

WISHING YOU THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS!



FROM SANTA'S ELVES AND THE MARIEMONT TOWN CRIER! (see story on page 4)



Photos by Ron Schroeder

# Mariemont TOWN CRIER

DECEMBER 2012 • MARIEMONT, OHIO • VOLUME XXXVII, No. 4

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGE

## Mariemont Civic Association Hosts Christmas Raffle

What is so special about living in Mariemont? To most of our residents, the answer is simple. It is the strong sense of tradition that is the glue that holds our Village together. This is the time of year

when people remember family and friends, and the sometimes unique holiday traditions that last through generations. In the spirit of tradition, the Mariemont Civic Association is once again holding its holiday raffle, with the

proceeds helping support those in the Village who could use a little help during the year. Each year we raffle off a completely restored, top of the line vintage Lionel electric train set. What says 'traditional Christmas' more than a shiny red and silver double diesel locomotive passenger train running under the family tree?

This year, we are fortunate to also include in our raffle a beautifully framed needlepoint of the Bell Tower, created by recognized artist and Mariemont carillonneur Richard Gegner, as well as four tickets to a movie at the Mariemont Theater.

Tickets are \$1 each, or five for \$6. Mariemont Civic Association members throughout the Village are selling these tickets, and they are also available for purchase at the Village Office. Both the train and needlepoint can be viewed in a storefront window at the west end of the Strand, closest to the elementary school.



Mariemont Youth Football would like to thank everyone that purchased a pumpkin to support the program.

### Thank You!

The First Annual Mariemont Youth Football "Boys of Fall Pumpkin Sale" was a great success. The youth football players went door to door selling pumpkins in Terrace Park on October 23 and in Mariemont on October 25. The proceeds from the sale will be used to help recondition helmets for next year.

## News You Can Use!

Address	Bed	Bath	List Price	Sales Price	Days on Market	% of List Price
<b>Recent Mariemont Home Sales...</b>						
3706 Petoskey	3	1	\$149,900	\$138,000	178	92%
4304 Joan Place	3	1	\$183,000	\$178,000	95	97%
<b>6924 Thorndike</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$186,900</b>	<b>\$184,900</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>99% *</b>
6988 Grace	3	2	\$232,000	\$219,000	25	94%
3815 Pocahontas	3	2.5	\$297,500	\$275,000	26	92%
3804 Beech	3	1.5	\$299,000	\$289,500	37	97%
<b>4016 Rowan Hill</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$379,000</b>	<b>\$373,000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>98% *</b>
6987 Grace	3	2.5	\$389,000	\$375,000	62	96%
7060 Mt. Vernon	5	3.5	\$434,000	\$392,000	49	90%
6913 Mt. Vernon	4	2.5	\$559,500	\$503,000	105	90%
3604 Mound	4	2.5	\$549,000	\$525,000	21	96%
<b>6809 Hammerstone</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>96% *</b>
6606 Pleasant	4	3.5	\$625,000	\$597,500	75	96%
<b>3810 Miami</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$749,900</b>	<b>\$715,000</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>95% *</b>
2 Emery	4	3.5	\$998,000	\$930,000	68	93%

\*Our Listings

**Mariemont Average Days on Market: 88.**

**Our Average Days on Market: 44!**



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sreed@sibcycline.com  
www.sibcycline.com/sreed



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*Thank You for Supporting The Town Crier!*

## STAFF

### Editor

Claire Kupferle

561-4428/ckupferle@cinci.rr.com

### Business & Advertising Manager

Claire Kupferle

### Distribution

Beth Garrison

271-0943/bethgarrison@fuse.net

### Proofreaders

Dick Adams

Wes Iredale

### Contributors

Denis Beausejour

beausejourdf@aol.com

Michael & Shelley Paden  
Benson

271-9774/michael.benson@  
uc.edu; slpaden@aol.com

Rex Bevis

271-0468/rexbevis@fuse.net

Amy Hollon

465-1310/amymhollon@gmail.com

Nina Iredale

272-1551/nina90@cinci.rr.com

Andrew Kupferle

561-4428/akupferle@gmail.com

Seth Rosin

272-1166/srosin@

mariemontpreservation.org

Joan Welsh

561-2256/joanwwelsh@gmail.com

Randy York

271-8923/ryork@cinci.rr.com

### Photographer

Ron Schroeder

ronschroederimaging@gmail.com

### Carriers

Celia and Ginny Caesar

Margo Dailey

Mary Deadrick

Parker Gilmore

Drew Goheen

Ana Hinebaugh

Hans Hinebaugh

Scott Holland

Ally Maier

Ian Mikesell

Jonah Mikesell

Joe Molski

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Joe Veeneman

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

### February deadline:

The deadline for the next  
*Town Crier* is

**January 17, 2013.**

All camera-ready ads and  
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Articles should be sent via  
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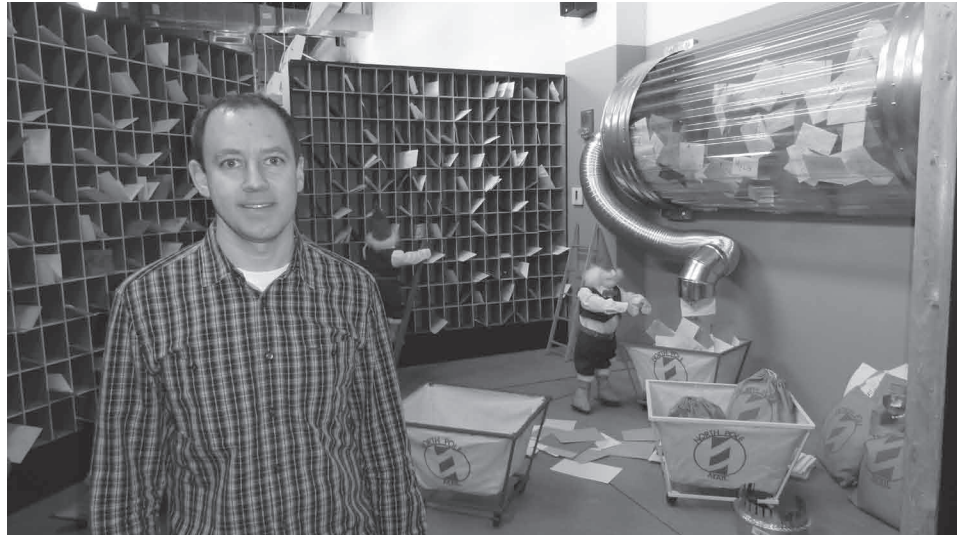
# Santa's Elves Set Up Shop

BY REX BEVIS

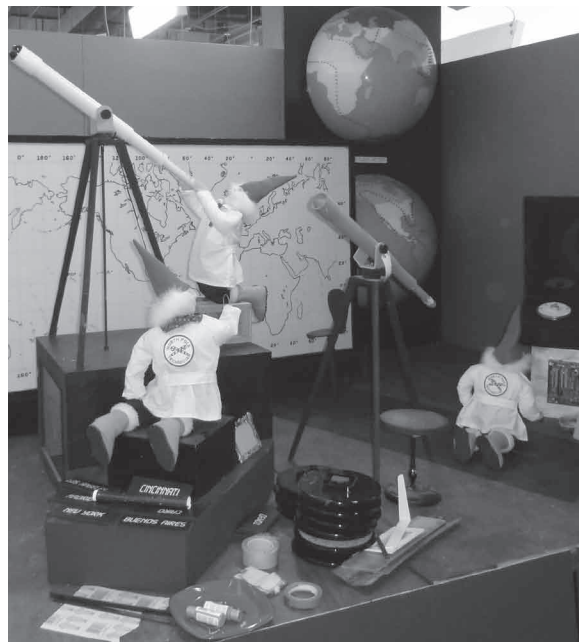
Old timers around Mariemont (such as me) may recall the Shillito's "Santa's Workshop" which debuted downtown in 1980. Or, you may not be one of these old timers so you are asking "Shillito's?" Shillito's Department Store, 7th & Race Street, became Lazarus Department Store, now simply known as Macy's. In January of 1979, employees of Shillito's conceived of the idea and gave birth to Santa's Workshop "and its more than 130 animated figures in 10 interior vignettes, seven animated windows and 20 or so other merchandise windows all in the downtown store."

Santa's Workshop includes animated elves handling letters from children. The children can actually drop their letters in a giant mail box and watch them travel on a conveyor belt into the elves' mail sacks. Another vignette features elf carpenters, painters, and drill press operators. These elves are measuring and sawing with tiny tools, testing toy trains, and painting colorful toys. In the kitchen, elves are busy rolling dough and baking cookies. An unusual scene includes elves charting the weather; a world map with 340 tracking lights shows Santa en route. A large, back-lit weather screen shows where it is raining, snowing or sunny. There is even radar tracking Santa in his travels.

After many years on display at Shillito's, and subsequently the property of a local Boy Scout Troop, Santa's Workshop was acquired by Bill Spinnenweber of the Mariemont Inn in 2005. For the past six years, Bill has shared two or three of the vignettes with the public, prominently displaying them in the empty storefront adjacent to the Mariemont Theater, and in the Lobby of the Mariemont Inn. The original Workshop is so large and complex that it cannot be shown in its entirety in these smaller retail window spaces. This year, however, Bill is meticulously restoring the entire Workshop and has arranged for it to be publicly displayed at Newport on the Levee in Newport, Kentucky. In order to accomplish this restoration, Bill has retained the services of Cindy Waxman, one of the original creators of the Workshop, and asked Cindy to refurbish all of the original elves. Since these are animated figures requiring a bit of tender



*Bill Spinnenweber of the Mariemont Inn is meticulously restoring the entire Santa's Workshop and has arranged for it to be publicly displayed at Newport on the Levee in Newport, Kentucky.*



loving care, Cindy has enlisted the support of other original Shillito's team members to assist her in repairing elves, overhauling motors, and updating the vignettes.

The Newport on the Levee display concept is the brainchild of Bill Spinnenweber and Jerry Gels, owner of American Legacy Tours. Bill and Jerry have secured space adjacent to the Theater on the second floor at the Levee. Bill and Cindy Waxman are feverishly working to install Santa's Workshop in a manner closely

mirroring the original Shillito's layout. There are a number of noticeable differences however: Santa's elves are purportedly building some toys which many children today find under their Christmas trees. Word has it that elves are able to produce video games, hand-held electronic devices, even laptop computers! In addition to Santa's Workshop, Bill is planning a Lego train display and a Legoland Village for families to explore. Jerry Gels is assisting in the marketing of the concept to the public. Jerry's efforts include both print media and television coverage of the event.

Santa's Workshop at Newport on the Levee is planning on opening the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 23, if Bill and Jerry are successful in

completing all of the scenes on time! Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 am – 8:00 pm, Friday and Saturday, 9:30 am – 8:30 pm, through December 23. Admission to The Santa Workshop this year will also include the Lego Train display. Tickets are \$7 and can be pre-purchased by visiting the website [www.shillitoselves.com](http://www.shillitoselves.com). Check the website to confirm "opening day" and to get more information.



# Revolutionary Descendants Meet in Mariemont



Contributions of Native Americans to the American Dream was the theme of a joint Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.) meeting hosted by the Mariemont DAR on October 20 at the Woman's Art Club Cultural Center in Mariemont. All three lineage groups are national organizations that have commonalities in their missions, specifically patriotism, education and preservation related to our American heritage. All are non-political, non-profit organizations with chapters in the Cincinnati area as well as throughout the nation.

Over fifty members and guests were greeted by Regent Jan Mauch of the Mariemont DAR chapter, Colonel (Ret) Donald C. McGraw Jr, President of the Cincinnati Chapter SAR, Anne Martz, Regent of the Clough Valley DAR Chapter and Sara Cottongim, President of the Ft. Washington C.A.R. Matt Laskey, State Treasurer of the C.A.R., presented a greeting and report from the State C.A.R. President Stewart Seely. Paul and Valerie Wilke, Matt

Laskey and Don McGraw posted the colors.

President Bush designated November as National Native American Heritage Month in 1990, following legislation presented by Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Congressional Delegate Eni Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa.) A three-part program designed to better understand contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S. followed a brief meeting. Sara Cottongim presented information on the Native American contributions, primarily through involvement in the Revolutionary

War followed with a report by Brianna Cottongim explaining the origin of the name "buckeye" which came from Indians noting that it looks like the eye of a buck. C.A.R. held a drawing for handmade Indian motif key chains and presented everyone with a buckeye. Jack Langlitz of the SAR presented information related to the military contributions of Native American soldiers throughout the history of our country leading to the story of the Code Talkers of WWII. These men were Navajo soldiers who developed a code that could not be broken by the Japanese resulting in major victories for American soldiers

and in saving many American lives.

All three organizations invite questions and can be reached through the following:

NSDAR <http://www.dar.org> or local chapter contacts, including: Jan Mauch at [jan.mauch@me.com](mailto:jan.mauch@me.com) (Mariemont area); Anne Martz at [bmartz@fuse.net](mailto:bmartz@fuse.net) (Eastern Cincinnati area); NSSAR <http://www.sar.org>; Cincinnati contact at [CincinnatiSAR@gmail.com](mailto:CincinnatiSAR@gmail.com); N.S.C.A.R. (for children under the age of 21) <http://www.nscar.org/>; Local Ft. Washington Chapter - [jpeters@jmpsearch.com](mailto:jpeters@jmpsearch.com).

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## Residents Steve and Marcy Lewis Make Lead Gift to New College and Career Planning Center at MHS

Mariemont residents Steve and Marcy Lewis have contributed a lead gift to the Mariemont School Foundation's (MSF) Campaign for the College and Career Planning Center: Launching the Leaders of Tomorrow. The Campaign aims to raise \$50,000 by December 31, 2012 to enhance the District's current college and career placement program. The new College and Career Placement Center (CCPC) will be a comprehensive resource center for parents and students, offering individualized college and career information, enhanced standardized test prep materials, financial aid information, and serve as a place to meet with college representatives. MSF has already purchased Naviance, a web-based platform that has become the college admission industry standard, for the guidance department. An additional College Specialist will also be available through the CCPC. Donations to the CCPC are 100% tax deductible, and may be made by check, payable to Mariemont School Foundation, 2 Warrior Way, Cincinnati, OH 45227. Credit card donations may be made by visiting the Foundation's website, [www.mariemontschoolfoundation.org](http://www.mariemontschoolfoundation.org).

Growing up in Madeira, Marcy Lewis always dreamed of being a doctor. "I enjoyed school, and knew I wanted to be in a profession that helped people. I knew early on that medicine would allow me to do that." Steve Lewis, Marcy's husband, was growing up hundreds of miles away-- in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He also knew early on that medicine would be his chosen career. His grandfather was a physician, and Steve wanted to follow in his footsteps. Both Marcy and Steve came from families that valued education and expected their children to seek the highest academic degrees. Accomplishing that lofty goal proved to be a little more daunting—from the start of the process.

Both Steve and Marcy are products of their community's public school system. "Back then, there wasn't much help available when it was time to apply for college," Marcy



*Left to right, Jon Dill, Amanda Lewis, Marcy Lewis, Ryden Lewis and Steve Lewis.*

comments. "There were many options, but where to begin?" When it came time to apply, the process was "long and labor intensive. First I had to write a letter to the school requesting an application. Then, complete the application. Write the essay. Send it in. Wait. It was confusing, and very stressful. I was very happy when it was over and I ended up at Purdue University."

It was at Purdue where Marcy met Steve in Chemistry class. After earning undergraduate degrees in engineering, both Steve and Marcy continued on to earn medical degrees from Indiana University. Marcy also earned an MBA while at I.U. Clearly, the Lewis's value education!

Marcy and Steve, along with son Ryden, now 16, moved to Mariemont after a stint in Indianapolis. "Steve and I wanted to settle in a great community with great schools." "Daughter Amanda, now 13, arrived three years later.

College is already looming for Ryden, a junior. "One minute you are dropping them off at kindergarten, the next minute people are asking you where your child is thinking of attending college. It sounds clichéd, but time really does fly. And, now, I am again asking 'Where do we begin?'" The Lewises are thrilled that the new College and Career Planning Center will help them navigate the next two years.

"We were eager to support this project," states Marcy. "As parents, we are going through this process for the first time. The CCPC will eliminate stress for us. I won't have to nag my child about the process. I think it will make things easier for everyone." Marcy adds, "We like to contribute in a way that benefits many—and our donation will ultimately help every student in the district. We also saw it as an investment in our community, not just in our students and schools."

# IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

BY DENIS BEAUSEJOUR

The familiar cadence of the Westminster Chime echoes faintly through the quiet morning breeze as I sip a coffee on my deck. It is Saturday morning at 8 am and that faithful sentinel reaches me, unimpeded by the bustle of workday traffic. It is a “touchstone” of

Village life, telling me to relax and enjoy. The next day, on our regular Sunday evening walk, we find ourselves at the Bell Tower. A grand flute of grey stone stands before a canvass of verdant green and springs to life with summer pops selections from Schubert and Joplin. Tonight’s carillonneur is Richard Watson, but out front at the Pleasant Street side of Dogwood Park, Richard Gegner greets us and hands us a program as he listens enthusiastically.

Richard Gegner is a Mariemont musical treasure. A native of Xenia, he purchased his home on Settle Road 50 years ago, following graduation from UC’s highly respected Cincinnati Conservatory of Music (CCM) program. He served 33 years as a music teacher at Bethel Tate elementary, driving 25 miles each way daily, handling eight classes of 30 students each day! After his wife, June, passed in 1999, Richard retired and serves part time as a tutor at Mariemont elementary school.

A gifted organist, Richard has served at the Mary Emery Bell Tower for 45 years as a carillonneur (which he helps me pronounce – sounds like *connoisseur*). He looks forward to celebrating 50 years, which would make him one of the few carillonneurs in history to serve that long at the same bell tower. He is well aware that

he is an increasingly rare breed, as there are only 180 active bell towers in all of North America. His enthusiasm for his craft is contagious, and he generously invites me for a full tour. As we ride the 2-man elevator up to the playing cabin, I feel I am riding through time.

The playing cabin is well lit and air conditioned. There are two keyboards – one



***Carillonneur Richard Gegner is responsible for the daily chimes and vesper hymns, and the stipulation of a concert every Sunday – starting each with “The Doxology” and finishing with “Abide with Me.” The concerts take place at 4 pm weekly in the winter, and 7 pm in the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day).***

with interior sound only for practice, and the main keyboard which is directly connected to the imposing collection of 49 bells twenty-five feet above us. Richard

plays a selection of music and the whole tower responds with clarity and power as he expertly touches the foot keys and pushes down on the wooden bell handles. Truly amazing! Mr. Gegner’s confidence and joy in his art comes through every note – a good thing, since this

impromptu private concert is being broadcast over the whole community.

Upstairs, Richard shows me the intricacies of the carillon – the original 23 bells made in England, and 26 bells added in 1968, and made in Holland – all made from 80% copper and 20% tin. The largest bell is more than two tons, the smallest 19 pounds. Four bells have external hammers that are controlled by mechanical levers to strike the familiar chimes daily at 8 am, noon and 6 pm. Another 14 bells have external copper strikers run by computer to play the vesper hymn daily at 9 pm. Each bell has an internally mounted clapper that is controlled by the wire rods connected directly to the keyboard.

Mr. Gegner is dedicated to fulfilling the original stipulations made by Isabella Hopkins in honor of her sister, Mary Emery. These include the daily chimes and vesper hymns and the stipulation of a concert every Sunday – starting each with “The Doxology” and finishing with “Abide with Me.” The concerts take place at 4 pm weekly in the winter, and 7 pm in the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day). In addition, concerts must be given at 2 pm on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day and May 21. Why then? To honor Lindbergh’s historic flight completed in 1927!

Richard clearly loves these summer concerts, especially his duets with Richard Watson. He is also very excited with the growing popularity of the July 4th fireworks shows. He explains how his balloon and lollipops concert this year has been altered by a global shortage of Helium. As if there were not enough obstacles in his arcane art – but this man is resourceful and has already found a balloon twisting artist who will bless the children even in the absence of helium!

As our tour ends, I find myself admiring this gifted artist. Last September, I marveled at his exhibition at The Barn – walls full of needlepoint pieces depicting the art of local painter Charley Harper. Our son’s wedding rehearsal dinner guests were wowed by the beauty and sheer quantity of Richard’s work. Add to that the weekly commitment to beautiful music in our Village. Then add to that all the special holidays requiring planning of concerts, selecting music, printing programs. That is a labor of love!

***Do you know of other helpful Mariemont neighbors that we could profile? If so, please send your suggestions to Denis Beausejour at [beausejourde@aol.com](mailto:beausejourde@aol.com).***



## Kindervelt #54 Holiday Fundraiser

Get Connected with The Santa Connection! HO! HO! HO! Santa Claus is coming to town.....have you been naughty or nice?!! Santa knows!

Santa will be making special 20 minutes stops in Mariemont for you and yours in December for \$25. Call The Santa Connection this December and surprise your little one(s) and/or guests at your Holiday party!

Santa will visit your family to help Mariemont's Kindervelt 54 raise money for Children's Hospital. This is a very special treat that your family will remember for years to come.

To book your visit, call the Elves Hotline: Elf Julena at 859-496-5153 or Elf Jill at 513-271-8184.

## SCHOOLS

### Mariemont Senior Receives Writing Award



Mariemont High School Senior Morgan Renner wrote a creative writing piece titled "Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology" that was judged the best of all

the writing submissions from the City of Cincinnati by the historic Mercantile Library in downtown Cincinnati. Morgan received a yearlong membership and cash prize during the Day Bequest Luncheon on Monday, October 29, and read a section of her submission piece aloud.

Each school in the Greater Cincinnati area chooses its own winner, but it is the Mercantile Library staff that judges the writing submissions and selects the best piece.

Mariemont High School English teacher Cheryl Toepfer nominated Morgan for the award, and the Mercantile Library took it from there.

"I definitely didn't expect to win anything, and it was nice to be selected for the award," said Morgan. "I was honored to be chosen as the best of all writing samples. It was really a surprise!"

The guest speaker for the luncheon was Thom Atkinson, who is a working author and playwright who has won many awards for his work, most recently an Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award for 2012.

Being a senior, Morgan is enjoying her time in high school but is definitely looking toward the next phase of life. She is keeping her fingers crossed that she gets accepted into Savannah College of Art and Design, where she will possibly double major in Creative Writing and Sequential Arts. Morgan and her family reside in Mariemont.

A black and white photograph of an elderly couple. The man, with a white beard, is leaning forward and holding a small electronic device. The woman is smiling and looking at the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a clinical or home care setting.

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# Oasis Rail Line Part of Eastern Corridor Project

By AMY HOLLON

A new source of funding will allow plans for the Oasis Rail Line to move forward in a more expedient manner, according to Hamilton County Engineer Ted Hubbard. The Oasis Rail Line, which is planned as a commuter rail line, could extend from the Riverfront Transit Center downtown through Milford. It is part of a larger project to improve the Eastern Corridor, which also involves improvements to Red Bank Road, relocating State Route 32, and improving the interchange at State Route 32 and I-275.

In October, House Bill 114 designated \$200,000 in funding to secure right of way between the Boathouse and the Riverfront Transit Center. "This is a crucial link in the Oasis line" Hubbard said. "Getting the rail from the Boathouse to the terminal center is critical." According to Hubbard, the Oasis Rail Line was the only rail project in the state to receive funding and it is seen as a promising project, in part because so little right of way would need to be purchased. In fact, much of the rail line will travel along existing railroads.

In addition to funding, the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners recently agreed on a preferred track alignment for the link through the northern edge of the Bicentennial Commons/Sawyer Point parking lot. "This is the only passenger rail project in the state supported by ODOT," Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune said. "Getting ODOT funding and Park Board approval to support the track extension into downtown Cincinnati sets the stage for final engineering and construction. It confirms to federal authorities that the Eastern Corridor's Oasis Rail Transit line is a go!"

The line is expected to closely follow U.S. Route 50 until State Route 32. The line would then follow the new State Route 32 through Milford. The route of the proposed project has

been a subject of some debate for Mariemont residents. A recent environmental impact study determined the only place to build a bridge for the new State Route 32 would be through part of the Mariemont South 80, also known as the Mariemont Lower Gardens and Walking Trails Park. In August, Mariemont Mayor Dan Policastro wrote a letter to Hubbard expressing his concerns that a road so close to the village would destroy the park, alter the landscape of Mariemont and disturb artifacts that are part of the nearby earthworks.

Hubbard said it is possible that just the rail line could move forward without completion to the other parts of the Eastern Corridor project, but he emphasized that all of the parts

of the project were meant to work together. "Each component has independent utility," Hubbard said. "But to get the true benefit of the project. All (the parts of) the program need to be implemented." Hubbard said if each of the four parts are completed, the project would reduce the vehicle miles travelled by 50 million miles per year and encourage investment in more mature neighborhoods such as Fairfax and Newtown. He also said before the rail line can be completed, an environmental impact study needs to be completed, detailed design of the project needs to occur, and the right of way must be purchased. For more information about the Eastern Corridor Project, visit [www.easterncorridor.org](http://www.easterncorridor.org)



## Hats Off!

...to the Mariemont Warriors Boys Passers team, coached by Shawn Jackson and assisted by Ryan Klekar and Steve Turan, for winning their season-ending tournament!

They won four games over two days to earn the title of champions for the Cincinnati Hills SAY Boys Passers Silver Division.

Team members pictured include: Tucker Christopher, Brayden Eldridge, Benjamin Hojnosi, Connor Jackson, Sam Klekar, J.D. Long, Myles Lynch, Cooper Naticchioni, Trevor Stith, Bennett Turan, and Davis Whitmore. Not pictured: Ellis Christ.

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## Hands-on Classes, Exhibits and Children's Theater Production Coming Soon

This December and January, hands-on classes, exhibits and even a children's theater production are coming to The Barn! Want to keep up-to-date with all the activities at The Barn? You may now view our complete schedule on our new, continuously updated calendar found at [www.artatthebarn.org](http://www.artatthebarn.org). Click on "The Barn" and then "Barn Calendar"; click on the class or event for more information.

### *Kids & Teens Activities this Winter*

#### *Parent/Child Holiday Craft Class – "All That Glitters"*



Slow down and enjoy the holidays with your children by taking this fun, creative class with Linda Trucksis at The Barn on Saturday, December 8 from 10 am-noon. You and your little one(s) will be making your very own snow globe and ornament to enjoy for many seasons to come. All materials are provided in this make-and-take class. Each participant takes home two items – one to keep and one to share! Register & pay online at [www.artatthebarn.org](http://www.artatthebarn.org). Cost is \$25/family, maximum three participants per family (must include one parent), for children in grades 1-6. Questions? Call The Barn at 272-3700.

#### *"The Travelling Jekyll & Hyde Show" by Russell Davis*

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park's "Off the Hill" touring company comes to The Barn Friday, January 25 from 7-8 pm, with "The Travelling Jekyll & Hyde Show." This comedy stages Stevenson's classic horror novel using verbal wit, slapstick and clowning. A tiny touring theatre company attempts to tell the story of the infamous scientist who learns to split his good from his evil side; however, they are sabotaged at every step by the director. A humorously good time for ages 11 and up! Register online at [www.artatthebarn.org](http://www.artatthebarn.org). FREE admission, donations at the door very welcome!

#### *New After School Drawing Class for Grades 8 – 12*

"Drawing for all Levels" will be taught by Mary Louise Holt on Thursdays from 3:30 pm – 6 pm, January 17 – March 7. An accomplished local artist and popular summer camp teacher, Mary Lou will instruct students in classical drawing techniques, from the beginning level all the way through AP Art students who are seeking to fine-tune their skills. Accuracy, light, shadow, tonal value and perspectives will

be taught. Advanced students will have the option of working with colored pencils and pastels. To register, contact the instructor directly at 513-226-3833 or [marylouiseholt@yahoo.com](mailto:marylouiseholt@yahoo.com). Fee is \$200 for the 8 class session.

#### *Cultural & Arts Enrichment for Adults*

#### *December in the Gallery: "Colored Pencil Society of America"*

We are thrilled to host this colorful exhibit of incredibly accomplished artwork from the local chapter of the Colored Pencil Society of America this December. The depth of color and detail are truly remarkable, and in some cases drawings are indistinguishable

#### *Art at the Barn*

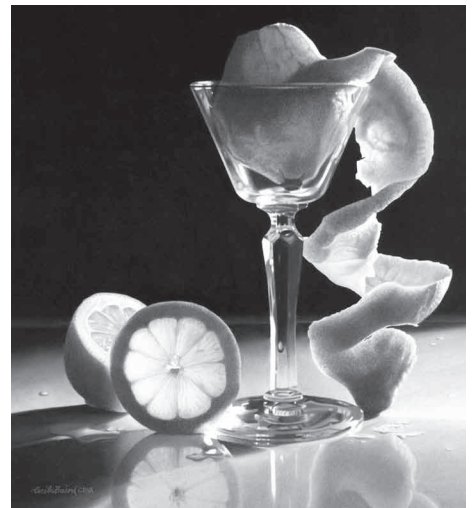


from photographs. The Opening reception is Friday, December 7, from 6 – 9 pm. Free admission and open to the public – do stop in! The exhibit is open to the public December 4-21, with gallery hours Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.

#### *Acrylic Abstract Workshop with Fran Watson January 18-19*

Fran Watson, an acclaimed abstract painter whose works hang in the University of Cincinnati Foundation, Linclay, Bell Telephone and many private collections around the city, is coming to The Barn, to teach her techniques in an "Acrylic Abstract Workshop." Beginning with a drawing, photo or reproduction of anything you choose, you will work with tube acrylics and canvas or gessoed paper to make your work come to life through a new freedom in painting. The ability to draw is not a prerequisite. \$175 for entire session. Friday and Saturday January 18-19, 9 am-3 pm.

*(Continued 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

Bring a brown bag lunch. To register: call Fran at 859-781-0623 or e-mail at watson@fuse.net. The class will be limited to 8 participants.

### ***Coming in February: "The Barn Painters" Exhibit***

"The Barn Painters" returns with another winter exhibit at The Barn February 1-3. This popular exhibit is a celebration of emerging artists who are students in art classes at The Barn taught by Jan Boone and Ron Johnson. These oil painters explore various subjects and techniques as they pursue their love of painting. Come and meet the artists at the opening reception Friday, February 1 from 6 pm-9 pm. The exhibit is open for viewing during gallery hours of 1 pm – 4 pm on Saturday & Sunday, February 2 & 3. Free Admission.



### ***Barn Open Every "Second Sunday"***

Every second Sunday of the month from 1pm – 4 pm, The Woman's Art Club opens its classroom for an exhibit/sale of members' works. Sunday, December 9 is your next opportunity to come and enjoy this talented group's artistry. Oils, watercolors, drawings, jewelry...the selection varies from month to month. "Second Sunday" is free, open to the public and refreshments are available. Don't forget to mark your calendars for future Second Sundays on January 13, 2013 and February 10, 2013.

### ***Hats Off to ArtsWave!***

The Barn wants to thank ArtsWave (formerly known as The Fine Arts Fund) for their generous support of The Barn in 2012. ArtsWave's sponsorships allowed The Barn to host seven family-friendly activities during the past year. Cincinnati Art Museum, CAC, Cincinnati Opera, The Taft Museum, MadCap



Puppets, Ensemble Theater and the Cincinnati Ballet all came to entertain and educate you and your children at The Barn in 2012.



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# Parent and Grandparent Day Memories

*Tuesday, November 20 marked Parent and Grandparent Day in the Mariemont School District. Enjoy these photo memories!*



*Above left, second grader Harry Manzler show his grandma Judy his new cool iPad. Above right, Kindergartener Caroline Dougherty is happy to have her grandma Carolyne Niles visit from Tennessee!*

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## VILLAGE



*Jordan Murdock, second grade, enjoys some time with his loved ones - Elaine Palmer and April Murdock.*



*Third grader Connor Lynch does an art project with his grandparents, Gates and Kathy Smith. Connor lives in Mariemont and his grandparents live in Indian Hill.*



*Leah (fifth grade) and Finn (Kindergarten) have quite a lot of visitors! Mom and Dad, Emily and JD Warden, bring new brother Jude, grandparents Dick and Bernadette Frishkorn and great-grandma Dorothy Kubec to visit for the day!*

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# Junior High Girl Scout Troops Aid Hurricane Victims



*Eighth grade girls in photo at Conde Nast in NYC from left to right are: Anna Brokamp, Clara Scholtz, Fiona Kane, Emily Ferguson, Alcid Jacobs, Corinne Fanta, Taylor Powers, and Nathalie Weiss.*

The Mariemont seventh and eighth grade Girl Scout Troops assembled children's toiletry kits for children affected by Hurricane Sandy. The kits include basic toiletries, plus handwritten notes of encouragement. The kits will be distributed between now and Thanksgiving through the GS Council of the Colonial Coast.

The eighth grade Mariemont Girl Scout Troop 41262 was inspired to help hurricane victims partly because of a recent visit to New York City. The girls planned the entire trip and worked for over a year to raise funds for the journey. Throughout the planning process troop members learned the arts of compromise, budgeting, and time management. They truly planned a memorable trip including a Broadway show, a cruise past the Statue of Liberty, a visit to Ground Zero, and a jaunt up the Empire State Building. On their final morning in NYC, they were on the Today

Show. That afternoon, the troop enjoyed a tour of Conde Nast and learned about the publishing industry. The girls realized how to be flexible on their journey and how to deal with the ups and downs of group travel.

A week after their return, Hurricane Sandy struck the coast. Inspired by their visit, the troop got to work assembling the toiletry kits for children who were displaced because of the hurricane. These girls not only learned the value of achieving a long-term goal, they also learned that the world is a small place. They realized that one can make a difference in the lives of others even if those in need are miles away.



*Shown here with the kits are some members of the seventh grade troop. Top row: Sarah Feeney, Sophie Borgerding, Devin Scarborough, Lindsay Stricker, Lindsay Kaminer, Chloe Reavill, Lauren Kaminer, Bailey Murphy, Nathalie Therrien. Front row: Shannon Mathews, Whitney Weiss, Sydney White, Celia Caesar, Jaxie Brokamp, Emily Vose-Sargent, Anna Herlinger.*



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# What's Happening at the Library

## December

### Children

#### Winter Wonderland Workshop:

Saturday, December 8 at 2 pm. Ages 6 to 12

#### Collect the Button Book Club (CBBC):

Each month, Ms. Katheryn's CBBC features a children's book series. Read at least one book from the series then stop in the library to complete an activity and earn a button. Collect three buttons to receive a free pizza coupon from Snappy Tomato Pizza. December Button Blow Out! Books of your choice. Ages 5 to 10.

**Library Babies:** Saturday, December 8 at 10:30 am. This is a great opportunity to introduce your baby to books, songs, and fingerplay. Ages birth to eighteen months. Registration suggested.

**Movers and Shakers:** Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Ages 1 to 4 years. Bring the little ones for stories, songs and dance as they learn about the library. Note: No Movers and Shakers December 19, 26.

**Pre-school Story Time:** Wednesdays

at 1:30 pm. Join Miss Katheryn for stories and crafts. Ages 3 to 5. Note: No story time December 19, 26.

**Tales to Tails:** Thursday, December 6 at 5 to 6 pm. Kids read to a certified therapy dog to practice their reading skills. Ages 5 to 10.

### Teens

**InBeTween Club:** Gaming, movies, crafts & fun for tweens and teens. There will be something different each month. Thursday, December 20 at 4 pm.

**Anime Club:** New! Check it out, Saturday, December 29 at 1 pm.

### Adults

**Bead Ornaments:** Make some fun ornaments for the holidays. Thursday, December 6 at 6 pm.

**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. December 1 and 15 at 10:30 am.

**Technology Classes:** Interested in brushing up on computer basics or want to learn how to download music or books? Call the branch and schedule a session.

Mariemont Branch Library, 3810 Pocahontas Ave., 369-4467

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Noon to 8:00 pm. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am. to 6:00 pm.

**Closed All Day Christmas Eve & Christmas; Closed at 6 pm New Year's Eve**

## Garden Club News

Now is the time for rest. For your garden that is. In a few weeks it will be time to over winter your garden. If you are planning to start anew next spring, you should cut plants short and till them into the soil with some sphagnum moss and leave until spring planting. If you are keeping the plants, for example in your flower beds, covering the roots with 2-3 inches of a 1:3 top soil moss mixture. This should help feed your perennials for amazing blooms in spring.

To learn more about Garden Club, please join us on the evening of February 6 at 7:00 pm at the Art Barn (6980 Cambridge Avenue) for a free wine and cheese event!

*Submitted by Laura McMahon,  
Co-President Mariemont Garden Club*

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# Meet Kathy Chapman-Dick, MariElders Director

BY JOAN WELSH

As many know, MariElders is a Senior Center located right off the Mariemont Square, providing services for older adults in Mariemont, Fairfax, Terrace Park, Madison Place and Plainville. Between 400 – 500 adults over the age of 55 are currently on its membership mailing lists. MariElders provides a rich resource for our community while engaging adults in programs and activities. Senior Centers help create an environment that encourages a senior to interact with others, get out of the house on a regular basis, and enjoy themselves. MariElders can be an important element of a healthy aging-in-place strategy for an older loved one. Barbara Anderson was the founding director for many years. After Barbara's retirement last year, Kathy Chapman-Dick was chosen as the new Executive Director.

Kathy has lived in Mariemont on Petoskey Avenue for 20 years with her husband, Charles. They enjoy spoiling her twin nephews and niece who live in Dayton, Ohio which is Kathy's hometown. Kathy earned her LSW degree at the University of Cincinnati. She always



*Kathy's past work experience includes the Dayton Senior Center, the Cincinnati Council on Aging, and the Jewish Community Center. Her 29 years of experience working with mature adults made her the perfect choice as MariElders new Executive Director.*

stemming from her loving relationship with her grandmothers. While she was studying at UC, Kathy enjoyed her practicums working in Senior Centers. Kathy's past work experience includes the Dayton Senior Center, the Cincinnati Council on Aging, and the Jewish Community Center. Her 29 years of experience working with mature adults made her the perfect choice as MariElders' new Executive Director. Not hesitating to roll up her own sleeves, Kathy herself was planning for the cooking and serving the annual Thanksgiving luncheon for approximately 35 members. That's a lot of turkey and dressing!

Kathy states that the center serves a "huge spectrum of adults from the ages of 55 – 97. People come to MariElders for many different reasons and each is welcomed warmly." One of the first greetings you'll receive when entering the center is from the resident cat, M.E. (short for MariElders). She loves to rest on her pillow gazing out on Madisonville Road watching the world go by. Elementary school students look for her in the window on their way home from school each day.

One of Kathy's immediate plans for the MariElders building is a refurbishment to make it more

attractive. Paint colors for the 1st floor have been selected and new carpeting would enhance the appearance.

MariElders offers a variety of programs and services to keep members and older adults active and involved in the community. At the center, the organization offers weekly activities that include exercise classes, arts and crafts, bridge, and dominos. Each month, members travel outside the center and may include trips to area museums, sporting events, restaurants, and theaters. A goal of MariElders is to assist members so that they may remain independent

*(Continued on next page)*



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## VILLAGE

in their own homes. MariElders services include financial assistance for individuals who are having difficulty paying bills, provide a list of organizations who can help with personal care services, and Home Insurance Assistance in which they will assist in reviewing health insurance forms, bills from doctor's offices, and filling out applications for Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Van Shuttle will transport members to the grocery store, pharmacy, library, banks, hairdressers, area restaurants, doctors, and dentists within the Mariemont area. Medical transportation is provided by volunteers for members who are unable to drive to their medical appointment. MariElders always welcomes additional new drivers. This is a flexible opportunity to assist our older adults who wish to remain independent but may no longer be driving their own cars.

Income from the Village Tax Levy provides about 1/3 of MariElders operating expenses. Did you know that Mariemont was the first community in Ohio to vote funding for a Senior Center? One of Kathy's goals is to improve fundraising efforts for the center. There are three major events planned for the upcoming year. A Spaghetti Dinner was held in the Fairfax Recreation Center for the first time last spring and featured delicious food and attractive raffles. The annual Junque Sale is held in June and is eagerly anticipated. For the first time a Christmas Craft Show will be held on December 8 at the Elementary School with vendors selling holiday items. MariElders is served by a volunteer board of community members who assist Kathy with overseeing the operation of the center. Kathy would like to increase the Board's size. Board member Sharon Bevis remarks how she is "constantly impressed with the scope and variety of services that MariElders regularly provides."

At this time of the holiday season it's interesting to note that members of the center enjoy giving of themselves to others. MariElders will participate in the "Adopt a Family" program through provides about 1/3 of MariElders operating expenses. Did you know that Mariemont was the first community in Ohio to vote funding for a Senior Center? One of Kathy's goals is to improve fundraising efforts for the

center. There are three major events planned for the upcoming year. A Spaghetti Dinner was held in the Fairfax Recreation Center for the first time last spring and featured delicious food and attractive raffles. The annual Junque Sale is held in June and is eagerly anticipated. For the first time a Christmas Craft Show was held on December 8 at the Elementary School with vendors selling holiday items. MariElders is served by a volunteer board of community members who assist Kathy with overseeing the operation of the center. Kathy would like to increase the Board's size. Board member

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At this time of the holiday season it's interesting to note that members of the center enjoy giving of themselves to others. MariElders will participate in the "Adopt a Family" program through Inter Parish Ministries. Members also enjoy regularly folding mailings for United Cerebral Palsy of Cincinnati.

Stop by and visit Kathy at the MariElders anytime at 6923 Madisonville Road or call them 271-5588 with questions or to volunteer.

## MariElders News

### ***MariElders First Annual Craft Show: SHOP! SHOP! SHOP!***

MariElders is having its first Craft Show on Saturday, December 8, from 10 am to 4 pm. It will be held at the Mariemont Elementary School. We currently have a great list of participating crafters and vendors. The Mariemont School Music Department will be providing food for the event. We hope you will enjoy a day of shopping with us.

### ***Is Anyone Listening to Me?***

Have you ever left a doctor's visit feeling like you didn't understand what they said or spoken with your family and know they did not really hear you? "Is anyone listening to me?" is a unique program offered by Catholic Social Services. This is our third talk from the caregiver's series. Learn simple techniques on how to communicate effectively with others. This class is being offered on Wednesday, December 12 at 6:30 pm. Call the Center at 271-5588 for a reservation.

### ***Museum Days***

On Thursday, December 13 we will be attending the exhibit Star Power, Edward Steichen's Glamour Photography, at the Taft Museum of Art. We will be leaving the Center at 10:30 am; cost is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center by December 10.

### ***Christmas Party***

All are invited to the MariElders Christmas party on Wednesday, December 19 at 5 pm. The event will take place at the Fairfax Recreation Center on Hawthorne Avenue. Cost for the party is \$5.00 (plus bring a \$5 wrapped gift to exchange). There will be fun, food, entertainment, and laughter for everyone. The Jeannine Groh Trio will perform some classic Christmas music just for our enjoyment. Making a special appearance will be Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Please sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by December 14.



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# Mariemont Schools Host State of the Schools Address

The Mariemont City School District held its third annual State of the Schools address on Wednesday, November 14, welcoming the community to hear and discuss the current and future financial state of the school district. Treasurer Natalie Lucas reviewed the newly released 2011-2012 annual report, discussing the financial improvements to the

not directly jeopardize the educational opportunities provided for our students.”

Superintendent Paul Imhoff provided a look at the year in review, detailing instructional achievement from last year while highlighting a few items from the operational side of the district, from bullying prevention to the implementation of one-to-

fully define quality and be held accountable to a higher standard than standardized government tests. The district will be reaching out to the community at large to provide confidential, honest input to help guide the school as they begin to identify what the community expects from their schools and how those expectations should



*Superintendent Paul Imhoff updated the community on the performance and challenges of our schools. Treasurer Natalie Lucas reviewed the newly released 2011-2012 annual report, discussing the financial improvements to the district budget.*

district budget as a result of the construction of three new and renovated school buildings, sharing services with other districts and operations restructuring. She also discussed how the district is affected by changes to the state funding formula.

“There are many factors that impact the district’s budget and forecast...decisions made on the state level have a significant influence on our budget. The Board of Education, Mr. Imhoff and I monitor the discussions around these issues and make adjustments accordingly,” said treasurer Natalie Lucas. “When state budgets are reduced we must respond with additional reductions to the district budget. But rest assured that as we continue to search for efficiencies in our operations the commitment is to make choices that do

one technology. He also discussed a number of challenges occurring at the state level that may impact Mariemont and explained Mariemont City Schools’ goals and path forward as they prepare students for a bright future.

“We must keep our focus on challenging every child and providing a well-rounded education that fully prepares every student for a successful college and/or career experience. “The Mariemont Schools are committed to excellence, transparency, communication and accountability. We view every student as an individual and it is an honor to serve a community that values education and values children.”

Paul also discussed how Mariemont City Schools has joined with many other high-achieving school districts in Ohio to more

be measured and reported. Paul reported having grave concerns about placing more emphasis on government tests as opposed to focusing resources on first class instructional programs that meet the needs of individual learners and challenge all students.

“Ultimately, we will provide a yearly report to our community, based upon what our community has asked us to measure and report, and we will be held accountable to this standard,” said Paul Imhoff. “We will also provide the data from the state government testing, as a part of this picture – but it will not be the entire picture. We will continue to engage the community and update our reports to maintain alignment with community expectations.

# Mariemont Schools Awarded Grants for Libraries

The Mariemont City School District is the recipient of four grants, which will allow both the junior high and the high school to transform previous school libraries into interdisciplinary "Learning Commons." The Mariemont School Foundation, which was instrumental in both efforts, partnered with a national foundation with local ties to fund its "Library of the Future" initiative at Mariemont Junior High School and with The Johnson Foundation for its "Collaborative Learning Space" initiative at Mariemont High School. Both initiatives were conceptualized by the district's "Libraries of the Future" team—a group of students, staff, parents and community members, who met regularly during the 2009-2010 school year to imagine how the 21st century school library could enhance skills teaching and curriculum delivery.

The junior high's "Learning Commons" is an interdisciplinary learning hub that transforms learning through interactive, multi-media

instructional forums, which allow students to work together onsite and with others in the global community. "The library offers a blended learning approach," said Keith Koehne, Mariemont Junior High School principal. "Students have unique 'big picture' opportunities through technology and group learning pods for team building projects. The skills students will acquire will make them tenacious learners and leaders, ready to affect positive change through exploration, brainstorming and group projects."

Teaching students collaborative learning skills is a priority at Mariemont High School. Grants from the Johnson Foundation and the Mariemont School Foundation have resulted in the installation of a "Collaboration Café" featuring coffee house-style booths and café tables, where multiple groups can easily meet and converse simultaneously. Flat screen monitors enable small groups to display their work on a larger scale for the entire team, regardless of location, to view.

"Every significant aspect of teaching and learning takes place in this site, including research, information literacy and virtual learning," said Dr. James Renner, principal of Mariemont High School. "The library is the academic hub of the high school, and to have such an essential learning space adapted into a model of 21st century education is a tribute to the foresight of our school community."

Emily Zauss Colpi, high school library media specialist and "Libraries of the Future" team member, adds, "The overall design is proving to be the ideal work environment for small group projects. We looked at research on the 'library-as-learning-commons' approach that sees a school library as a flexible learning lab where students not only find information, but transform it into new ideas and learning products. This learning commons needed a space designed specifically for collaboration, a key 21st century learning skill."

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# Bully Prevention Is Major Focus of Mariemont Schools

Like every school district, we at Mariemont City Schools would like to ensure that every person, every child that enters our buildings feels welcome and safe. As a result, we are increasing our focus on bullying prevention beginning this school year and continuing as an integral part of who we are and what we do for our students. According to a study conducted by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), bullying is the most common form of violence in our society; between 15% and 30% of students are bullies or victims. This is unacceptable. We must do everything in our power to provide a secure and positive environment for all of our students to reach their full potential as scholars of today and leaders of tomorrow.

Historically, we have addressed bullying prevention through successful programs at all levels in our district, but we have not developed a coordinated and systematic K-12 approach to bullying prevention that is based upon our

own data. Beginning this school year we are taking the following steps: We will form school building committees, including parents, staff and students, at each level; we will survey students anonymously to gather data on bullying issues in our district; we will develop specific programs to address the identified issues; we will implement a 24-hour anonymous bullying reporting system (both online and via telephone); we will provide online resources; and we will offer student, staff and parent training to educate everyone on this critical topic.

On Monday, October 22, the entire Mariemont City School District staff began the scheduled staff-training day with two hours of bullying prevention training, which serves as the foundation for our efforts. According to NASP, over two-thirds of students believe that schools respond poorly to bullying, with a high percentage of students believing that adult help is infrequent and ineffective. This perception

has to stop. We are taking steps to gather data from our own district students and on Tuesday, October 23 all students participated in an online survey to gather baseline data on bullying in the Mariemont City School District. Based upon the results of that survey, detailed plans for the school year will be developed through the building committees.

Our increased district-wide bullying prevention efforts will require the participation and commitment of students, parents, educators and members of the community. The prevention of bullying cannot be a one-year focus – we must remain persistently vigilant and work together to maintain a safe and positive environment for all of our children to ensure they can thrive academically, socially, physically and emotionally.

*Paul Imhoff, Superintendent  
Mariemont City Schools*

## MAKE ST. THOMAS YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### **Saturday, 12/8 — The Great Cookie Caper III**

11am – 2pm: Christmas “Fun raiser” with an early taste of Christmas that’s fun for the whole family with tons of fresh baked cookies and candies, live music, hot cocoa & cider, children’s activities and a beautiful Christmas wonderland display.

### **Sunday, 12/16 — Third Sunday of Advent 9:15am – St. Nicholas Baskets Run**

Our intergenerational outreach project to benefit individuals and families at Thomaston Woods, our Community Housing Ministry. 10:30am – Advent Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with choirs, sermon and “Children’s Word” (chapel service during the sermon). Nursery care is available.

### **5:30pm: Taize Evening Prayer Service for Advent** *Contemplative music, scripture and candlelight.*

### **Sunday, 12/23–4:00 pm: Christmas Lessons & Carols**

The Choirs of St. Thomas celebrate with seasonal readings and carols in the beautiful intimacy of St. Thomas.

### **Monday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve** *Three Different Christmas Services*

#### **4pm: Children’s Christmas Pageant & Holy Communion**

This treasured Christmas Celebration takes place in our beautiful Parish Hall and features our children sharing the great story of our Savior’s birth, along with Christmas carols shared by the congregation and Holy Communion shared by all.

#### **8pm: Christmas Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

This traditional Christmas Celebration takes place in our splendid church and sanctuary and features beautiful music, candlelight, a Christmas Message and Holy Communion.

#### **10:30pm: Musical Prelude**

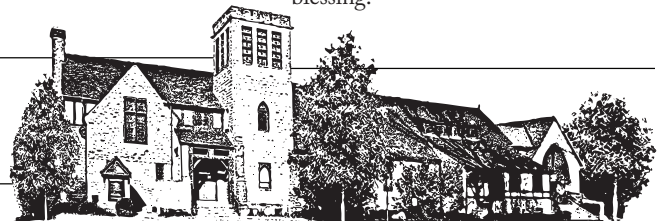
The St. Thomas Choir will prepare us for worship with a special musical prelude of seasonal music with special guest artists.

#### **11pm: Festive Choral Eucharist**

This Celebration of the Eucharist is both glorious and inspirational with choirs, instruments, candlelight, Sermon and Christmas blessing.

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## MHS Basketball Teams Raise Money for Cancer Research

On Tuesday, November 20, the Mariemont High School basketball program hosted a night of goodwill and entertainment to help raise money for melanoma research. The Foundation Games, played against Clermont Northeast, raised money for assistant varsity basketball Coach Doug Ast and Terrace Park Elementary School teacher Maria Childs, who are both fighting melanoma.

Highlights included:

- Hyper Dogs: World Champion Frisbee Dogs Performance
- Youth Recreational Basketball teams from Mariemont/Terrace Park/Fairfax scrimmages at halftime of the 4:30 & 6pm games
- Bonnie Williams Dance Studio Dance Team performance at halftime of the 8pm game
- Frisbee Toss Split the Pot at halftime of the 8pm game
- Bake sale and dinner at the snack bar

## SCHOOLS

# Junior High Recognizes 210 Students for Academic Achievement

Nearly 74% of the seventh grade class and 69% of the eighth grade class at Mariemont Junior High School were recognized academically in the first quarter of the school year on honor roll or merit roll. To be placed on honor roll, a student must have a grade point average of 4.0 or higher, and to be placed on merit roll a student must have a 3.25-3.99 grade point average.

"I am constantly impressed with the maturity, work ethic and dedication to academic excellence that the junior high students convey," said Keith Koehne, principal of Mariemont Junior High School. "Because of this, I am not surprised that this many students performed this well this past quarter. Not only have the students adapted to the use of one-to-one technology, the new school building and everything else that's been introduced so far

this school year, they have taken those changes and are using them as tools to pursue a more thorough education."

Thirty-nine seventh grade students and 47 eighth grade students were on honor roll, and 74 seventh grade students and 50 eighth grade students were on merit roll for the first quarter of the 2012-13 school year. Mariemont Junior High School includes students from Fairfax, Mariemont, Terrace Park and Columbia Township.



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# Council Meeting Highlights

Residents can view Council meetings Tuesday at 5 pm, Saturday at 3 pm, or Monday at 7 am. A Time Warner subscriber can watch on Channel 8. With no converter box, Channel 15. On your computer go to <http://www/icrctv.com/Mariemont>.

The following was excerpted from minutes of Mariemont Council and Committee meetings. For full minutes, go to [www.mariemont.com](http://www.mariemont.com) and click on Village of Mariemont, then Village Government

## Council Meeting – October 22, 2012

### New School Zone Suggested

Ms. Erika Turan, 3853 Homewood Road, was granted permission to address Council.

She asked about the possible installation of a 20 mph school zone on Madisonville Road. With the school construction on Madisonville Road and it also being the main entrance for the school, kids, cars and pedestrians traffic is pretty high. She is concerned for the crossing guard who has to cross the kids when cars are not slowing down. Mayor Policastro said there is a formula to follow but if it can be done he would like to see it happen. Chief Hines said he agrees it is something that should be looked at but he thinks that we need to see if we meet the criteria. Solicitor McTigue said he will look into the matter. Mr. Scheeser asked if we have to petition the county or the state. Chief Hines said he did not believe so because it is not a state route but we would need to check with ODOT. Mr. Miller asked how the school flow has been going. Chief Hines said it has been working really well. With the two drop off areas there is still some congestion but it is not like it used to be. Mr. Wolter asked if the state will give permission to create a custom solution for us if we can show this is a special situation that is outside of the parameter of the code. Solicitor McTigue said absolutely.

### Activity in South 80 Acres

Mr. Stelzer said the camping area in the South 80 is moving along. A couple of Eagle Scouts are going to undertake the area as their project. There will be a star gazing event on November 23, 2012 at 7:30 pm. Resident Ryan Kelly is getting that organized with the Cincinnati Observatory. They are going to bring in 20 telescopes. Mr. Stelzer said the Village had a visit from a tri-state hiking club with 62 hikers. It included a four mile walk through Mariemont including the South 80 Trails. He also said he has learned of some state grants that are available for parks. We are going to see if we can obtain some

of those. As far as the South 80 goes so far we have been able to do it all with volunteer efforts and not much money being spent. If anyone has any creative ideas for the area let him know.

Mr. Stelzer reported that we have formed a Community Partners Committee within the Village. It was recommended that we do this by ODOT and Commissioner Portune. The Committee is supposed to provide ODOT with feedback and work with ODOT during the process. We made it crystal clear that we will work with them as much as possible with the Eastern Corridor Project. However there is little if any support for the idea of State Route 32 going through the South 80 property. The County Commissioners understand and are sympathetic to our predicament but there has not been a formal Resolution passed objecting to the process. The Committee continues to educate themselves with a tremendous number of documents that need to be reviewed. There was also a meeting with State Representative, Peter Stautberg, where we explained our situation and the dilemma with the Eastern Corridor Project. Mr. Stautberg is going to touch base with the Hamilton County Commissioners and then get back to us. We will continue to educate the politicians.

Mr. Stelzer said he found out that the visit by the National Park Service and State Historical Society to the South 80 acres was instigated by Millard Rogers. Mr. Rogers contacted the National Park Service, which was in town to do a tour of Greenhills. He was able to convince them to come visit our South 80 acres. They had not heard about the proposed highway project. The comment was made that they would be working on it right away.

*(Continued on next page)*

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## COUNCIL NOTES

### ***Committee of the Whole Meeting- November 12, 2012***

Mr. Miller said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the frequency of the Council meetings from two times per month to once per month. Would it be more efficient to reduce the number of meetings to once a month versus twice per month and then have everyone in attendance? The other issue we are looking at is the length of the meetings, which over the summer ran less than 30 minutes. Another concern is that legislation would have to be passed more often by emergency, since readings at three meetings are required. Timely payment of bills is another question. Former Councilman Rex Bevis sent an email outlining his opposition to the change for some of these reasons. The Solicitor put together an analysis of other communities and approximately 50% are holding monthly meetings.

Mr. Wolter said he would like to see the meetings continue twice per month. He thinks it is good for Council to get together eye-to-eye and communicate. Some on Council have busy travel schedules and missing a meeting would mean missing a whole month. His concern is the perception on the part of the Village that Council does things on the fly and we are not being as transparent as we should be. It would not give the residents an opportunity to come in and speak but once per month. Mr. Scheeser said he agrees with Mr. Wolter. Our job is to make our job description as appealing as possible for those that come after us, and fewer meetings might be more attractive. But Mr. Wolter and Mr. Bevis's comments bring up valid points. Transparency will go down and decision-making will take a hit too.

Mr. Miller said he is torn. He does not think the transparency will be affected that much. We might get more feedback from

residents going to once per month meetings. Having only 12 meetings may be more attractive to people considering public service. If we need to call a special meeting we can certainly do so. People show up not because there is a meeting but because there is a topic of interest to them.

Mr. Andrews said his sentiments are closer to Mr. Wolter and Mr. Scheeser's. His experience has always been that the summer meetings are shorter in nature. He would rather see the meetings stay twice per month except during the summer months (June, July and August) when they would be held once a month. If we need to call a second meeting it can be done. If you miss a monthly meeting then you go so long in between meetings. Mr. Miller suggested altering the starting time to 7:00 pm, which was agreed upon by Council.

Council agreed to continue the meetings on the second and fourth Monday of the months, except in June, July and August, when they will be held once per month on the second Monday of the month. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm, beginning in January, 2013. Mr. Scheeser voiced some concern with not having 24 meetings per year, but Mr. Andrews said if it does not work we can always change it back.

### ***Council Meeting – November 12, 2012***

#### ***Police and Fire Personnel Thanked***

Mr. Stelzer asked that Chief Hines expand on a report about someone threatening of one of our police officers. Chief Hines said it

was Halloween evening. There was a report of someone driving recklessly on Settle Road, who clipped a pole on Murray. Officer Shaw was at the intersection of Wooster and Indianview taking an auto accident report when the reckless driver rear ended someone, backed up and continued on his way. He was finally stopped in Newtown. It turns out the driver had just been released from being incarcerated a week and half earlier. It was a struggle the rest of the evening with an irate prisoner and a domestic violence call. Chief Hines had put an extra car out for Halloween but officers were not able to distribute glow sticks and candy to trick-or-treaters, which was unfortunate. On the way to booking, the prisoner threatened the life of Officer Shaw. He was charged with aggravated menacing and transported to the Hamilton County Justice Center. Mr. Wolter said this is an indicator of how dangerous police work is even here in the Village. We have a great police department. Mr. Wolter said he has a 92-year-old friend who was having lunch at the Mariemont Inn. He has a difficult time walking so his wife parked by the bus stop. An officer pulled up and quickly realized what was going on and helped Mr. Wolter's friend into the car. He appreciates

*(Continued on next page)*

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## VILLAGE

the service our police department gives.

Chief Hines said he received a thank you letter from one of our residents about how our police department went the extra mile helping her family through a bad domestic relations issue. He constantly receives letters and e-mails about the job our employees are doing. He received a thank you from Mr. James Biro at Kellogg regarding the accidental spill. He also said the department received many compliments from a Cincinnati Fire Department Command Supervisor regarding their knowledge and ability to work together during a three-day workshop of live burn training with the department. He thanked Assistant Fire Chief Feichtner for the job he does every day for running the day-to-day operations.

### ***School Zone on Madisonville Road***

Solicitor McTigue said the Village can create a 20 mph school zone on Madisonville Road. We have to submit an application to

ODOT to get their approval. Chief Hines said we can ask to have the school zone in place during restricted hours from the property lines of the school. The area can also be extended but it would need to be noted on the application. After discussion, Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Safety Committee to discuss further extending the zone on Madisonville Road from Murray Avenue to Wooster Pike and extending Plainville Road from Wooster Pike to Murray Avenue.

### ***Waste Removal Contract***

Council got two bids, one from Rumpke and one from Forest Green. While Forest Green's bid did not include the required annual cost, it was agreed by the Committee that the defect in the bid should be waived and Forest Green's bid was considered. After discussion, the Committee recommends Council accept Bid Option Number One (1) from Rumpke, for an annual cost of \$283,860. This maintains our current configuration of backdoor service

and 18-gallon recycle totes. We believe the cost difference of \$9,405 between Rumpke and Forest Green's bid of \$274,455 for Bid Option One (1) is not sufficient enough to change vendors. There was confusion about an earlier directive to throw out the Forest Green bid because there was no total, but members were able to figure out the bottom line, and the bid was considered. It looks like there might be savings going to a Thursday/Friday pick up schedule instead of Monday/Tuesday, but for now, we will stick with Monday/Tuesday and look into making the bid request more detailed next year.

### ***Council Representative Information***

Jeff Andrews – [jeffcandrews@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcandrews@gmail.com)  
Joe Miller – [jmiller1@fuse.net](mailto:jmiller1@fuse.net)  
Cortney Scheeser – [cscheeser@yahoo.com](mailto:cscheeser@yahoo.com)  
Joe Stelzer – [jstelzer@fuse.net](mailto:jstelzer@fuse.net)  
Dennis Wolter – [dwolter@airmod.com](mailto:dwolter@airmod.com)  
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# Oh Deer! (and Coyotes, too)

By DENNIS WOLTER

I am certain that after the hot and dry summer Ohio endured this year, we're all really enjoying the cool fall weather. Like many of us, I absolutely love fall. But there is one part of autumn I could do without, specifically the problems caused by deer that have invaded our living space. Many of us enjoy the serene beauty of seeing these animals in our woods, parks and yards but, being wild animals, they unfortunately cause problems, the most serious of which are safety-related conflicts with people and automobiles.

Last year, both the Mayor and I got our "hunting" limit out of the season with the front bumpers of our cars right here in Mariemont. As bad as the problem can be in the summer, this problem is greatly elevated during fall and early winter when the deer mating season is on. The real culprits here are the young bucks who are inexperienced in the deer mating game. They become very unpredictable and will chase does with reckless abandon. In an effort to avoid these "overly affectionate" bucks, the does will instantly run, paying no attention to people, property and automobiles. If you or your car unwittingly get in their way a collision is likely. Right here in normally tranquil Mariemont we've had pedestrians knocked down, glass doors crashed through and automobiles run into by deer, more often than not by a doe running from an amorous young buck.

Our Village officials are doing everything the law allows to control the deer population and enhance awareness. You may have noticed deer signs on Route 50. We also have licensed, qualified bow hunters culling the population in the lower eighty acres. And we're removing honeysuckle throughout the village to reduce cover and make the deer more visible near roads.

Residents can do a lot to reduce accidents by following a few deer-awareness rules.

1. Please don't feed the deer. That's right! Some misguided residents are actually leaving notes stating what the deer in a given area like to eat.

2. Avoid planting deer-attracting plants.



*The coyote in the picture reveals some distinguishing features: longer snout, less robust chest and hind quarters, reddish to grey color, lighter than a German Shepherd, and a rather long and bushy tail.*

The more they see your yard as a salad bar, the more deer we're going to have in our yards and streets. Much information is available online or at garden stores.

3. Deer generally do not like lighted areas. Even low-wattage decorative garden lighting

can be a deterrent.

4. Educate your children on the possible hazards of sharing our environment with these cute, but wild, animals. Young people are

*(Continued on next page)*



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# Oh Deer!, Continued...

naturally curious, and will often not recognize risk.

5. Be alert when walking near or through wooded areas. The invasion of honeysuckle has made it possible for deer to be within a few feet of you and you may not know it.

6. Keep your distance. Never approach a deer, no matter how docile it may seem.

7. Be careful not to corner a deer in an enclosed space. If you unwittingly find yourself in such a situation, slowly back off and give the deer an easy escape route. Never attempt to scare off the animal, as they can react to such a threat in an unpredictable way.

8. Avoid getting close to a deer when walking your dog. Dogs and deer don't mix particularly well, and a startled deer will defend itself from an unwanted 'predator'. A doe with her young is particularly sensitive to such encounters.

9. Deer have an elevated sense of hearing and smell. Carry a flashlight after dusk so that they will know where you are. If a buck begins chasing a doe, being seen by them may be your best defense against an impact.

10. Stay out of the posted area in the lower eighty acres. There will be eight qualified and active hunters in this area during the entire deer season, November 1 thru February 5.

11. Driving probably poses the greatest risk of having a serious deer-people encounter. Here are some driving tips that should greatly increase your safety.

a) Plan in the back of your mind what you would do if a deer were to suddenly appear in



*Coyotes can look a lot like a slightly underfed German Shepherd in size, physical features and color.*

front of you. Having a way out is a good thing.

b) This is pretty obvious, but don't speed. Higher speed means less ability to maneuver.

c) Pay attention to the brake lights in front of you. Another driver may have spotted deer in or near the road. A little warning can go a long way.

d) When possible, use your high beams to take advantaged being able to see almost twice as far down the road.

e) Don't follow too closely in the event someone ahead does brake suddenly (a good rule to follow at all times).

f) Train yourself to keep an eye on the sides of the road. The sooner you spot a deer, the more time you'll have to react and evade.

g) If you spot one deer, be prepared to see more. They are herding animals and typically move around in groups.

h) Be extra diligent in areas where the deer signs are posted.

Report frequent sightings, deer in the street, and near-misses to the Mariemont Police Department at 271-4089. Please do not call 911 unless there has been an actual accident.

And now there's a new critter in town. With deer, we also inherit problems with coyotes. Deer, especially spring fawns, are a major target of coyotes. Coyotes are wild and dangerous and are moving into residential areas of Mariemont. They are extremely adaptable and resourceful, as well as cunning and tenacious. For more than a year, the Safety Committee and others have been gathering data in order to put a plan together to effectively deal with coyotes in our village. We are consulting objective professionals

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and obtaining scientific information from the internet, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Ohio University, to make sure that we make good choices in designing a comprehensive coyote management plan. The Police Chief and I attended an all-day seminar presented by ODNR and Ohio University on November 7. Following that, we will finalize our recommendations to Council as to what our management plan should be.

In the interim, here is a list of rules, observations and recommendations that will help reduce potential problems between humans and coyotes.

1. These are wild animals; they are unpredictable and can be very aggressive. Never feed them!

2. They see your pets as one thing only... FOOD!

3. Any coyote that is comfortable being close to humans and our environment is dangerous and can become aggressive at any time.

4. A substantial percentage of coyotes carry

rabies or mange. A coyote that wanders into a populated area may have rabies. This disease often alters their behavior.

5. Don't leave pet food out or garbage uncontained; easy food attracts coyotes.

6. Lights and fences are a deterrent but not a guarantee that coyotes will stay away.

7. Don't leave your pets in the yard unattended.

8. Coyotes are fairly nocturnal and are most active in evening and near dawn.

9. Be vigilant when walking your pets close to wooded areas. Coyotes can burst out of the brush and take a smaller pet right off of a leash.

10. Coyotes are pack animals, often traveling and hunting in groups.

11. Please report any coyote sightings to the Mariemont Police Department at 271-4089, as this information is very helpful.

We will continue to put out coyote public awareness information through the Town Crier, the Mayor's Bulletin and Council meetings as

we continue to deal with this problem. One last point: these critters can look a lot like a slightly underfed German Shepherd in size, physical features and color.

As of this writing we've had several Safety Committee meetings related to coyote issues. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at home at 271-1155, or Chief Hines at 271-4089. That's about it for now. Be watchful!



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