

VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE VILLAGE



BY JOAN WELSH

Love is in the air and February is the month for Valentine's Day. Need a little help with some Mariemont-style suggestions for Cupid? Our fine dining restaurants all plan a special evening.

The Quarter Bistro will be offering their four-course prix fixe menu for \$65 on Thursday, February 14. Karen Long of the Heritage Tastings at the Cottage plans two dinner options for their customers. The French Menu (\$30 per person) will run from February 8 until March 2. The Valentine's special (\$45 per person) will only be offered February 14 - 16. Both of these prix fixe menus provide five courses with the main entrée featuring Beef Bourguignon. Wine or beer may be purchased additionally. Reservations are essential. Heritage Tastings does not turn over their tables so you are able to sit and relax with your sweetheart throughout the evening with no rush. Perhaps you know someone who would enjoy a five-course tea sitting? Heritage Tastings offers \$22 per person tea on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

In addition to their regular menu, Chef Eric Vice of the Dilly Café will offer a Surf'n Turf petite filet and lobster entrée on Valentine's Day. At the National Exemplar, new chef Sean Daly will present a 3-course prix fixe menu featuring 5 entrée options and a split of champagne for

\$65 per person in addition to their regular menu February 13 - February 17. All of these restaurants encourage you to check their websites for more information.

Mariemont is pizza heaven. If your idea of romance includes a pizza (perhaps for the kids while they're with the babysitter) we have many options. Mio's will once again be offering their heart-shaped, medium pizzas throughout February. Don't be surprised if a rose or chocolates accompany your Valentine delivery. Mac's Pizza Pub promises to "dress up" on February 14, adding linens and candles to their ambiance. LaRosa's and the brand-new Marco's Pizza round out our local options. While a trip to China or to Mexico may not be in your February budget you can pretend you've traveled to a far away spot while dining at either the Magic Wok or El Trio.

After all that good food you'll be ready for bed. Our Mariemont Inn is having a special offer throughout February. It doesn't have to be just one day to show someone you love them! Their Valentine package will include: overnight

accommodations, a \$40 gift card to either The National Exemplar or the Quarter Bistro, and Graeter's Chocolates. Rates start at \$189 plus tax for a king room. Every guest room at the Inn has a romantic fireplace, Tempurpedic bed with luxury linens, and a great bathroom featuring a large walk-in shower. Why not book a quick escape evening with the one you love?

Thinking about picking up some sweets for your sweetie? Stop by the Sweeterie, where owner Susan Knabb says they are stocking up on candy, decorated cupcakes, and cute Valentine cutout cookies. You can even order a peanut butter cream pie in advance.

If love means sending flowers, you'll want to call Events and Florals of Mariemont. Owner Donna Lenox is ready to take your order for a dozen premium long-stemmed roses in your choice of color. This year's roses will be accompanied by a box of Graeter's delicious chocolates. What a lovely combination! Roses in a vase will be \$75/dozen or boxed at \$65.

We all know that the Mariemont Theatre offers some of the best films in town. Why not combine a movie with a stop next door at Graeter's for a scoop of cherry chocolate chip ice cream? Don't forget our local shops when you're debating on a special gift. You can find just the perfect item for your loved one while shopping right here in the Village. We wish you all a wonderful Valentine's Day!

Progress Made at Meeting with ODOT

Hard-working Council representative Joe Stelzer attended a meeting of the Mariemont Preservation Foundation Board of Trustees on January 24. He was able to report positive results that came out of a public meeting with representatives of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) regarding the possible relocation of Route 32 right through the South 80 acres of Mariemont.

Mr. Stelzer said our message definitely got through, especially in light of the reaction from Hamilton County commissioner Todd Portune, who stated, "I think it's pretty clear this community does not want anything like that at all to ever, ever, ever, ever happen." Joe believes all three commissioners are coming to the viewpoint that it isn't a good idea to spend any more money on studies that include a route through the South 80 as an option.

Joe explained that the entire campaign to block the highway came about through

volunteer effort and didn't cost the Village anything at all. He credited Karen Sullivan for her deep understanding of the issue and the amazing number of hours she put in, and

the strong support they got from volunteers in the Village. He is hoping to see in the near future that ODOT has removed the route as an option.

It's Kindergarten Roundup Time!

The arrival of February signals the start of Kindergarten Roundup Registration at Mariemont City Schools. This annual process is for children who will be five years old by September 30, 2013 and are eligible to enter kindergarten in August 2013. The Kindergarten Registration Roundup Information Night for all incoming Kindergarten parents is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20, at 7 pm at both Mariemont Elementary and Terrace Park

Elementary.

All parents of incoming Kindergarten students are encouraged to attend. At this procedural and informational meeting, all required enrollment documents will be collected. Parents will also have a chance to meet current Kindergarten teachers, and hear and ask questions about the Kindergarten curriculum and program.

Kindergarten parents should also visit the school website to register their student online.

For more information regarding Kindergarten registration and enrollment requirements at Mariemont City Schools, please visit www.mariemontschools.org.

News You Can Use!

	2011	2012	+/-	%
<i>Mariemont</i>				
Single Family Home Sales	41	56	+15	+37%
Average Sales Price	\$311,294	\$346,690	+\$35,396	+11%
Average Days on Market	124	78	-46	-37%
<i>Williams Meadow</i>				
Single Family Home Sales	8	4	-4	-50%
Average Sales Price	\$431,375	\$414,438	-\$16,937	-4%
Average Days on Market	65	116	+51	+78%
<i>Terrace Park</i>				
Single Family Home Sales	41	55	+14	+34%
Average Sales Price	\$461,080	\$502,687	+\$41,607	+9%
Average Days on Market	238	184	-54	-23%

OUR Average Days on Market: 47!

OUR Average Sales Price: \$482,728!

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

March deadline:

The deadline for the next *Town Crier* is **February 14, 2013**. All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 5 pm to Claire Kupferle at ckupferle@cinci.rr.com. Articles should be sent via email in Microsoft® Word, with photos sent as jpg files.

Payment and advertising contracts should be submitted to:
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Mariemont Theater Takes On Expansion Project

BY REX BEVIS

Adapt or perish may be true for just about any business and it is certainly the case for the neighborhood theater business. We in Mariemont have been fortunate to have had our theater as a centerpiece of the Village Square for quite a while. Originally, and for many years, the Mariemont Theater was a solo screen theater. Adapting to the financial realities of operating as a neighborhood theater, the owners undertook a modernization and expansion several years ago (almost 15 years) resulting in today's three-screen environment. That expansion, in conjunction with a re-designed entryway, an inside connection to the Quarter Bistro Restaurant next door, and a revamped front sidewalk and drop-off area, has worked out well for increased theater attendance....up to a point. The theater ownership group wanted an additional three screens in order to operate on a strong financial footing. Looking around, we see that small neighborhood theaters have been driven out of business by the multi-screen complexes more prevalent today.

The Mariemont Theater is a tenant of Spinnenweber Builders. If the theater were to be retained, Dan Spinnenweber would need to figure out how to expand the building to accommodate additional screens, not an easy task in a constricted area with abutting buildings on both sides, and parking at a premium. Mr. Spinnenweber put his team, including his architect, to work on the expansion. The result is extraordinary, as I witnessed on a tour of the construction site with Dan. Although Spinnenweber Builders owns the theater and the property immediately to the east of the theater (the pub site), the rear of the property abuts property owned by Graeter's Ice Cream. In order to accommodate the theater expansion, a slice of property was acquired from Graeters by Spinnenweber Builders. As Dan stated to me, "we could not have done this project without the assistance and cooperation

of the Graeter family. They were super to work with." Dan further told me that the project would not have been possible without the support of Village Council, the Planning Commission, and the Architectural Review Board. The support from throughout the

the new addition housing screen #4 and screen #5. (The site just would not accommodate a sixth screen). And, immediately at the entrance to the additional two screens is a second concession area. Screen #4 and screen #5 utilize stadium seating with steps down to



Construction is in full-swing for a mid-April opening.

community has been excellent.

Construction has now reached a point where the roofing is completed and the expansion area will soon be heated, making it ready for interior work to begin. The renovation is quite extensive. Entering the front of the theater, the movie goer will see that the concession area has been moved from the center location which it currently occupies to the right side of the foyer. The restrooms, which were previously located on the right, will be relocated to the left of the foyer, adjacent to the Quarter Bistro Restaurant. The restroom facilities will be significantly expanded, taking a few rows of theater seats from the left-most theater. The current three-screen layout will be maintained. However, as the customer walks down the center aisle toward the large screen, he or she can take a right turn and walk into

the front, as opposed to the sloped flooring in screens 1 – 3, and accommodate approximately 88 and 169 seats respectively. In addition to the physical changes to the theater, all 5 screens will operate using high-quality digital technology and programmed shows. All screens will also have 3D capability.

Mr. Spinnenweber is targeting an April 15 opening of the new two-screen addition and the re-worked entranceway, restrooms, and concession stands. The Mariemont Theater group has signed on for a long-term lease so it seems that our vibrant Village Square will continue to thrive. The tie-in with the Quarter Bistro works well for both the theater and the Bistro, and an anticipated new tenant in the pub site will further bolster the Village Square complex.

Plan to Attend Town Meeting on March 3



The annual Mariemont Town Meeting will be held Sunday, March 3 at 1:00 pm in the Mariemont Elementary School auditorium.

A major reason why our village is so unique and attractive is that we work together in the community for the good of the community. Our Village Town Meeting was established in 1941 as a nonpartisan system and process through which nominations for Village positions are made. It ensures equal representation for each of our six districts in Mariemont. The annual gathering is also a forum for the sharing of information and ideas among Village officials and citizens.

In odd-numbered years, like this one, Town Meeting serves as a platform for nominating individuals to serve in Village positions whose terms have come to an end. This year, candidates for Treasurer and for representatives from Districts 2, 3, 4, and 6 will be nominated. Nominees for the position of Treasurer can come from any district in the Village. Nominations for district representatives will be made during district caucuses after the general



From Town Meeting 2012: At left, Mayor Policastro addresses the Town Meeting general assembly. Above, Town Crier Hank Kleinfeldt calls the meeting to order. Below, Superintendent Imhoff reports on the state of the schools.

meeting. Nominees must reside in the district they seek to represent.

This year, Town Meeting Committee positions will be up for election, including that

of the Town Crier, a position currently held by Hank Kleinfeldt. In addition, we will hear a "State of the Village" address by Mayor Dan Policastro and an update on the schools from

Superintendent Paul Imhoff.

Mariemont's Town Meeting is an integral part of the Village's history and character. This is your opportunity to enter into one of the most democratic processes in our country.

*Submitted by
Bob Keyes, Town
Meeting Chairperson*



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Beat Cabin Fever with these Book Recommendations

During the long nights and dreary days of February, a good way to combat cabin fever is by escaping into a book. Here are some recommendations for books to get you through until spring, from some of our Town Crier staffers.



four-part serial in 1965. Capote worked on the book for six years.

If you are looking for something lighter, I enjoy anything

by Chuck Klosterman. Check out his books and his conversation-starting cards called "Hypertheticals." A sample question is: "You have won a prize. The prize has two options, and you can choose either (but not both). The first option is a year in Europe with a monthly stipend of \$2,000. The second option is 10 minutes on the moon. Which would you choose?" You can liven up the long evenings by getting the family together and reacting to the cards.

Claire Kupferle

If I had to recommend one book to help alleviate the symptoms of cabin fever, I must point you in the direction of Bill Bryson's, *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. While somewhat of a large work, this book is filled with fascinating details that illuminate science for the average person that does not hold a PhD in physics or biochemistry. As one who has spent most of his adult life studying history, my opportunity to delve into the field of science, let's just say, has been somewhat nonexistent. Yet, as someone who is intrigued by science just as much as history, this book is nothing short of an entertaining delight to read. Bryson's book is ultimately a journey to get a better understanding of not just science, but its history. Why things are the way they are, how they became that way, and how we know it to be. Easily the best part of Bryson's humorously written, yet highly informative work, is how the information given is accessible to the average reader. As I said before, with only an interest in science and no advanced education to understand many of the subjects, Bryson illustrates such subjects in a way that is easy and enjoyable to understand. Ultimately, I recommend this book to anyone who can remember opening up a grade school science text and wanting to know more about a specific area of science than the simple details it provided. That being said, reading Bill Bryson's, *A Short History of Nearly Everything* will not only cure your bout with cabin fever, it will provide you with a greater understanding of the universe around us.

Seth Rosin

At the suggestion of son Andy, I have been reading *In Cold Blood*, by Truman Capote. Working with Harper Lee (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Capote chronicled a brutal mass murder in Kansas in 1959. His "fictional journalism" style was a first and created quite a sensation when the story was originally published in *The New Yorker* magazine as a

atrocities committed by both sides during the wilderness wars.

During the period in which Allan Eckert wrote *The Frontiersmen*, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, he and his wife and daughter lived on Rowan Hill Drive here in Mariemont. If anyone wants to borrow these books, I have several of the *Narratives of America* books to lend.

Rex Bevis

My book recommendation would be *Inside The Revolution*, by Joel C. Rosenberg. The events unfolding in the Middle East can be confusing and foreign to many of us, yet we are all profoundly affected by them. Rosenberg has personally interviewed most of the leaders in the Middle East and has spent years analyzing trends and events there. As a Jew he also deeply grasps the history of Israel in the holy land. His writing is crisp and he brings an insightful and simple framework for understanding the forces at work and their likely future impacts.

Denis Beausejour

When we see a beautiful floral arrangement we admire the beauty of the colors or enjoy the fragrance, yet we rarely stop to think about the meaning attached to each flower. We know that the red rose stands for "love," but did you know the yellow rose's floral definition is "infidelity?" You may want to think twice about sending yellow roses for Valentine's Day. Vanessa Diffenbaugh's debut novel *The Language of Flowers* is the haunting story of Victoria Jones at ages ten and eighteen, building tension as the story of her younger self closes in on the event that explains why she is who and where she is as a young adult. Victoria, who grew up in the foster care system, learns the Victorian language of flowers from her foster mother Elizabeth, and by the time she's an adult it's the central way she processes emotions and relates to other people. Eventually she gets work in a florist's shop, and applies her knowledge to treat customers' troubles with flowers. Watching her bloom through these successes is a magical part of the book, as is the budding relationship with a mysterious man from her past. I enjoyed learning more about the meanings for flowers and loved watching Victoria as she comes, finally, to understand that "the unattached, the unwanted, the unloved [can] grow to give love as lushly as anyone else."

Joan Welsh

Allan Eckert is also the author of the television series, *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*, as well as historical fiction for young people. The entire *Narratives of America* series focuses on the Ohio Valley, and gives the reader an opportunity to understand the rough and tumbled times of the 1700s – 1800s as the white man encountered the Indians, primarily the Shawnee, and took away their land. The books document none too delicately the

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

BY DENIS BEAUSEJOUR

Walking along Miami Bluff I see a 6'5" dad playing basketball with his son. It's one of the great moments in a young man's life, when he dekes his dad and goes to the basket followed by a triumphant roar. Jerry Garrison is smiling and Luke is really glad to get a witness to his conquest. That's as good as it gets isn't it? Thankfully it's a father-son scene that is pretty common in Mariemont.

Jerry coached Luke in grades 5 and 6 and has been actively engaged in his kids' lives. Meredith is 17 and a junior at Mariemont High School and a captain on the Lady Warriors basketball team (currently leading their league). Luke is 14 and a grade 8 student, and a captain for the Junior High basketball team. Thankfully, that parental support is also something quite common in our community.

What is a bit more uncommon about Jerry Garrison is that he has continued to coach recreation basketball for the past two years even though he had no child on the team. And even better, he has continued to involve his daughter Meredith as an assistant coach. In their fourth year of working together, Jerry is convinced serving with Meredith has really deepened their father-daughter relationship.

Jerry's coaching style grew out of growing up watching a number of siblings play the game at the high school and college level. The youngest of 10 kids, Jerry got to learn a lot by the strengths and weaknesses of his siblings. He focuses on fundamentals of getting up and down the court with speed, protecting the ball, and controlling rebounds. He also credits basketball commissioner Hal Northrup, who

puts in a lot of time encouraging the coaches and creating a great atmosphere for the kids.

Of course, with recreation sports, everybody plays and there is a focus on developing each player to their maximum ability. Jerry's motto is to "put kids in a position to succeed." He

admits he gets loud at times, and he admits that Meredith has had to coach him to "take it down a notch." It's all part of the passion to develop himself and others.

Jerry loves that the games are well attended and how the energy level and noise allow the kids to feel the buzz of competition. He gives kudos to the new school facilities and says they are "the best in the city." The whole experience is just fantastic for the kids and the families and promotes lots of very positive side effects, like confidence, and a feeling of giving back.

Jerry married Beth in 1986 and they moved to Mariemont from St. Louis in 1992. They were attracted to Mariemont because it was similar to their Kirkwood community in the St. Louis area. Jerry pointed out that Mariemont has adopted some of the "Kirkwood" legislation and practices for enhanced preservation of



The Garrison Family -- Jerry and Beth along with daughter Meredith and son Luke,

loves when a player learns something new that exceeds their expectations. He loves watching kids have fun and respond to the excitement of the game and the pressure of competition.

When asked if he gets intense on the sidelines, Jerry confesses that he is competitive, something that probably comes from his work in real estate. He is part of an ownership group that was chosen seven years ago as the first franchise owner locally for Keller Williams, and has been a key local realtor here for 20 years. He

Do you know of other helpful Mariemont neighbors that we could profile? If so, please send your suggestions to Denis Beausejour at beausejourdf@aol.com.

historical buildings here in the Village.

Jerry and Beth love that they can walk around the community. When they first moved here, both the theater and the Kroger closed. They are very grateful to the masterful development efforts made by Dan and Bill Spinnenweber and Rick Greiwe, which have preserved and enhanced the ambiance that attracted them here. Beth adds her own touch to the community by serving as the distribution manager for the *Town Crier* and in the local Kindervelt chapter, along with helping out at the Junior High and High School.

Jerry is excited to be an ambassador for Mariemont – both at home and at work. He especially enjoys helping families from P&G, Kroger, and General Electric relocate to the area; appreciating the unique blend of amenities that makes our Village special. Now, if he can only figure out how to defend against Luke...

What's Happening at the Library

February Children

Collect the Button Book Club (CBBC):

Each month, Ms. Kathryn'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. February's series: "Keeker" by Hadley Higginson.. Ages 5 to 10.

Library Babies: Saturday, February 9 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.

Pre-school Story Time: Wednesdays at 1:30 pm. Join Miss Kathryn for stories and

crafts. Ages 3 to 5.

Tales to Tails: Thursday, February 7 at 5 to 6 pm. Kids read to a certified therapy dog to practice their reading skills. Ages 5 to 10.

Crafty Kids: Thursday, February 28 at 4:00 pm.

Teens

InBeTween Club: Gaming, movies, crafts & fun for tweens and teens. There will be something different each month. Thursday, February 21 at 4 pm.

Anime Club: New! Check it out, Saturday, February 23 at 1 pm.

Adults

Upcycling Books: Help celebrate On The Same Page, our city-wide reading project. Create new treasures from old books. Monday, February 25 at 6:00 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. Saturday, February 2 and 16 at 10:30 am.

Book Club: Thursday, February 28 at 6:45 pm. Join us for a discussion of *The End of Your Life Book Club*, this year's On the Same Page city-wide reading title. Copies will be available at the desk.

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.



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Mariemont Welcomes New Police Officer

By SETH ROSIN

The Village of Mariemont takes great pleasure in welcoming Police Officer Dan Lyons to the Mariemont Police Department. Officer Lyons joined the department on October 22, 2012. Lyons, who is approaching his 13th year in the Law Enforcement field, brings with him a varied and accomplished career. Leaving the Lockland Police Department for the MPD, Dan most recently worked as both a Patrol Officer and member of DART, a local drug abuse resistance task force. Upon making the move to Mariemont, Dan recognized the unique charm our Village offers. When asked what his favorite thing about Mariemont is, Officer Lyons noted he enjoys both the beautiful architecture and complex history of our Village.

Like many others in the Law Enforcement field, Dan holds two jobs that find him on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Aside from his duties as an officer, Dan is a father to three children, ages 4, 6, and 14. When he does find some down-time to relax, Officer Lyons enjoys the outdoors, camping, fishing, biking, scuba diving, and playing ice hockey as a member of the Fire Fighters hockey team.



Officer Dan Lyons joined the department in October 2012.

As a member of Hamilton County Police Association's Underwater Search and Recovery Team, Dan is a certified master diver and has gained numerous other certifications that include open water, ice diving, deep water, underwater navigation, and rescue diving. Among Officer Lyons' numerous and distinguished certifications, Dan is also certified through The International Police Mountain Bike

Association.

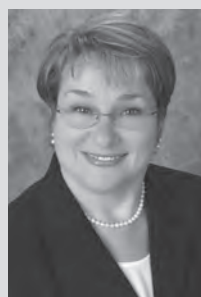
With the experience and skill Officer Lyons brings to the Mariemont Police Department, our Village has found another excellent addition to the hard-working team of officers that are on the job to keep us safe. So, if you happen to bump into Officer Lyons around the Village, be sure to welcome him to the neighborhood.

Correction:

The *Town Crier* would like to apologize for the somewhat garbled article about Kathy Chapman-Dick that ran in the December edition. Somehow, the article met with a horrible type-setting accident and a section was repeated. In addition, we would like to make the following corrections to the content of the article: Kathy's husband goes by Tony, and the degree she earned at U.C. was a bachelor's in social work (BSW). She is a licensed social worker (LSW).

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Art Academy of Cincinnati Classes Now in Mariemont

Did you know that every year, nearly 1,200 people of all ages study art through the Art Academy of Cincinnati's Community Education program? Courses are affordable and



open to all; there are classes for people of every skill level, from beginners to accomplished artists. Subjects run the gamut from standard disciplines such as drawing, communication arts and design, painting, sculpture, and photography, to hard-to-find offerings like woodworking, bookbinding, sewing, papermaking, and comic book art.

And now, Art Academy of Cincinnati classes are being held at The Barn! You can take these wonderful classes right here in Mariemont, complementing and supplementing the already full schedule of classes conducted by the Woman's Art Club.

For more detailed description of the classes offered, and to register online, please go to www.artatthebarn.org and click on the link for the New Art Academy Classes at the Barn. You may also find information at www.artacademy.edu and click on community education. You can then search by location, specifying "The Barn." You may also stop by the Barn to pick up a course catalog. All of the classes listed below will be held at The Barn.

Classes and Details

"After-school Art for Kids"

With Linda Trucksis: 4-6 pm Wednesdays. The next session is February 20 to March 27; Session 3 is April 10 to May 15. Fee is \$65 for each six-class session. Learn a different technique every week. Something fresh and new each class.

"Figure Drawing"

With Matt Wright: 6:30-9 pm Tuesdays, February 5 to March 26. Fee is \$145.

Introductory class for high school students. Matt teaches traditional fundamentals with live (dressed!) models.

"Mosaics"

With Sandy Caruso:

9 am to noon Thursdays. February 14 to March 21. Fee is \$125 and \$40 for materials. Get inspired, make a mess, and have fun creating very personal pieces. No experience required and students must be 16 or older.

"Art for Home-schooled Kids"

With Lynn Arnsperger: 3-5:30 pm Tuesdays, February 19 to March 26. Fee is \$145. Hands-on art and design basics using charcoal, pastel, watercolor, ink and acrylics for students in 4th through 12th grade.

"Cut-ups" with Cheryl Pannabecker:

4-5:30 pm Mondays, February 25 to March 11. Fee is \$150. Paper art class à la Matisse for adults or teens.

"Color Pencil Landscapes and Still Life"

With Marlene Steele: 12:30-3 pm Saturdays, March 16 to May 25. Fee is \$155. Introductory drawing class. Experience on-site outdoor sketching of lovely scenes around Mariemont, weather permitting. When inside, the class will draw from still-life compositions using natural elements. Materials not included.

"Calligraphy Foundations UNCIAL"

With Marlene Steel: 9:30 am to noon Saturdays, March 16 to May 25. Fee is \$170. Learn the beautiful art of giving form to signs, letters, invitations, etc., in an expressive, harmonious and skillful manner. Ideal for beginners.



"Mix-it Up"

With Cheryl Pannabecker: 4-5:30 pm Mondays, March 25 to April 8. Fee is \$150. Class combines watercolor, magic marker and other tools.

"Oriental Ink Painting"

With Young Hi Lee: 9:30 am to noon Saturdays, April 6 to May 11. Fee is \$115. Both new and returning students will enjoy learning the history, philosophy, and symbolism of traditional Oriental painting. Students will learn to manipulate the tools of this painting style, including ink sticks, grinding stones, bamboo brushes, colors, and rice paper. For beginners or intermediate adults and teens.

MO'VIDA – SATURDAY MORNING DRAWING & PAINTING CLASS GRADES 5-8

Have fun drawing and painting while focusing on basic elements of art making, learning to express your creativity and draw and paint your personal vision. Class emphasizes art-making building blocks. Bring your creativity and inspiration! Taught by local artist and art educator Dave Laug. Class schedule: 5 Saturdays: February 9, 16, 23 and March 9 & 23, 10 am to 11:30 am. Fee is \$50 plus materials for the 5-class session. To register, contact David Laug directly at 513-885-5284 or dvdlaug@gmail.com.

CUPCAKES AND CANVAS

Cure your "cabin fever" and enjoy "Canvas and Cupcakes" at The Barn this winter. Local artist Keli Oelerich will be conducting one-day sessions at The Barn for elementary level boys and girls to paint and enjoy a

(Continued on next page)

WOMAN'S ART CLUB CULTURAL CENTER

cupcake. The original, themed painting will be on canvas, with instruction provided by Keli. The class is \$15 per child and includes all supplies, including the cupcake. Each painter will take home a beautiful piece of art. Parents are welcome to stay and paint as well! The last session sold out, so call Keli to register at (859) – 866-8777 or email her at eatdrinkpaint@insightbb.com. Sessions will be held Sunday, February 10, Sunday, March 10 and Sunday, April 21. Class time is 1 pm. -2:30 pm.

ART SHOW AND SALE

Every Second Sunday at the Barn

The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati holds a public art exhibit and sale every month on the second Sunday of the month. Art media varies by month. Looking for something to freshen up your home or business? Original works of art are always a great addition. The next date is Sunday, February 10.

THE ART OF WINE SERIES

Six-Week Wednesday Night Painting Class for Adults

Warm up your winter with wine, conversation and art making with David Laug, painter, teacher and wine enthusiast. Learn how wine has inspired the colors, subjects and life of the masters, while you develop your own wine-inspired style. Explore wine as subject matter for art and how the masters incorporated wine into paintings. Sharpen your palette and discover techniques used by the masters to enhance colors in their work. Wednesday nights, 7 - 9 pm, beginning February 20. \$190 for the six week session. Instructor supplies materials, you supply wine and imagination! To register contact David directly at 513-885-5284, or dvdlaug@gmail.com

WATCH IT – LEARN IT – TRY IT-

MACY'S ARTS SAMPLER DAY

Mark
your calendar
to visit the
Barn for the

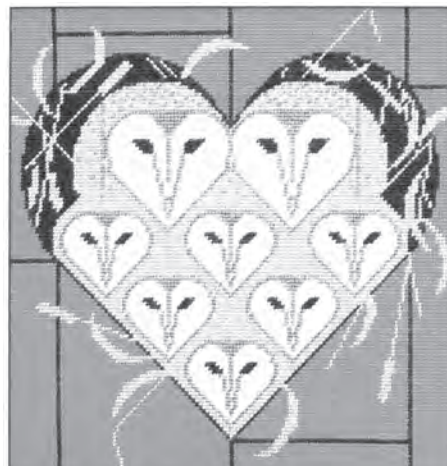
2013 Macy's Arts Sampler on Saturday, March 2 from 11 am to 4 pm. Bring the whole family for live demonstrations of oil painting, watercolor, pastels, collage, enameling, pottery, beading,



spinning and more! Hands on activities – take a creation home. Many of the demonstrations are by instructors who hold classes at the Barn, including Jan Boone, Linda Trucksis, and Ron Johnson. Come and meet the instructors and experience the arts in a relaxed and fun environment!

THE ART OF CHARLEY AND EDIE HARPER IN NEEDLEPOINT EXHIBIT

Come to The Barn and see charming needlepoint reproductions of Charley and Edie Harper's prints stitched by Richard Gegner, Mariemont resident and carillonneur. Incidentally, Richard turns 75 this year and there will be 75 needlepoint works on display. The Harpers' work is well known in Cincinnati



for their colorful, geometric images of nature that appeal to children and adults alike. If you've ever read a Harper picture book to your child, you will love to visit this exhibit and find the bears, birds, and bugs lurking within. Opening reception is Sunday, March 3 from 2-5 pm. Public is welcome and admission is free. The exhibit runs through March 31 and is open on Sundays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 2-5 pm.

LOOKING FOR A STYLISH VENUE FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING OR EVENT?

Our creative and inspiring gallery and



classroom space at the Barn are available for rent. The venue can be used for weddings, meeting space, friendly gatherings, graduation parties and personal art exhibits. Go to our website,

www.artatthebarn.org and click on "Rentals" for complete rental information, including a printable Special Events brochure with information on parking, decorations and extra touches for your event.

SAVE THE DATE!

English Afternoon Tea

Save the Date for our annual English Afternoon Tea, Saturday, March 16 from 3 to 5 pm. Treat your family or friends to an authentic English Tea at the Barn, enjoying tasty tidbits and lavishly set tables using the finest china. Register online at www.artatthebarn.org (\$30 ages 12 and up, \$15 children).

WACC- 120th ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION – CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati is preparing for its 120th Annual Juried Exhibition with a Call for Entries. This show is open to women artists at least 18 years old residing in Ohio, Indiana, or Kentucky. For information and submission guidelines, please visit www.artatthebarn.org and look under the "Club News" column. Early bird deadline is February 15, 2013; final entry deadline is March 1, 2013. The Annual Juried Exhibit will be at the Gallery

Cub Scouts Report on their Recent Fun

Mariemont Cub Scouts have been busy! Here are some of the events they've attended recently – in their own words.

The Zoo Trip

Den 7 went to the zoo to get a Webelos pin. We met in the Education Room; it took awhile for everybody to get there. After the education room, we had a guide\teacher so he showed us around the zoo. We went to the night hunters, the reptile house, where we got to pet a turtle and I saw a big snake. I saw big cats, TURTLES, lizards and elephants. At the end, the teacher\guide talked about poisonous and non-poisonous plants and animals.

by Alexander Jin Mantle

My Trip to the Newport Aquarium

I remember last year when we went to the Newport Aquarium. I really liked it because we got to touch turtles and snakes. It was a very awesome experience for me because I went with my friends in my den. I saw a lot of fish, turtles, and other sea animals. And

I think we saw Mighty Mike, the 16-foot long alligator. And last, we went to a Jungle Jim; we bounced, climbed and did a lot of exercises. Every time I go to the Newport Aquarium it seems like my first trip. There is always something new and delightful to see – such as turtles, snakes, stingrays, and other sea animals. Well, now you know about my favorite den meeting!

By Enzo Ekouevi

Pinewood Derby Race

I joined cub scouts because I wanted to build a car with my dad. I always heard my friends talk about how fun it was and wanted to do it too. My dad and I didn't have much time but we made a car in three days. Even my sister and mom helped. I painted the car red with a yellow bolt of lightning on it. I named it Lightning McQueen. The best part of the race was I came in 3rd place.

By Jack Borgerding

Fire Station

Our den visited the fire station in

Mariemont last Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012. We were working on our Readyman requirements that is needed to achieve the highest award in Cub Scouting, the Arrow of Light award. It was a sunny day and school had just ended. The time was 3:20. We started walking with my babysitter named Samantha. When we got there, the rest of the troop was already there. We walked up the stairs and sat down, we then got into groups. My group was Jimmy, Jackson Hacias, and Jack Fischer. The police officer showed us 3 tools from a first aid kit that would make a difference in an emergency. Then we tried them out on each other using the bandages for stopping bleeding cuts. After that we got to see the fire trucks. I was the first one to find out how to start the engine. I went in the ambulance where there was a camera on the back of the car. We learned a lot and had a great time also.

By Luke Henderson

Cub World

It was a Saturday afternoon and my dad and I were packing for Cub World. I was really excited because Jackson, Alex, Ben, and I were all going to Cub World. When we got there we all waited for the other dens to show up. Then when everyone showed up we went to our cabins. Then we went down

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VILLAGE

to the mess hall. I ordered a hot dog and some carrots. It was really good. Then the pack leader called us down for s'mores. After s'mores we played capture the flag. It was fun. Then we went to bed. I had a good time in Cub World.

By Gavin Moore

Fire Station

On December 6, 2012, the scouts went to the fire station. The fire fighters taught us what to do if we get hurt. We got to go in the fire fighters trucks. They told us that if your grandma stays with you and you try to wake her up and she isn't breathing or not waking up, go to the nearest neighbor. We had fun.

By Nick White

Webelos Den 7 Visit Fire Station in Mariemont

After school, my den walked from Mariemont Elementary with a chaperone to the fire station. Kids from other dens in the pack were there too. We walked into a courtroom and the firemen split us into groups. They taught us what to do if we got hurt or lost if there was not an adult around. One of the fire fighters gave me a piece of gauze for a souvenir. He gave another person a band-aid to keep. The firemen took us to see the fire trucks and let us go inside them and look around. The fire trucks were really shiny and had a lot of buttons on them. We were allowed to look at their gear and pick it up. It was really heavy! There was one ambulance too. At the end, the one fireman said, "Whoever finds the key, can drive the fire truck!"

By Jack Fischer



The picture is from the pack meeting where Mad Science presented. Jackson Hacias is riding on the sphere elevated above ground with the use of a leaf blower.

Mad Science Pack Meeting

On November 14, 2012, Mariemont Pack 1 had a Mad Science pack meeting. One experiment he did was putting fuel in a bottle and putting fire over it. We immediately saw and heard sparks. The scientist talked about natural disasters. He also talked about pressure. He took a bottle of marshmallows and put pressure in it and the marshmallows

shrunk. He also took two suction cups and put them together and they didn't fall apart. The top popcorn sellers for the pack got to ride on a hover crafter at our science pack meeting. Every Webelo scout got their Science Badge.

By Jackson Hacias

The Newport Aquarium

I went to the Newport aquarium with pack. I saw lots of animals there. I saw... sharks, turtles, fish, manatees and lots more. I also got to have lunch there. I had ... chips, pizza, soda, and a cookie. I also got to touch a stingray. It was cold, wet, and slippery. I got to see killer whales too. But the coolest thing of all was a manatee skeleton! And FINALLY we got to the toy store. I couldn't buy anything though. We played and played; we mostly played with the gum shocker thing because whenever someone got shocked everybody laughed hysterically even the person who got shocked laughed.

By Stefan Nistor

Volunteers Needed for Research Study

Are you 18-55 years old? Are you experiencing some of the following symptoms?

- Irritability or anger
- Avoiding people or places
- Nightmares or flashbacks
- Nervousness or anxiety
- Spacing out
- Trouble being in crowds
- Moodiness
- Difficulty sleeping

If so, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational medication for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Compensation is available. All inquiries are kept confidential.

For more information: **Call (513) 861-3100 x 5539** or email ptsdresearchteam@va.gov
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Kindervelt #54 Honors Members



Pictured L to R: Nancy Lonnemann (20 yr); Peggy Keyes (30 yr); and Susan Peck (20 yr). Not pictured, Gretchen Thomas (20 yr); Mary Beth York (20 yr); and Salley O'Donnell (20 yr).

The Mariemont Chapter of Kindervelt (54) honored their long-term members in December 2012. We thank each of these women with a special appreciation for Peggy Keyes,

one of Kindervelt 54's founding members. The Heart Institute / Neurodevelopmental Clinic, Cincinnati Children's Hospital is the recipient of Kindervelt fund-raising proceeds.

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Garden Club News: *Native Plants in our Home Landscaping*

Many homeowners look to places such as Lowes, Home Depot, and local nurseries for their landscaping needs. While these plants are pretty and add a punch of color to your yard, they do little to support the local ecosystems. In order to keep our beautiful birds and butterflies and even those that fly through on their migration paths, we need to include our native plants.

Most of the energy that supplies any ecosystem comes from plants. These plants have specific insects associated with them. These insects help in pollination, fertilization and even pest control for plants. These insects in turn are the energy supply for many of the animals we love in Cincinnati, like northern cardinals, finches, mocking birds, thrushes, chipmunks, and even newts and our Mariemont lizards.

Whether these animals eat the plants directly, or the smaller creatures that live on them, they are all needed to maintain our local ecosystems. Native plants can be integrated into our gardens in many ways. The gray-headed coneflower would make a spectacular background for purple blazing star plants, for example.

For a list of Ohio native plants visit: <http://ohiodnr.com/Portals/3/invasive/Native%20Species%20PDF/Wet%20Fields%20and%20Prairies%202007.pdf>

Don't forget to come to the Barn for a Garden Club meeting on Wednesday, February 6 at 7 pm for wine and cheese!

Happy Plantings!

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



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Neighboring with Nina

By NINA IREDALE



I'd like to start off by wishing everyone a Happy 2013! Also, there are quite a few new neighbors whom I have contacted but haven't received your information. I'd love

to hear back from you and include you and your family in the next *Town Crier*. At anytime, if you are new to Mariemont and I haven't contacted you yet, please feel free to

email me and I will gather your information. It's never too late to be welcomed!

6974 Cambridge Avenue was recently purchased by Tyler Addington. He is engaged to Lauren Stanfield, who lives in an apartment here in Mariemont. Tyler is an auditor for PricewaterhouseCoopers and Lauren is a Senior Trust Associate at Fifth Third Bank. Both love everything about Mariemont and are looking forward to starting their married life here. Being closer to work has also been great for Tyler!

Bob and Barb Blum have lived in Mariemont since 1976 and are proud, first-time grandparents as of October 25. Their daughter, Tara, who graduated from Mariemont High School, and her husband,

Brian Kelley of Madeira, gave birth to Gabrielle Nicole weighing in at 6 lbs. 8 oz. Bob and Barb's close friends, Ed and Carolyn Tuttle, were also expecting a grandbaby around the same time...but after many months of suspense and comparing notes- Mother Nature arranged it so the babies were born 20 days apart! Congratulations to both sets of Mariemont Grandparents!!

I'd like to WELCOME all of our new neighbors and if anyone knows of a new addition to someone's family or a new neighbor that I may have missed, please let me know so they can be included in a future issue. My home phone is 272-1551, cell 484-2647 or email is niredale@sibcycline.com.

Hats Off!

...to Gail and Matt Nickum, proprietors of Snappy Tomato Pizza in Fairfax, for winning the Clean Kitchen Award from the Hamilton County Board of Health.

Locally-owned and operated Snappy Tomato Pizza in Fairfax received the award at the December 10 Hamilton County Board of Health (HCBH) meeting. This award is available only to the Top Food Service Operator / Retail Food Establishment licensed performers in facility sanitation and food safety education.

The following criteria must be met to achieve the Clean Kitchen Award:

1. Facility must have less than three violations in the previous two years.
2. Facility must have no critical or repeat violations in the previous two years.
3. Facility must meet one of the following food education criteria:
 - Two staff members must have a valid Level 1 Food Handler Certificate within the past two-year period; or
 - One staff member must have a current ServSafe Certificate.
4. Facility must have two years of inspection data available.
5. Facility must have an application to HCBH office including documentation that they have met the food education criteria.

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Powerful Message Delivered to Mariemont DAR by Veterans and Commissioner

At the November meeting of the Mariemont Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), forty-one chapter members and guests were present to hear powerful reflections of military men, Army Sgt. Brad Gantz, Marine Sgt. Benjamin Curry, Marine Cpl. Danny Ruck, and Clermont County Commissioner Robert Proud.

Clermont County is known as the "Yellow Ribbon Capital" due to the fact that this particular county has given more in blood than any surrounding area. This fact motivated Bob Proud, six-term Commissioner and extremely active military advocate, to found "Whole in My Heart," a military support group that provides assistance to the families of deployed troops. The organization presently serves 50-60 families a month. "Families serve right along with their men," Proud stated as he presented the emphasis on helping the total family. "Military people are humble people." That sentiment was very evident in the emotionally charged retelling of experiences by these men.



From left to right: Marine Sgt. Benjamin Curry, Marine Cpl. Danny Ruck, Army Sgt. Brad Gantz, and Clermont County Commissioner Robert Proud

Sgt. Brad Gantz, a Glen Este High School graduate, was deployed in Kunar Province, Afghanistan for fifteen months. He served with Medal of Honor winner, Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta. Sgt. Gantz, who recently graduated with a bachelors degree from UC wants to be a US Customs Agent and currently works for the Clermont County Juvenile Court.

Marine Corporal Danny Ruck, a graduate of New Richmond High School, spent four months in rehab after receiving several shrapnel wounds and traumatic brain injury from an IED exploding under his truck. He talked about the effects of the "invisible wounds" related to Post Traumatic Stress (PTS). Corporal Ruck has had a lifelong desire to be a sheriff.

Marine Sgt. Ben Curry, also a New Richmond High School graduate said, "I dedicated my life to America." His son

was born while he was deployed and he talked about enjoying working with Afghan children. Sgt. Curry now lives in Florida and was accompanied to the meeting by his wife, son, brother and grandmother. He is now attending college preparing to be a high school social studies teacher.

Mr. Proud and all of the veterans present emphasized the importance of contact with home in an environment so foreign to their home communities. Contacts made through letters, cards and packages represent love and many of the troops do not have family or close friends to provide this support.

Mariemont DAR proudly supports the military as one of the three tenants of our National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. At the November meeting, Miriam Lillback (Vice Regent) organized the signing

(Continued on next page)



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MariElders News

Book Group

On Thursday, February 7 we will be discussing *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*, by Aimee Bender. Please meet at 10 am on the first floor. Books are now available at the Center's front desk.

AARP Tax Assistance

Tax appointments are available for anyone over 60 years old and have simple tax returns. Volunteers from AARP will be available on February 12 and 26 and March 12 and 26 from 9 am to 1 pm. Please call the Center for an appointment.

Blood Pressure Screening

Free blood pressure screening will be offered by Collier Nursing Services on Thursday, February 14 from 1-3 pm. No appointment necessary.

Speakers Series

On Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 pm we will host a program on, "Baby Boomers – What You Need to Know to Care for Yourself & Others in this Day and Age!" The presenter is from the Caregivers Program through Catholic Social Services. Please sign up on the program bulletin board by February 14.

Museum Days

Opened in 2005, The American Sign Museum follows the history of signage across America from early wooden signs up and through neon signs. After the tour we will have lunch at Camp Washington Chili. The trip will be on Thursday, February 28. Please meet at the Center at 9:30 am. Cost is \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members, lunch is on your own. Sign up by February 22.

HEAP- Home Energy Assistance Program

THE MARIELDERS has the 2012/2013 HEAP applications. HEAP is a federally funded program designed to assist eligible Ohioans with their winter heating bills. You are eligible for the program if you own your own home or are renting. The energy bill must be in your name only. This program makes a onetime payment directly to your gas & electric company.

This program is based on your total gross household income which includes but not limited to: wages, interest, annuities, Social Security, Retirements, pensions, SSI and others.

of twelve Christmas cards and distributed twelve letters that will be handwritten and mailed to deployed military whose names and addresses Mr. Proud provided. In addition, monetary donations were collected which will be used to purchase a special Christmas tree ornament and gift for eight servicemen through the Thank You Foundation. Maxine Mace (Veteran's Affairs Committee) and Pat Sammons (Project Patriot Committee) chair other ongoing efforts. Maxine reported that since March she has taken the following to the VA, compliments of Mariemont Chapter members: nine large hand-crocheted lap robes, six pairs of socks, seventy pounds of personal care items, two soft blankets and eighty-five books. Pat Sammons continues to collect coupons that are sent to military bases including Naples NSA Commissary, Ramstein Air Base and Kadena Commissary to help reduce expenses for military families.


Even though this presentation only lasted for a brief time, many of the powerful stories and thoughts vocalized by these men will remain with all of those in attendance as we enjoy our comforts in America. Through their powerful message, these men remind us that we have much to be thankful for due to the efforts and dedication of our military and their families.

For additional information:

Robert Proud, "Whole in My Heart" 514-518-2230

Mariemont DAR Chapter Regent: Jan Mauch (jan.mauch@me.com).

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SCHOOLS

Mariemont Junior High School Power of the Pen Team Brings Home 17 Trophies



Congratulations to the seventh and eighth grade Mariemont Junior High School Power of the Pen teams, who did a fantastic job at the district competition held at Goshen Middle School. The eighth grade students earned a first-place trophy and the seventh grade students earned a second-place trophy.

Power of the Pen is committed to being the leading interscholastic program in written expression and is designed for writers at

the 7th and 8th grade levels in the state of Ohio. The Mariemont Junior High School team is coached by Leslie Jordan, Erica Eppert and Jill Strall. "I'm so proud of our team for showcasing their individual writing talents," said Leslie Jordan. "It takes the perfect balance of discipline and creativity to accomplish what they did, and I'm extremely proud of each team member."

The following seventh grade students earned individual awards:

Best of round: Erin Ramey and Kayla Dewey
 Kayla Dewey-4th place
 Alex Wilson-8th place
 Erin Ramey-11th place

Hannah Coates -13th place

The following eighth grade students earned individual awards:

Best of round: Grace Haffner and Ellie Kapcar
 Erin Cash -1st place and three Best of round awards
 Grace Haffner - 2nd place
 Janie Bortz-4th place
 Cohen Bailey-10th place
 Ellie Kapcar-13th place
 Lindsey Imhoff-14th place

Submitted by Jo McKenrick



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SCHOOLS

Varsity Coach Receives Peer Selected Award for Contributions

Jeff Timmers, varsity cross country and track coach for Mariemont City Schools and physical education instructor at Mariemont Elementary, was nominated by the track and cross country coaches of District 14 to receive the Distinguished Service Award. This award is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions to Ohio track and/or cross country by individuals in a non-coaching capacity.

"Jeff Timmers works hard to promote his sport and his athletes across the city and the state," said Tom Nerl, athletic director of Mariemont City Schools. "It is quite an honor for him to be recognized by his peers for the great work he does."

Jeff Timmers, along with the coaches at Finneytown Local Schools and Wyoming City Schools, started a Cincinnati Hills League (CHL) cross-country training camp, where over 75 student athletes from the league train together, which is highly unusual. This year



Mr. Timmers, varsity cross country and track coach for Mariemont City Schools and physical education instructor at Mariemont Elementary, received the Distinguished Service Award.

the training camp will be held at Mariemont City Schools in July.

"It's an honor that my peers are recognizing me in this capacity, especially when I feel like I am just doing my job," said Jeff Timmers. "The support I receive from the community, the parents and the school is incredible and enables me to do what I do. I am proud and pleased to have a job that allows me to live my passion."

This award was presented at the OAT & CCC Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday, January 25, held at the Hilton Columbus at Easton.

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Two Mariemont Students Performed with Honor Band

Two Mariemont City School students performed with the Ohio Music Education Association District 14 Honor Band. Mariemont High School senior Chris Simons was second chair out of all percussionists in Hamilton and Clermont counties in the High School Honor Band. Kayla Dewey, a seventh grade student at Mariemont Junior High School, was the highest ranked seventh grade trumpet player this year, placing 7th out of 15 trumpets in the Junior High Honor Band.

Chris, who is also a member of the Mariemont High School marching band and the concert band, has performed with the honor band three other times prior to this. "Because of



Kayla Dewey was the highest ranked seventh grade trumpet player this year, placing seventh out of 15 trumpets in the Junior High Honor Band.

the level of talent that is selected for honor band, it's more challenging and I find it more enjoyable," said Chris, a Terrace Park resident.

"Having good people around you makes you work even harder and appreciate how hard you worked to get where you are."

This is Chris's seventh year playing the percussions, and Kayla began playing the trumpet in fifth grade after she was told she had a good sound at try-it night, when high school seniors review the instruments with fourth grade students. "Because I'm an auditory learner, I have to listen to the pieces over and over again, and it was a bit overwhelming to learn four new pieces in just a few days," said Kayla, a Mariemont resident.

"But I feel like I did really well, and I hope to get a higher chair next year and continue to improve my playing."

HOME SALES UP 40% in 2012!

Dear Neighbor,

The number of homes sold in Mariemont is up 40% from the previous year. Homes are also selling more quickly than a year ago. The median amount of time that a home spent on the market was 80 days in 2012. In 2011, the median time frame was 127 days. Mariemont continues to be a great place to own a home.

If you need real estate assistance, please call me. Even if you are just curious, I can provide you with a current market analysis of your home, updates on prices in the area, and current mortgage rates. There's always something interesting to discuss in the real estate business!

I would like to thank all of my friends who have made my real estate career so exciting. Your support means so much to me. God bless all of you in the new year.



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2012

The Year in Review in our Village

Number of single family homes sold	61
Total \$ amount	\$20,500
Average Sale Price	\$337,00
Days on Market	80 Days
List Price to Sell Price	92%

Cost Breakdown 2005 – 2012

	Homes Sold							
Price	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12
\$100k-\$200k	24	9	14	12	11	13	8	11
\$200k-\$300k	34	24	12	19	12	16	13	22
\$300k-\$400k	15	13	11	10	7	10	11	13
\$400k-\$500k	8	6	9	5	5	3	4	3
\$500k-\$600k	7	1	9	7	6	7	4	7
Over \$600k	4	7	5	5	6	6	3	5
Total \$ (in millions)	\$28	\$20.4	\$21.7	\$18.3	\$16.6	\$20.1	\$14.3	20.5
# of homes sold	92	60	60	58	47	55	43	61
Average sale price	\$304k	\$340k	\$362k	\$316k	\$354k	\$365k	\$333k	\$337k

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SCHOOLS

MHS Girls' Varsity Soccer Coach Named Coach of the Year



Girls' varsity soccer head coach, Mike Haney, has been selected as the 2012 NFHS Soccer State Coach of the Year for Ohio.

Mariemont High School girls' varsity soccer head coach, Mike Haney, has been selected as the 2012 NFHS Soccer State Coach of the Year for Ohio. The NFHS Coaches Association is the official coaches association for the National Federation of High School. The award recognizes Mike's service not only to the student athletes of Mariemont High School, but also to the local and Ohio Soccer Coaches Association.

"Mike Haney does an excellent job working with our athletes and preparing them for the season and beyond," said Tom Nerl, athletic director of Mariemont City Schools. "Not only does he work hard promoting our athletes, but he works hard promoting and improving the game in Ohio by serving as the Southwest Ohio Soccer Coaches Association president and a member

of the OHSAA Board as the Ohio soccer coaches' representative."

Mike has headed up the Mariemont girls' soccer program since 1998. He has seen his squads achieve 14 consecutive winning seasons, two district championships and rankings among the top in the state. In 2011 he was named Division III Southwest Ohio Coach of the Year, Ohio Coach of The Year and NSCAA Regional Coach of The Year. Mike earned his National Diploma from the

NSCAA and is licensed through the USSF. He is also an avid fan of swimming and is a Level 1 official with USA Swimming. Mike is also the Physical Education teacher at Mariemont Junior High School and has been working in the district since 1996. Mike holds a Masters degree in Secondary Education from Xavier University and a Bachelors Degree from the University of Cincinnati in Communications.

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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 and click on Village of Mariemont, then Village Government

Council Meeting – November 26, 2012

Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Stelzer to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee related to the growing

coyote problem in the Village. The Committee recommends having the Police/Fire Chief put together a program to deal with coyotes appearing in residential neighborhoods and/or exhibiting aggressive behavior anywhere. Only Police Officers are permitted to implement the program, and they must give public notice as to when and where the control measures, which involve firearms, will take place. The committee also plans a public awareness program.

On roll call; four ayes, one nay (Ms. McCarthy dissented).

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee regarding changing the school zone design on Madisonville and Plainville Roads. The committee recommends extending the school zone, with signage that will communicate the new school zone area. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The resolution to rename the Mariemont Municipal Building as the Colonel Donald L. Shanks Municipal Building was adopted.

Council Meeting - December 10, 2012

Mr. Andrews asked about the damage to the east entrance to the Village. Chief Hines said an elderly gentleman failed to negotiate the turn. Mayor Policastro said he has contacted the insurance company. Mr. Scheeser questioned whether we needed the street light and the blinking lights or if something else could take its place. Mayor Policastro said we first need to get a settlement. The lights might belong to Duke Energy, in which case, it might take a long time before there is any action.

Building Commissioner Malone said we have been focusing on the Historic District and it has become increasingly

evident that we need to tighten up some of the ordinances and stipulations concerning property maintenance. He would like to have more teeth in the regulations and update the zoning code and property maintenance code to give us something more specific to enforce.

Mayor Policastro referred Council to the professional resume of Kirk Hodulik: He is an architect, and the Mayor plans to contract Mr. Hodulik to go through the Historic District. He is going to walk the area five hours a week. Eventually he will move into the position of Building Commissioner. Mr. Malone has indicated that he will retire sometime in the coming year. Mr. Hodulik is semi-retired and seems to fit our need perfectly. He will work along with Building Commissioner Malone for the coming months learning the position of Building Commissioner.

Mayor Policastro said Treasurer Kulesza has asked for a six-month leave of absence. In the meantime, Clerk Borgerding will take over both positions.

Waldorf School

Solicitor McTigue discussed an easement agreement for Waldorf School. When Waldorf did their due diligence and had the title exam performed, there were a couple of concerns. There is a small parcel that had a reverter provision in the deed. If the property is no longer used as a public education facility then it reverts back to the Village of Mariemont. Council wants to work with the Board of Education to try to make this transaction go forward. Mr. McTigue and the Mayor have met several times with the Board of Education and representatives for the Waldorf School and have come up with the proposed easements. The first is a

(Continued on next page)

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COUNCIL NOTES

non-exclusive easement that gives the Waldorf School the right to continue to use the adjacent property as the school has always been using it. He spoke with Mr. Stelzer who brought up a good point which is the Village has always maintained the area. He contacted the attorney for the Waldorf School who agreed to share the cost of the maintenance equally. Mr. Stelzer suggested that if we are going to grant an easement on that property that we should have a restriction put on that there will not be any sort of building that takes place. Mayor Policastro asked how maintenance was going to be defined. Solicitor McTigue said he does not know if we will be able to get one half of the grass cutting reimbursed but more along the lines of resurfacing the parking area. He said it was his understanding that any snow removal would still be the responsibility of the Village. After discussion it was agreed that the Village would continue to provide the grass cutting in Dale Park and the snow plowing as we currently do. Any maintenance above and beyond would be shared 50/50.

Ohio Fire Code Compliance

The Safety Committee recommends at this time that the following streets be brought into compliance with Ohio Fire Code appendix D, sections D101.1 thru D103.62 to insure safe access and egress for emergency equipment:

Harvard Acres - No Parking on east side, paint the existing curbs yellow

Park Place - Due to the absence of curbs, four "no parking" signs will be evenly spaced on the west side of the street

Petoskey Avenue on the south side of Wooster Pike - due to the absence of curbs, four "no parking" signs will be evenly spaced on the east side of the street

Petoskey Avenue on the north side of Wooster Pike - move all existing "no parking" signs from the west side to the east side of the street

Denny Place - Paint the existing curb on the south side of the east/west section of the street and the east curb of the north/south section of the street. Also remove the existing "no parking" sign near the intersection of Pleasant Street and Denny Place.

Mr. Andrews said one concern is have we given enough notice to residents on the streets to speak in the process. Mr. Wolter said the notices went out 2 1/2 weeks ago. The normal

process will be to hold a Committee meeting and make a Committee recommendation report. It will give people two weeks notice to attend both the Committee meeting and the Council meeting to voice concerns or to let us know if they have a better way that will meet state requirements

Mr. Stelzer updated Council on a few ongoing issues. There has been a problem with people digging without permission in the South 80 Acres. There is an Ordinance prohibiting digging which is a third degree misdemeanor. The police will enforce this, so if anyone sees people digging who are not from the University of Cincinnati, please report it to the Police Department right away. They are going to start excavating soon to see if there is an Indian Village.

Mr. Stelzer said we had a recent meeting with ODOT in which they announced that they are looking at an alternative route instead of taking it through the South 80 Acres. It is encouraging but it is nowhere near a reason for us to let our guard down because they still show the route through our property as a potential route.

Council Meeting – December 26, 2012

Clerk Borgerding said everything looks good with the budget, and we should end with a surplus this year. Mrs. Judd told the Mayor that for the year we are up 8% over last year. We should end the year with close to \$1.2 million in the General Fund which is

way above what was projected last year. Clerk Borgerding said the expenses were pretty much as budgeted but receipts have exceeded expectations.

Mayor Policastro said we are making good progress in our move to save the South 80 acres. Mr. Wolter asked if it would be possible to display artifacts that are found. Mayor Policastro said he is planning on getting another curio cabinet with funds donated for the renaming of the Building for Don Shanks to house both memorabilia donated by Mr. Shanks and to display the Indian artifacts in the old one. However, the location would need to be secure, possibly in Council Chambers.

Expansion of School Zone

Mr. Scheeser asked if the State of Ohio had any issue with the expansion. Chief Hines said the Ordinance needs to be passed and submitted with the paperwork. When talking with the representative from ODOT he does not believe it will be an issue. Mr. Scheeser said Suzy Weinland sent a note suggesting that the school zone include the crossing area on Madisonville Road by PNC Bank because it is dangerous for children crossing going to school. Mr. Scheeser asked if it was possible to

(Continued on next page)



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VILLAGE

amend the Ordinance to include this area. Mr. Wolter said it was discussed in the Committee meeting and the problem was viewing the signs - they were afraid that motorists would miss the sign altogether. Mr. Stelzer said the Committee also suggested having children walk to West Street where there is a crossing guard. On roll call; five ayes, no nays. Ordinance No. O-24-12 was adopted.

Council Meeting – January 14, 2013

Mr. Wolter said he would like for Council to consider filling the position of the 10th Police Officer. The department has been short for three years. The budget from last year turned out better than expected and he believes we will be able to maintain that in the future. Police Chief said it has been a struggle and has caused staffing problems. Mayor Policastro referred the matter to the Finance Committee.

Maintenance Superintendent Scherpenberg said we received bids from Grass Cor, Blue Sky, Lawnscape and Swisher Landscaping

for cutting grass around the Village. He recommends going with Grass Cor who had the contract in 2011. Mr. Scheeser moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the Bid of Grass Cor of \$42,720. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Solicitor McTigue said he will prepare the contract which will include two one-year options.

Engineer Ertel discussed a recommendation for roadwork to be done for 2013. It includes Cambridge Avenue from Rowan Hill Drive to Grove Avenue and Mariemont Avenue (Industrial) from Trade Street to Railroad and Railroad to East Terminus. Last year it was recommended to add a new sidewalk at Wooster Pike – East Street to Indianview. In addition, there was a manhole out of alignment at Springhill and Wooster Pike which he plans to add to the list of work. He estimates it should be \$4,000. Ms. McCarthy said there is a hole in the sidewalk going towards Dale Park parking lot. Engineer Ertel said if it is just one piece of concrete - the Maintenance Department

should be able to repair it without putting it on the bid list. Mayor Policastro said he hopes this spring to put a plan together for the south part of Pocahontas Avenue which is a mess. He wants to get everyone on the street together and figure out what we can do with the drainage problems. Mr. Scheeser said he sent the Engineer an e-mail about the section of Murray Avenue by the Trolley Turn-Around Park and putting in a sidewalk on the south side of the road. Mayor Policastro said that should go under the Safe Routes to School project. He said 8 years we tried to put in a sidewalk but met with opposition because the residents in the area park along there. Clerk/Treasurer Borgerding reminded Council that we usually only bring in \$120,000 in the Street Fund a year so to do all this work would require using funds from the Permanent Improvement Fund.

Mr. Miller moved to nominate Mr. Stelzer as President Pro-Tem of Council. Over the last few months he has demonstrated outstanding

(Continued on next page)



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VILLAGE

ARB Meeting – December 17, 2012

work. He is very deserving based on his work on improving our park in the lower 80 acres. In addition, his work, time and effort on the part of all of Mariemont on the Eastern Corridor have been exceptional. Mr. Andrews seconded the motion, even though he feels there are several people who are deserving, but he would agree with the remarks of Mr. Miller. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mayor Policastro said Mr. Stelzer goes downtown quite a bit for meetings on the Eastern Corridor and he thinks it would be give him more clout being Vice-Mayor.

Mr. Andrews moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which brought the next five streets into compliance with Ohio Fire Code Appendix D, sections D101.1 thru D103.6.2 to insure safe access and egress for emergency equipment, per a Committee Report passed by Council on December 10, 2012. The streets are: Cachepit Way, Murray between West Street and Grove Avenue, Murray between Rowan Hill Drive and Lytle Woods Place, Pocahontas (south side of Wooster Pike), Pocahontas (north side of Wooster Pike to Hiawatha Avenue), Lytle Woods. Notices are being distributed to the affected streets. On roll call; five ayes, one nay (Mr. Scheeser dissenting).

Ms. McCarthy moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee to place a stop sign at the north end of Belmont Avenue at the intersection of Murray Avenue. The stop sign would cause traffic traveling north on Belmont Avenue to come to a complete stop before turning left (westbound) onto Murray Avenue. The Committee believes this will improve both vehicle and pedestrian safety at the intersection and recommends the stop sign be put in as soon as possible. Mr. Wolter said many people complain that kids and adults fly around that corner. Fairfax has a sign in the opposite direction so there is a real need for the stop sign. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Ms. Bonnie Malone of Spinnenweber Builders said US Bank has moved and per their lease they are required to remove everything (except the safe) and restore the building back as close as possible to the original building. It is going to be hard because there are no pictures of it originally. There was a door where the mechanical room is now located. What was suggested is putting a window in place of where the door was originally located. It is not clear whether the building is considered historical. Building Commissioner Malone said the whole block is indicated as being in the Historical District. ARB recommended that Spinnenweber Builders restore the building as close as possible to the original design with the understanding that it will no longer have a door and it will have a window in place of the ATM machine.

Mr. Bruggeman said he and the Mayor had an e-mail discussion last month regarding the trailer that is located across from the school. There is no code violation and it is allowable. His discussion with the Mayor was the appropriateness of it. He asked if there was a possibility it could be removed after the theatre construction is complete. Ms. Malone said no. The trailer would have been long gone had they been able to develop the property and put up a fence and take out the sidewalk. There was some opposition from people who use the sidewalk. The matter was tabled until school opened to see what happens. Until the

issue with people from the school parking on Spinnenweber's property is addressed and corrected the trailer will remain. He is going to have a police officer in the area for two hours (splitting the cost with the school) to walk around informing people that they cannot park in the business lot.

The second agenda item was a letter from Mariemont Preservation Foundation concerning replacement windows at 6627 Murray Avenue that are not in keeping with the historic look of buildings in that area. Mr. Thomas said a better incentive would be to find money to allow people to replace windows with some sort of grants or low interest loans. Mr. Thomas asked what can be done at this point. Building Commissioner Malone said 6627 Murray Avenue did not get a building permit which would have triggered ARB involvement. The replacements need to look like more or less the existing configuration, size and scale. This is a radical departure. Building Commissioner Malone said he will contact the home owner.

Council Representative Information

Jeff Andrews – jeffcandrews@gmail.com
Joe Miller – jmiller1@fuse.net
Cortney Scheeser – cscheeser@yahoo.com
Joe Stelzer – jstelzer@fuse.net
Dennis Wolter – dwolter@airmod.com
Denise McCarthy – dmccarthy@mariemont.org



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MARIEMONT PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

MPF Names New Executive Secretary/Archivist

After 26 years in the position, Janet Setchell, Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF's) former Executive Secretary and Archivist, decided to retire. Lisa Woodruff of Mariemont was recently named her replacement.

Janet was the face of MPF for many years and is helping Lisa learn the position and get settled in.

Seth Rosin had joined the organization for several months and made some important contributions. However, he decided to resign for family reasons, and MPF is now supported by Lisa Woodruff. Mariemont Preservation Foundation, located at 3919 Plainville Road, across from the tennis courts, is open to the public every Saturday between 9:00 am and noon.

Feel free to stop in to browse the



Janet Setchell, MPF's former Executive Secretary and Archivist, and Lisa Woodruff, her replacement.

collection of artifacts, blueprints, and photographs showcasing the rich history of our Village.

MPF Launches Community Grant Program

At its September 2012 meeting, MPF's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to "create and perpetually administer a grant fund for the betterment of the Village of Mariemont."

Grant applications capable of meeting the physical, cultural, civic, recreational, and educational needs of Village residents, local non profit groups, local public institutions, community organizations, and Mariemont schools will be eligible for funding.

Eligible activities include beautification, open space protection and enhancement, neighborhood and historic district reinvestment, the creation and enhancement of walking and hiking trails, and projects which are judged to be consistent with MPF's Vision 2021 publication.

A pool of \$15,000 has initially been set aside. Grants from \$100 to as much as \$5,000 will be awarded. Grant applications can be picked up at MPF's office at 3919 Plainville Road or downloaded from MariemontPreservation.org.

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Hats Off!



...to Holly Huber, Mariemont High School junior and Williams Meadow resident, who was nominated by the Mariemont High School English Department to represent the district in the National Council of Teachers of English Achievement Awards in Writing. Each high school selects its own nominee, agreed upon by the entire English department. Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to encourage high school students in their writing and to recognize publicly some of the best student writers in the nation.

"The nomination itself is an honor, and I'm excited to write these essays," said Holly. "It was nice of the department to consider and choose me, and I will definitely ask for a lot of feedback on my submissions in order to present the best examples of my writing, creativity and range."

The students must submit two writing samples - one sample that the student considers his or her best work and another sample that follows a theme. The 2013 theme is "Personal Mount Rushmore." The National Council of Teachers of English will announce results and recognize students who are cited as excellent writers in May.

Holly is looking forward to college, but for now she enjoys participating in Key Club, Latin Club, Leadership Council and the school musical this spring.

Use Nextdoor Mariemont? Follow these Guidelines

We introduced Nextdoor because we believe that our Village is one of the most important and useful communities in a person's life. We believe in the traditional notion of neighbors as people who help and look out for each other. We hope that Nextdoor members embrace the concept of being neighborly to each other.

To us, being neighborly includes:

Respecting your neighbors

- Be honest, authentic, and straightforward in all actions
- Show tolerance to each other, even if you don't share similar opinions
- Don't share content from the website outside of the neighborhood without your neighbors' permission

Sharing useful information

- Answer your fellow neighbors' questions
- Report crime and emergency alerts
- Post weather and traffic bulletins
- Discuss community-wide issues
- Publicize neighborhood events

Supporting your neighborhood

- Recommend great local businesses and

service providers (without spamming)

- Sell, share, or donate products that you no longer need
- Strengthen the community by inviting your neighbors to Nextdoor

People often ask if it's appropriate to recommend their own business to their neighbors. While spamming neighbors with multiple, unsolicited messages about one's business is always forbidden, mentioning your business to your neighbors is allowed. The Nextdoor Mariemont policy allows neighbors with a local business to do the following:

- Mention their business in their introductory post.
- Include information about it in their profile.
- Make one post in the relevant

Recommendation categories letting folks know about their business (including links to their website).

- Respond when neighbors ask for a recommendation in one of those categories (as long as they are upfront about the fact that they own or work for the business in question).

These guidelines come from the Nextdoor.com website.

Nextdoor Mariemont Real Estate Policy

Recently, there has been a spirited discussion as to what is appropriate to post on the Nextdoor Mariemont site. Specifically, a post about an apartment for rent sparked some debate.

Nextdoor Mariemont is about neighbors helping neighbors, and we want to see our local landlords and property owners succeed. However, there are a lot of apartments, rental homes, For Sale By Owner houses, and houses for sale through local realtors. These posts all go into the news feed, and could edge out posts from neighbors looking for a babysitter.

Whitney from Nextdoor headquarters in California said, "Unfortunately, right now everything is going through the news feed, which can result in clutter. We are working to amend this."

Nextdoor Mariemont will allow posts about real estate offerings, since quite a few residents have requested this information be available.

We ask property owners and representatives to limit the length of their posts and to post only once. The information is automatically saved in the Buy/Sell/Free category. Also, users have the option to get updates daily, once a week, or not at all. There is always the Mute button, if you want to stop getting posts from a particular individual.

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