariemont, took his flight training at Sporty's Academy at the Clermont County Airport in Batavia. Mark and his family live on Indianview in the Village.

With his Private pilot certificate, Mark is able to carry passengers in favorable weather conditions. The aircraft that Mark used for his flight training can carry four people and cruises at nearly 140 miles per hour. Mark Glassmeyer has now joined the ranks of more than 600,000 U.S. licensed pilots who learned to fly for the challenge and adventure. Anyone interested in more information about learning to fly may visit www.sportysacademy.com.



Mark (pictured on the right) with instructor Dan Whitaker

Mariemont Town Meeting 2015

BY REX BEVIS

Sunday, March 1 was a dreary 32 degree day. A couple of inches of new snow had fallen, light rain, sleet, and fog dominated the weather scene. Perhaps the weather partially explains the small turnout for this year's Town Meeting, or the lack of contested elections for Mayor and Council. Approximately 60 – 70 people were present when the Mariemont Town Crier, Dr. Bob Keyes, called the 74th Annual Town Meeting to order. Following the posting of the colors by Boy Scout Troop #149 members and the Pledge of Allegiance, Mariemont Town Meeting Secretary Charles Short reviewed the minutes from last year's Town Meeting and reported that the Town Meeting Treasury had a balance of \$1,022.34.

Town Meeting Chairman Dave Gunn proposed a slate of candidates for the Town Meeting. The proposed slate, accepted by a voice vote of the attendees, include Clem Luken as Chairman; Sam Duran, Vice Chairman; Charles Short, Secretary; and John Morabito, Treasurer.

Kathy Chapman-Dick gave an update on the MariElders, highlighting an upcoming fundraiser for the group, the Italian Festival with the Pete Wagner Band, on April 17. Watch for information about this Event!

Mariemont School Superintendent Dr. Steven Estep provided an update on the Mariemont City Schools, encouraging attendees to review his State of the Schools Report from earlier this year available online (mariemontschools.org). Mr. Estep thanked the community for its support of the November, 2014 levy, noting that statewide only 12 of 34 new money levies were approved by voters. Mariemont Schools have been rated academically #1 in Greater Cincinnati by Cincinnati Magazine and in the Top 100 Nationally by Newsweek. Student achievements include 26.4 composite ACT scoring, 5 points higher than the national average. Mr. Estep also discussed in some detail the concerns that he has regarding the current State Budget Proposal

and school funding reductions.

Mayor Dan Policastro provided a State of the Village update. In his fifteenth year as Mayor, Mr. Policastro was quick to congratulate council for their hard work this past year, a year in which the General Fund has still been able to maintain a \$1M

balance. Mayor Policastro also saluted the tireless efforts of Village volunteers in maintaining the beauty and operating efficiency of Mariemont.

A notable highlight of the Mayor's address was that the upcoming Memorial

cont'd on next page



Village representatives address the assembled town meeting in the elementary auditorium.



Council member Joe Miller discusses village districts with resident Bob Keyes.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Day observation will include three new plaques on the War Memorial. Residents Jerry Vianello, Dr. Ed Berkich, and Lorne Hlad have donated plaques to recognize the sacrifices of military personnel in the following United States war efforts:

Global War on Terrorism
Afghanistan Operation
Iraqi Freedom

The Mayor noted that the Village has attained the position of top recycler among communities with less than 10,000 residents, and has earned \$18,590 in recycling incentives. Additionally, three out of the four new condominium projects have been completed and the fourth, Livingood Park, will begin construction this year. Livingood Park will contain 18 units, a few of which have been pre-sold. Other 2015 projects highlighted in the State of the Village report include:

Steam Plant removal and conversion to housing units (and deeding of the hillside to

the Village)

New Playground equipment at Ann Buntin Becker Parker

Completion of the South Pocahontas Avenue road / sidewalk project (mainly financed by State grants)

Beech Street apartments to be replaced by four new houses

New retail building behind the Dilly Café
Belmont Avenue resurfacing

The Mayor also complimented Village residents for their work in the South 80 Park and expressed optimism that the Eastern Corridor Transportation Project will not impact the Village.

Mr. Policastro announced that Jim Tinkham has moved out of the Village and therefore an opening exists on Council for his seat. The Mayor also announced that Dr. Eric Marsland has been elected Vice Mayor for 2015.

Mariemont Town Meeting Chairman Dave Gunn stated that Mayor Policastro had

expressed interest in continuing as Mayor; he opened the floor for additional nominations for Mayor. There were no nominees so Mr. Gunn closed the Town Meeting by directing attendees to the caucuses for District 1, District 5, and District 6. At the District caucuses, the following nominations were confirmed and will be placed on the November 2015 ballot as Town Meeting candidates.

District 1	Dennis Wolter
District 5	Mary Ann Schwartz
District 6	Lorne Hlad

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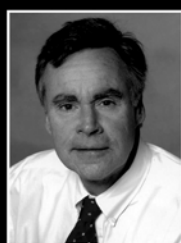
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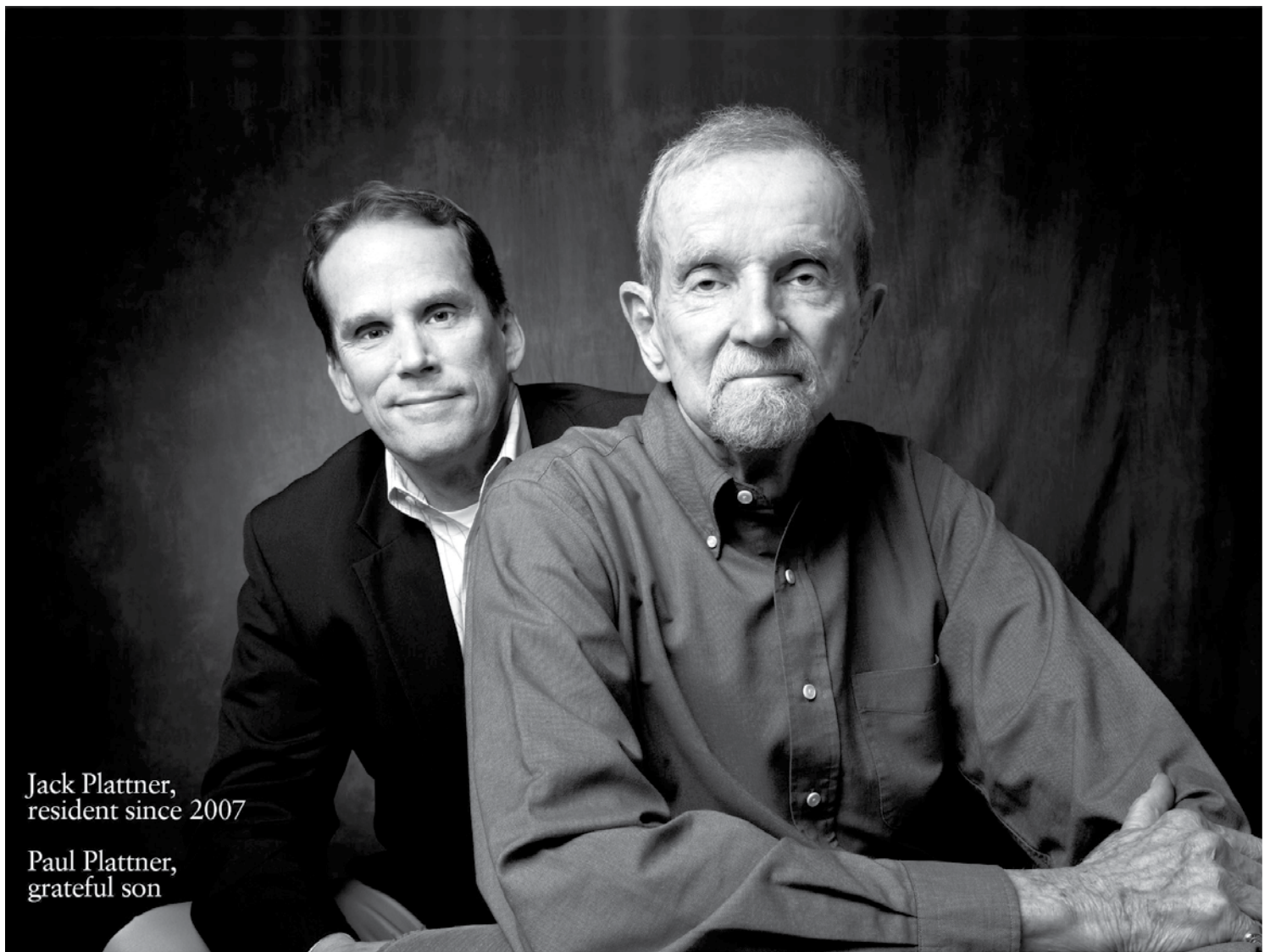


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