

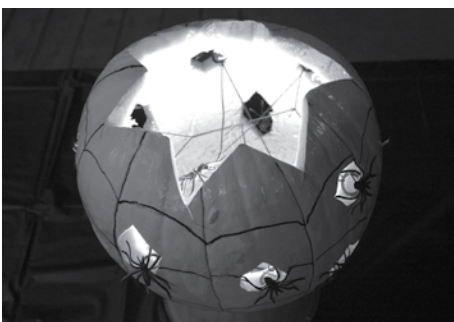
Mariemont TOWN CRIER

NOVEMBER 2014 • MARIEMONT, OHIO • VOLUME XXXIX, No. 3

Halloween Fun at the Barn

Zipperface, shown at right, was a popular fellow at the recent Artoberfest event at the Barn. Zipperface was an entry in the pumpkin carving contest and was carved by Tim Boone, a sculptor. The event was sponsored by the Woman's Art Club Cultural Center, located in the former Resthaven Barn. Tim and his wife Jan are actively involved with the organization.

Photos by Ron Schroeder



Town Crier Creative Showcase

New *Town Crier* staffer Karen Kennedy visited Mariemont Elementary with an eye toward finding a piece of art to spotlight in the paper. She was drawn to a display of artwork based on the theme "Games People Play." The piece she selected is titled "The Jump Rope," and was created by Ava Grace Kulesza, a second grader in Shelley Komrska's art class at Mariemont Elementary.

Karen liked the image of happy children at play, which is rendered in cheerful yellows and greens. "This artist conveys a sunny, carefree, fun day. Great job!" said Kennedy.

Karen will continue to be on the lookout for noteworthy art in all grade levels. She is a freelancer who loves living in Mariemont. "Our village is so quaint and the people are so friendly," Kennedy said. She likes that it's a family place. Karen is a

grandmother of two who enjoys photography and writing. She has authored two children's books (a continuing endeavor), that are educational and fun, teaching children about patience, kindness and empathy. She says, "I

love the purity and sweet, innocent nature of children's art. It is truthful and simple. The art programs at the schools in Mariemont are excellent! I feel compelled to share this with you!"



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STAFF

Editor

Claire Kupferle

561-4428 / indy3844@aol.com

Business & Advertising

Manager

Claire Kupferle

Distribution

Lisa Vanags

233-3745 / lvanags@zoomtown.com

Layout

Matt Weinland

mweinland1@cinci.rr.com

Proofreaders

Dick Adams / Wes Iredale

Contributors

Kim Beach

kbeach@cinci.rr.com

Rex Bevis

271-0468 / rexbevis@fuse.net

Nina Iredale

272-1551 / nina90@cinci.rr.com

Karen Kennedy

kennedykaren10@gmail.com

Heather McGuire

heatherdmcguire@gmail.com

Renee Tecco

638-0511 / rentec8@gmail.com

Joan Welsh

561-2256 / joanwwelsh@gmail.com

Randy York

271-8923 / ryork@cinci.rr.com

Photographer

Ron Schroeder

ronschroederimaging@gmail.com

Carriers

Celia Caesar

Margot Baumgartner

Ginny Caesar

Theo Christopher

Bridget Gilmore

Scott Holland

Sophia and Jackson House

Ally Maier

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Emma Veeneman

Claire Wilder

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

December deadline:

The deadline for the next *Town Crier* is

November 13, 2014.

All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 5 p.m. to Claire Kupferle at indy3844@aol.com.

Articles should be sent via email in Microsoft® Word, with photos sent as jpg files of at least 350KB.

Payment and advertising contracts should be submitted to: Claire Kupferle, 3844 Indianview, Cinti., OH 45227

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

Mariemont Town Crier, 3844 Indianview, Mariemont, OH 45227 • (513) 561-4428

SCHOOLS

Mariemont High School Presents: *The Awakening of Sleepy Hollow*

Mariemont High School students are presenting an original drama as this year's fall play. The story is set in 1790 in the countryside around the Dutch settlement of Tarry Town (historical Tarry Town, New York,) in a secluded glen called Sleepy Hollow. In writing this original version of the folk tale, the students set out to discover what is really happening to the town's people, and how the traditions of the times could lead to a spooky rumor taking over the town and its neighboring lands.

They have written this play to be age-appropriate and intrigue the young actors and the adult audience. However, it may be too frightening for very young guests. Just good spooky fall fun!

Performances will be held at Mariemont High School on November 13, 14, and 15. All shows start at 7:30 pm. Call 272-3372

for tickets. Adults: \$10 - Senior Citizens / Students: \$5.



High School Students Create Holiday Magic for Younger Children

Mariemont High School's annual Holiday Fair will take place on Friday, December 5 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the Mariemont High School gym. In its 16th year, the festive, community-wide event is student run and benefits participating student clubs, teams and organizations.

Holiday Fair 2014 activities will include popular games of skill and chance, treats, decor/jewelry sales, sportswear, silent auction and more. As always, the Art Club will sell its one-of-a-kind creations including painted home accessories and furniture. Kids will be

able to test their skills at sports challenges with Mariemont Warrior athletes. Favorite carnival games, bingo, cake walk and face painting will all be returning.

Bring the entire family and enjoy the

wonderful MHS PTO dinner which will be served that evening. From preschoolers through adults, Holiday Fair offers a great evening for the whole community. Mark your calendar now for a memorable Mariemont tradition that will kick off your holiday season!

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VILLAGE

Porsche Enthusiasts Descended on Mariemont

A chilly October day could not keep car enthusiasts from the Southeastern Ohio chapter of the Porsche Club of America from

displaying their dream cars in the square during Rallye Porsche Mariemont (RPM) 2014. Mariemont resident and club member

Grant Karnes helped organize this fun and informative annual event that included Porsches, a beer garden and a lot of car talk!



Photos courtesy Ron Schroeder



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MarieElders News

Mammograms

When: Thursday November 6
Time: 1 pm to 3:30 pm
Cost: Most insurances accepted
Where: MARIELDERS parking lot
The Jewish Hospital Mammography Van will be here at MARIELDERS on Thursday November 6 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Sign up on the Center bulletin board.

Breakfast & The Ballet

When: Friday November 7
Time: 8:30 am
Cost: \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members (breakfast on own)
Where: Meet at MARIELDERS
The Cincinnati Ballet will perform Peter Pan, before the show we will have breakfast at First Watch. Sign up with a paid reservation by November 3.

Everything But The House Lunch

When: Tuesday November 18
Time: 12:00 pm
Cost: \$1 for members, \$2 for non-members
Where: MARIELDERS Basement
Come and hear how Everything But The House (EBTH) works and have lunch sponsored by Hyde Park Health Center. EBTH is an innovative business that specializes in the wall-to-wall liquidation of personal property. Come and learn all about it! Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by November 11.

Thanksgiving Lunch

When: Thursday November 20
Time: 12:00 pm
Cost: \$5 for members,
\$6 for non-members
Where: MARIELDERS Basement
It is that time of year again for the MARIELDERS Annual Thanksgiving Lunch. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry sauce, and of course pumpkin pie. Sign up with a paid reservation by November 14.

Playhouse in the Park: Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical

When: Wednesday November 26
Time: 10:30 am

Cost: \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members (brunch on own)
Where: Meet at MARIELDERS
First we will have brunch at the National Exemplar and then head to The Playhouse in the Park for *Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical*. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by November 14.

La Comedia: Miracle on 34th Street

When: Friday December 5
Time: 9:30 am
Cost: \$60 for members, \$65 for non-members
Where: Meet at MARIELDERS
Join us as we head to La Comedia Dinner Theater. We will see *Miracle on 34th Street* and of course enjoy the wonderful buffet lunch. Price includes show, lunch, and deluxe motor coach transportation. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk by November 20.

Lollipop Craft Show

When: Saturday December 13
Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cost: Free for shoppers
Where: Mariemont Elementary School
Come and shop at our 3rd Annual Lollipop Craft Show. Vendors and crafters from all over the tri-state area will be on hand to sell their wonderful items. Tell your friends and neighbors to come and get their Christmas shopping done with us. Mariemont area Girl Scouts will be selling wonderful food and dessert in the cafeteria. Come on in for a day of holiday shopping.

An Evening with Natalie Cole: The Cincinnati Pops

When: Sunday February 8, 2015
Time: 5:30 pm
Cost: \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members
Where: Meet at MARIELDERS
Celebrate Valentine's Day with the *Unforgettable* Natalie Cole and your Cincinnati Pops! This internationally acclaimed, nine-time Grammy-winner takes the Music Hall stage for a captivating one-night performance of her favorite hits. Sign up with a paid reservation at the Center front desk. Space is limited so sign up early!

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Tree Removal Got You Stumped?

A recent round of tree removals in the green strip between Rembold and Hiawatha may have some residents "stumped." The trees were removed because they were either dead or dying. Specimens of the same species that were not ailing have not been removed.

The trees are Turkish filberts (*corylus columna*) and are native to Turkey and southeastern Europe. They were originally planted along the strip in honor of a mature specimen that grew at the corner of Rembold and Miami. That tree has since died, and the newer ones have not thrived in this area. While the trees have a pleasing pyramid shape when healthy, many of them had bare spots and dead or dying limbs. The trees can also be a nuisance

because they produce clusters of filberts, or hazelnuts, which can interfere with lawnmowers and can result in sharp shell fragments when squirrels carry them into yards for a treat. The trees do not provide any autumn color with their foliage.

We can thank Council rep Dennis Wolter and resident Syd Sabo for leading the effort to remove the dead or dying trees at no cost to the Village except for stump grinding. Volunteers armed with chain saws were able to clear the dying specimens over the course of a couple of weekend afternoons. Mayor Policastro is considering different varieties to plant as replacement trees. The ones that come near Duke Energy power lines will have to be a variety that won't grow too tall.



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Neighboring with Nina

BY NINA IREDALE



Happy Fall! The leaves are changing and are so beautiful. How I love this time of year! I want to start off by saying how much I have enjoyed writing this column and getting the chance

to talk with so many great people over the years. With much regret, this will be my last "Neighboring with Nina." I am working on finding someone to take over and hopefully the "new neighbor" column will continue as it was so much fun to write.

3711 Petoskey was purchased in April by Matt and Megan Willis who moved in this past June. They moved from Mt. Lookout where they had lived for two years. After a year of house hunting in Mt. Lookout and Hyde Park, they expanded the search to Mariemont and fell in love with their home and its potential. Prior to Mt. Lookout, Matt and Megan lived in Chicago. Megan works at dunnhumby USA downtown in Business Development and Matt is a Project Consultant for SunGard GMI, which is a Chicago-based software company. He is a graduate of Kenyon College and is pursuing his MBA from Xavier. Megan is a graduate of

Indiana University. Both grew up in Terrace Park but didn't meet until after high school. Megan went to Mariemont and Matt to Cincinnati Country Day School. They have a golden doodle named Porter who loves long walks in the lower 80.

Andrew and Ellen Georgilis purchased 6754 Fieldhouse Way in August. They moved from Mt. Vernon and miss all their former neighbors but are enjoying all the new neighbors!

6942 Nolen Circle was purchased by Kyle and Elizabeth Wood who moved in over Labor Day. Kyle is a Senior Business Intelligence Manager for 5th/3rd Bank, and Elizabeth is a Copy Director at Advent Media Group. Kyle and Elizabeth met in Luxemburg while studying abroad and are a Miami Merger, meaning that they met as students and married. They have been married for three years, and moved to Mariemont from Hyde Park. They chose Mariemont for its walkability, close proximity to downtown and wanted to put down roots as well as becoming a part of the community.

4006 Grove was purchased by Tim Lidster and Debbie Browning. Debbie was a Pediatric Nurse for 30 years and recently became the Assistant Vice President of Patient Services for Cincinnati Children's

Hospital. Tim and Debbie moved from Mt. Pleasant, SC near Charleston where Tim has a Data recovery business. They have a son working on his MBA at the Citadel in Charleston and a daughter who lives in Charlotte. They loved Mariemont when looking for a new home and are enjoying settling into their new life.

4001 Grove was purchased by Brad and Courtney Cutcher back in March. They have moved all over the country for the past nine years and relocated here from St. Louis. They purchased the home from Brad's mother. Brad actually grew up in the house and is a graduate of Mariemont High School. Courtney is originally from Newark, OH. Brad is the Director of Operations for a freight and logistics company while Courtney was a nurse but is now a stay-at-home mom. They have a two-year-old daughter, Reghan and are glad to be close to family.

I'd like to WELCOME our new neighbors!

From the Editor – We at the Town Crier would like to thank Nina for her many years of service, keeping us up to date in the comings and goings of our neighbors. She has been a faithful contributor and we will miss her. We still have her husband, Wes, proofreading each issue, so the Iredales have not gotten away completely!

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SCHOOLS

Kiwanis Annual Nut Sale Kicks Off

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont has kicked off its annual nut sale fundraiser, and all proceeds will benefit local scholarships. Just in time for the holidays, their large varieties of offerings are great for family and client gifts, baking holiday pies, or a tasty snack. Pecans, almonds, cashews and delicious chocolate covered nuts are perfect for any occasion.

Nuts will once again be available for sale at Marielenders. You can also order online at MariemontKiwanis.org or by contacting

David Peterson at 814-598-6235. As part of the 100th Anniversary of the Kiwanis organization, the club's goal is to sell 100 cases of nuts this holiday season. Kiwanis members will also be on-site at all holiday concerts at Mariemont schools with their beloved singing Santa.

The annual nut sale is the club's holiday fundraiser for local scholarships. Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Mariemont raises nearly \$15,000 for students in Fairfax, Terrace Park and Mariemont through events such as the

Art & Craft Fair and a golf outing in the spring.

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont meets every Tuesday morning at 7:45 AM in the Mariemont Elementary school cafeteria. A continental breakfast is served at 7:15 AM. Meetings last less than one hour and feature a local speaker. We invite you to be our guest at an upcoming meeting. For more information visit MariemontKiwanis.org, Facebook or Twitter (@MariemontKClub).

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Mark your calendar!

Mariemont's annual Luminaria and tree lighting will take place Saturday, December 6 from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Old Towne Square. Come see Santa light up the Christmas tree, take carriage rides, and enjoy the festivities. All proceeds go back to the village through the Mariemont Parents of Preschoolers Group (MPPG).

Extra luminaria kits will be available while supplies last at the municipal building Boy Scouts tree sale November 29 (10-4), November 30 (12-6), and December 6 (9-3).



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VILLAGE Coalition Corner

It is the day before Thanksgiving. The groceries have been purchased, the casseroles are in the oven and the table is set. Mom is waiting anxiously for her "child" to come bounding through the door, home from college. Even the younger siblings are excited. Finally home and quickly settled, her oldest child "heads out" to go hang with high school buddies and childhood friends. This will be the first time the friends have been together since leaving for college.

And so Black Wednesday begins..... Black Wednesday, also known as Blackout Wednesday, is not at all like the Black Friday that gives us the best bargains of the season. Unfortunately, Black Wednesday has a different significance. A recent study shows more underage drinking occurs on this night than any other night of the year. This is a college student's first vacation away



WARRIOR COALITION

*Working together to prevent substance abuse
in the Mariemont City School District*

from the stress and pressures of school. Young adults will often binge drink and even drive under the influence on this night. A quick look into social media at [#blackoutwednesday](#) can show you that this is a growing problem for our youth.

To learn more about what's happening in your child's world, go to [starttalking.ohio.gov](#). Simply click on "programming" then select "Know!" from the drop down feature. You can subscribe

to *Know!* - a twice monthly, free email newsletter that contains current about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and provides action steps parents can take to help their child resist peer pressure.

From all of us at the Warrior Coalition, we wish you and your family a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Warrior Coalition Task Force meeting:
Monday, November 10, 7:30 pm in the
RG Cribbet Recreation Center, 5903
Hawthorne Ave., Fairfax, Ohio.

"The Warrior Coalition is a community organization focused on protecting the children of the Mariemont City Schools District from substance abuse. Our mission is to provide awareness, education and prevention programs to support our parents and to encourage our children to make healthy choices."



Sharing God's love and growing
His family one heart at a time
Come Experience the Community!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Join us Sunday mornings
At 10 A.M. at the
Corner of Oak and Maple Streets

- Nov 16 – Life After Death: David Pease
- Nov 30 – Christmas Advent Begins
- Dec 6 – Tree Lighting Music & Activities

Pastor Todd Keyes
www.villagechurchofmariemont.org



**"Come join us for fellowship
and friendship in Christ."**
The Peterson Family

What's Happening at the Mariemont Branch Library

November

All Ages

International Games Day: Stop by for board games and fun. Saturday, November 15, at 2 pm.

Children

Tales to Tails: Practice your reading with therapy dog, Tater Tot. Thursday, November 13, at 4 pm. Ages 5-10.

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

Movers & Shakers: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Bring the little ones for stories, songs and dance as they learn about the library. Ages 1-4. Please note there is no session Wednesday, November 26.

Library Babies: Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. Lap songs and books for infants. Please note there is no session Wednesday, November 26.

Preschool Story Time: Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. Join us for stories and crafts. Ages 3-5. Please note there is no session Wednesday, November 26.

Crafty Kids: Thursday, November 20, at 4 pm. Ages 5-10.

Teens

InBeTween Club: Thursday, November 20, at 4:30 pm. Ages 10-18.

Adults

A Handmade Holiday: Get into the holiday spirit by crafting a handmade ornament. Monday, November 17, at 6:30 pm. Registration required.

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

Which Craft Needlecraft Club: Stop by with your current work in progress for pointers or just to have fun with co-enthusiasts. Knitting, crochet, needlework - whatever you like to do. Saturday, November 1, and Saturday, November 15, at 10:30 am.

Technology Classes: Interested in brushing up on computer basics or just starting out with technology? We offer one-on-one instruction Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 pm. Call the branch and schedule a session.

Book Club: A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen will be discussed, Thursday, November 20, at 6:45 pm. Copies will be available at the branch.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Mariemont Library staff. We are closed Thanksgiving Day and will have regular hours Friday, November 28. Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8 pm.; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am. to 6 pm.

Mariemont Branch Library, 3810 Pocahontas Avenue, 369-4467

Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Noon to 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm

Game Ball Delivered by Helicopter to MHS

At the Mariemont Women's Soccer senior night on October 1, the game ball was delivered to mid-field by helicopter to the seven seniors by Stratus Helicopter. Very cool!

The seven Seniors are:

Gretchen Wittry

Hanna Beck

Haley Schooler

Kate Uehlin

Haley Jacobs

Audrey York

Madison LeMay



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Home Sweet Home Was Once Only a Mailbox Away

BY JOAN WELSH

You don't have to venture far in Mariemont to see signs of building. Someone is adding a new family room to their home. Someone else is building a completely new home after a tear down. The sounds of hammers and work crews are everywhere. Today these building projects progress after many agonizing decisions on the part of the homeowner. Can you imagine deciding to build a brand new home after only seeing an ad in a catalog?! That's exactly what many people did. It was the American dream by mail order, and it couldn't have been much simpler. You picked your house, placed your order and waited for the boxcars to arrive. The Sears Roebuck Company offered nearly everything you needed - lumber, shingles, roofing, millwork, flooring, plaster, lath, doors, windows, fixtures-even sash weights and paints. (Plumbing, heating, wiring and the kitchen sink were extras). Most importantly, the shipments included a complete set of blueprints prepared by Sears' staff of architects. You provided masonry, labor and a building lot within hauling distance of a railroad siding.

From 1908-1940, Sears, Roebuck and Co. sold about 70,000 - 75,000 homes through their mail-order Modern Homes program. Sears published its first house catalog in 1908 offering 22 different homes, titled Book of Modern Homes and Building Plans. Prices in 1908 ranged from \$650. to \$2500. Can you imagine those prices today?! The catalog showed a complete set of plans and specifications. Over time Sears designed 447 different housing styles, from the elaborate, multistory Ivanhoe, with its elegant French doors and art glass windows, to the simpler Goldenrod, which served as a quaint, three-room and no-bath cottage for summer vacationers. (An outhouse could be purchased separately for Goldenrod and similar cottage dwellers.) Customers could choose any house to suit their individual tastes and budgets.

The Cincinnati area is home to well over 500 Sears houses and is believed to have more non-contiguous Sears homes than any other city. Why do we have so many of them? Because



This picture-perfect Sears home at 3816 East Street is owned by Tim Brokamp and Judy Whisler.

Cincinnati was home to Norwood Sash and Door, a company Sears acquired in 1912 and which supplied the windows, doors and trim for Cincinnati's Sears houses. Unfortunately, Norwood Sash and Door is no longer in business...but its Sears house legacy lives on.

Tim Brokamp and Judy Whisler live in a Maywood Sears model at 3816 East Street. There are two other Maywood homes in Cincinnati and theirs is considered the best preserved. This Maywood home was built in Mariemont in 1931. Tim and Judy have lived in their Maywood for over 20 years. They found out their home was a mail-order home when they first bought it. A 1985 article in Smithsonian Magazine gave them an appreciation for the unique qualities of their home and the catalog concept. Judy said that the original opening from the living room to the kitchen is now closed, but the nine-foot high ceilings and wide stairways have always given the home a spacious feeling. Their Maywood model is part of the Honor Bilt division of Sears homes representing the highest quality.

Jason Timpe lives in a rare, excellent example of the Sears Lewiston model at 3824 Indianview Ave. As the catalog described this model "the first floor forms a complete five-

room home, while upstairs two good bedrooms and four closets may be finished whenever desired." The Timpe's home still proudly features the brick chimney, a crescent window in the gable and a round arch front door. Jason learned about his home's Sear's heritage through his neighbors. He believes that some of the light fixtures in the house are original. Jason also is proud of the original bathtub with two exposed sides. When Jason wanted to upgrade an upstairs door that had been part of a previous remodeling effort he searched to find one that had the same integrity as the original doors. He found an excellent match through a dealer who preserves and reutilizes building supplies.

Cont'd on page 22

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VILLAGE

Millard Rogers Lane Dedicated

On a lovely fall day, a group of Mariemont residents gathered at the mouth of what used to be listed by the poetic name Lane L. That small street is now named Millard Rogers Lane, in honor of a man

who gave a great deal to our Village. Besides authoring three books about Mariemont and Mary Emery, Millard was the driving force behind pulling together the lengthy application which resulted in Mariemont

being awarded National Historic Landmark status in 2007. Mayor Policastro read a proclamation, and Nina Rogers cut the ribbon to make it official!



Nina Rogers, wife of the late Millard Rogers, cuts the ribbon at the ceremony to rename Lane L after her husband.

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Jr & Sr High youth group meets at 11am*

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New Exhibits Come to the Barn

Natasha Kinnari Exhibit

Opening Reception Friday,
November 7, 6-9 pm

Russian-born artist Natasha Kinnari
opens a retrospective exhibit of her work



at the Barn, with an Opening Reception
on Friday November 7 from 6-9 pm.
Trained in Russia and Latvia, Natasha is an
award winning artist with works hanging
in both European and American private

collections. This exciting exhibit at the Barn
commemorates her 20 years in the US. The
Opening Reception is free and open to the
public. Weekend hours for the exhibit, which
runs through November 23, are 1-4 pm.
Weekdays the Gallery is open during regular
office hours (closed Mondays).

Rick Koelher and Francesca Padjen -“Architects to Artists”

Opening Reception Wednesday,
November 26, 5-9 pm

Colleagues as architects, Rick and
Francesca are collaborating on a new artistic
endeavor, combining their love of the world
around them with their interpretation of
the scene. Come join them for their first
joint exhibition of fine oils and watercolors.
Opening Reception on Wednesday Nov. 26
from 5-9 pm. GALLERY HOURS: Friday and



Saturday (11/28-11/29) 11:00 am - 6:00 pm,
Sunday (11/30) 12:00 - 4:00 pm

“Emerging Artists” Oil Paintings by New Artists

Opening Reception Saturday,
November 29, 6-9 pm

“Emerging Artists” is an exciting exhibit
featuring oil paintings created by up-and-
coming artists studying with Ron Johnson



at The Barn. You are invited to attend the
opening party on Saturday, November 29
from 6-9 pm to view beautiful, original art,
enjoy refreshments, meet the artists, and
perhaps make a purchase (this has been a
best-selling show in the past!). This exhibit
runs from November 24-December 4.
Weekend hours are noon – 4 pm. Weekdays
during regular Gallery hours.

(Continued on next page)

WOMAN'S ART CLUB CULTURAL CENTER

Mariemont Preservation Presents ..."Mandalas"

A Parent/Child Craft Event
Saturday November 15

Register now for Mariemont Preservation Presents..."Mandalas", a hands-on craft event to be held on Saturday November 15 from 10:30- 12:00. Mandala means circle in Sanskrit and these works of art are beautiful, spiritual drawings that represent an individual's universe. They are drawn using an array of symbols, shapes and forms, all enclosed in a circle. Grab a favorite child in your life and come together to create a meaningful piece of art. No previous art skill required!

Sign up at www.artatthebarn.org. \$5.00 per person.

What's New in the Class Room?

Several new and different classes are starting soon at the Barn. Check out the fun!

Restorative Yoga with Heather Poast – Join Health and Wellness expert Heather Poast in a slow stretching restorative class. Call the Barn at 272-3700 for more information.

Karen Johns Yoga for the 40+ Woman – Join experienced Yogi Karen Johns in a class for the more "mature" woman. Go to her website www.karenjohnsyoga.com for more info and to contact Karen directly.

Open Studio with Chuck Marshall – Can't commit to a regular painting class schedule? Drop in to Open Studio and paint and learn with Chuck Marshall, one of Ohio's foremost painters "en pleine aire". See his works at his website www.chuckmarshallfineart.com. Tuesdays from 7-9:30 pm and Thursdays 9:30 am – noon. Call the Barn for more information on prices.

Flower Arranging with Nicky Bade

Just in time for the holidays, join Nicky Bade, award winner at the Cincinnati Flower Show, participant in Art in Bloom, Directress of Flower Guild at Church of the Redeemer and avid gardener in these demonstrations and workshops.

Thursday, November 13 – 7-9 pm
or Saturday November 22 10 am -12 pm
– Demonstration of Holiday Floral Arrangements -- Wreath, Topiary, and Holiday Table. Arrangements will be created so that the basic framework can last 6-7 weeks. They will reflect Thanksgiving/Fall décor but can be tweaked to serve as a perfect arrangement for Christmas. \$25 per person.

Tuesday, December 2 – 10am-12 pm or
Wednesday December 10 10am-12 pm
– Demonstration of both elegant and whimsical arrangements to brighten the home for the Christmas holidays. \$25 per person.

Thursday, December 11 – 2 SESSIONS
– Afternoon – 2-4 pm and Evening – 7-9pm
– Flower Arranging Workshop – Christmas Theme – Participants will make a topiary and floral wreath – and a surprise whimsical small arrangement. \$60 per person.

For more information or to register for



these classes, please contact Nicky directly at 321-5278 or nickybade@fuse.net. Registration is necessary.

Acting Seminar/Workshop for Soap Operas

Join veteran Los Angeles Acting Coach



and Author, Bonnie Forward and learn from a pro! This workshop incorporates audition techniques, cold-reading, scene study, and memorization, all from the scripts of top-rated Soap Operas. You might be the next Susan Lucci/Erica Kane! Two-day workshop Saturday -Sunday Nov. 8-9 from 11am-5 pm. \$275 per person. Call 513-388-1648 to register.

Coming Soon For Families... "The Night Before Christmas"

A Mariemont Preservation Presents event - Saturday, December 15

Make your reservations now for the next program in our Mariemont Preservation Presents series. Continue the holiday season fun with a live production of "The Night Before Christmas", performed by the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati Artreach.

"...And all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." It's Christmas Eve and the anticipation is building. Presents, lights, even milk and cookies... but are you ever too old for family traditions? Based on the enchanting poem by Clement Clark Moore, this lyrical adaptation celebrates the joy of family and the magic of holiday stories, reminding everyone what Christmas is all about. Registration is required at www.artatthebarn.org. \$5 per person.

Our new website is coming soon. Same address, new look! Watch for its unveiling at www.artatthebarn.org.

VILLAGE

Worthy Yoga Opens Doors to Open Hearts

Beginning September 2, yoga practitioners in Cincinnati got a new style of yoga to practice, play and pray with. Worthy Yoga is a Christian, faith-based yoga studio, led by Registered Holy Yoga Instructor and Mariemont resident Brenda Westfall. Classes offer scriptural meditation, breath work and movement that combine Hatha-style yoga with devotion, worship and wellness. In addition to helping develop the strength, flexibility and balance that come with many yoga practices, a Holy Yoga practice aims to unite the believer with the timeless practice of yoga and provide the non-believer a look at the Christian faith in an entirely new light.

After six years of practicing yoga, Westfall knew she wanted to pursue teacher training, and started with the primary intention of enhancing her own practice. When she learned about the Holy Yoga Ministries Instructor Training Program, she knew immediately God was calling her to pursue instructor training through Holy Yoga. She completed her 225-hour certification this past spring and is now in their 500-hour Masters Level Training Program.

Brenda felt God was initially prompting her to pursue yoga outreach, not necessarily open a studio. To her surprise, it was her desire to do both. "I knew God was calling me to teach outside of the church walls. There are misconceptions about yoga and misconceptions about Christianity. I wanted there to be a place where there is freedom to bridge that gap." And so Worthy Yoga, LLC was formed. Worthy Yoga ensures a space of non-judgment, grace and love. Classes are fun, worshipful and open to all – regardless of spiritual preference, background or beliefs. A Holy Yoga Practice is 100% yoga and 100% connection of body, mind and Spirit.

Worthy Yoga can be found at 6936 Madisonville Road in Mariemont, next-door to The Villager and Mio's Pizza just off the town square. Parking and the studio entrance is in the rear.

For additional information including the class schedule, please visit: www.worthyoga.com.



Classes at Worthy Yoga aims to unite believers with the timeless practice of yoga.

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VILLAGE

Around the Square: Saluting our Veterans

Join the Town Crier in honor of Veteran's Day, November 11 as we salute the men and women who have served our country!



Ruthie Keefe salutes her son, Ryan Scharfenberg, Marine . Jennifer Degerberg salutes her father, William Fritz, Army, and her father-in-law Nelson Degerberg, Army



Gibson and John Bullock salute their Grandpa Jim Casey, Army



Wendy and Jim Howe salute Jim Howe Sr., Army



Jen Snyder salutes her dad, Howard Williams, Army. Jill Donnelly salutes her dad, Tutt Lambert, Army and her brother Mark Lambert, NSA, Navy



Scott Keller salutes his father-in-law, Colonel Vick Micol, Army



Elizabeth Kauffmann Plachecki salutes her grandpa, Charles Boersig, Army



Ryne Pacheco salutes his dad, Joe Pacheco, Army

What Is That Old Building at the End of Miami Bluff?

BY REX BEVIS

Located at the very eastern edge of the Village of Mariemont, down the bluff from Mt. Vernon Avenue and adjacent to Mariemont Landing, is the Mariemont Steam Plant, the former Central Heating System of the Village. As stated by former Building Commissioner Warren W. Parks in his 1967 book, *The Mariemont Story*, "At the inception of Mariemont, it was decided to build a District Heating System to serve a portion of the Town. This meant a central heating station where steam could be generated and from which it could be distributed through an underground

concrete with a height equivalent to a six story building. An eight-inch diameter well was drilled seventy-three feet deep just to the east of the Plant to supply boiler water for the steam making. Located on the rail line near the Little Miami River, the Steam Plant used bituminous coal from West Virginia, which arrived via rail car, to fuel the Plant. The coal was lifted using a track hopper to the top of the Steam Plant, then dropped over automatic weighing scales to the stokers below. The Steam Plant had a capacity of six hundred tons of coal. On an average winter day, about 20 tons of coal was required to operate the Steam Plant for a 24-hour period.

system consisted of a main line leaving the plant and three miles of steam lines. Since the distances were rather long, there was no attempt to implement a closed system (returning condensate to the Plant.) Instead, 100% of the steam was the result of new water from the aquifer. The heating mains themselves consisted of wrought iron steam pipes surrounded by wood casings built of segments four inches thick, bound together by spiral wire. The outside of this log-like structure was waterproofed in asphalt pitch and rolled in sawdust for insulation. Trenches were dug and layered with porous tile and gravel prior to laying the sections of wrought



A ground-level view of the former Mariemont Steam Plant.

system to various buildings to be served." Centralized steam heating had previously been used in many cities, including Cincinnati, but principally in business districts; few such systems had been used in residential areas.

The houses on Albert Place were the first to be served by steam heat from the Steam Plant, coming online October 7, 1925. In December, 1925 the steam line to the Mariemont Inn was placed in service. Later additions to the steam heat service included the Dale Park School in 1927, the Mariemont Community Church also in 1927, and the Mackenzie Apartments in 1928. The Mackenzie Apartments were the most distant point from the Steam Plant.

The Steam Plant itself is built of brick and

The underground heat distribution

cont'd on next page



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VILLAGE

iron and casings. The sections of pipe were welded together as the sections were placed into the ground.

Several factors contributed to the decision to abandon the Central Heating System in 1954. Economical natural gas was available to the residents and businesses served by the Steam Plant at a time when coal prices were increasing. Another factor was that only a small portion of Village residences and businesses were connected to the Plant; although designed for a larger load, the demand did not materialize. Lastly, termites had attacked the wood insulation, resulting in a growing heat loss in the main lines. According to Mr. Parks, "In some places the entire log was eaten away, leaving the spiral wire exposed to the ground." Replacement would have

been too costly. Therefore, the Steam Plant was closed, sold by the Village, and converted into a cold storage warehouse.

During its abandonment, the Steam Plant has become a liability, as Mayor Dan Policastro noted recently in the Mayor's Bulletin, "...attracting kids and others wanting to explore the dangerous structure." Although seemingly well-boarded and closed off, it remains an item of curiosity and fulfills no useful purpose today.

Since the late 1970s there have been a few proposals by real estate developers to raze the old Steam Plant and develop the property for residential use. The Mayor reports that Michael Heines of JAE Capital has purchased the Steam

Plant and its 3+ acres for development of approximately 18 homes. The report goes on to state that Mr. Heines will raze the Steam Plant, fill in the property to bring it above floodplain level and construct a mix of townhomes and single-story dwellings. If this development is indeed brought to fruition, the Steam Plant will have completely run its course and vanish from the public view.

Much of the content of this article was sourced from The Mariemont Story, a book written by Warren W. Parks and published in 1967. For further details surrounding the Steam Plant and its operation, and the Mariemont District Heating System, I encourage the reader to consult this book.

MHS Homecoming floats show off student creativity



In floats that featured children's book themes, the freshman float was appropriately patterned after "The Little Engine that Could".



The sophomores featured "The Giving Tree".



The juniors produced the winning entry with a float that pays tribute to Dr. Suess' "The Lorax".



The seniors float featured "Winnie the Pooh".

Photos courtesy Ron Schroeder

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Village of Mariemont Council Minutes SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Mr. Tinkham and Mr. Wolter.

Mr. Steve Johns, Planning Services Administrator for Hamilton County Planning and Development, was granted permission to address Council. He is reconnecting with the various jurisdictions in Hamilton County looking at community planning issues that they may have. Two issues that are important to communities are pedestrian/bike trails and tree-planting initiatives. The Regional Planning Group has two Resolutions that were passed regarding those two issues. The first Resolution is from the Green Umbrella organization. It supports the idea of bike trails and connecting to outside regions. With Mariemont being so close to the Little Miami Trail and Murray Bike Trail it makes the Village central to where they may connect. The Resolution is about awareness of this effort and communities working together and that the Village in concept supports the idea of trails throughout the region.

Mr. Wolter said the Village is working diligently to find a way to get the bike trail through Mariemont. In many ways we are already supporting the other cause and we are a Tree City USA community. We are looking to extend the trails with Little Miami down by the river. Ms. Palazzolo asked if there are programs for the communities to get together for conferences to talk about conservation. She would have a personal interest in attending and she believes that many residents from the Village would also find such programs beneficial. In addition, because ODOT is looking to try to go through the lower 80 trails with the Eastern Corridor, she feels the more that we do with our trails the better. Mr. Johns said he would make sure that the Green Umbrella organization would extend to the Village and its residents the opportunity to attend any workshop they may sponsor. Mayor Policastro said it would be good to have another organization to add to the laundry list of those who back us opposing ODOT. Mr. Miller said the region needs this. It entices people to ride their bikes to work. He feels it would be good for everyone.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Mr.

Council Representative Information

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

Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on September 15, 2014 to discuss the proposed addendum to the Village's waste contract with Rumpke. It would extend the current contract for one year at a cost increase of 2.91%. The cost of the current contract is \$266,760.00 per year, and it expires on December 31, 2014. The addendum would increase the cost to \$274,762.80, and would expire on December 31, 2015. It would also allow the Village to extend the contract one additional year. The Committee concluded that Rumpke has provided outstanding service and recommends that Council accept the proposed addendum to extend the contract for one year at an increase of 2.91%. Mr. Tinkham asked if the increase would have been more had we not switched to curbside recycling. Mr. Wolter said the contract states that the renewal cannot be more than 3%. Mayor Policastro said the curbside recycling saved the Village approximately \$18,000 per year. In addition, the containers were free where had we not gone to curbside the residents would have been charged for the container. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Health and Recreation Committee which met on September 15, 2014 to discuss the request from the Regional Trails and Taking Root Reforestation Campaign for the Village's participation and support. Present at the meeting were Mary Ann Schwartz, Dennis Wolter, Maggie Palazzolo and Mayor Policastro. The Committee agreed that supporting this effort is good for the Village and recommends that Council approve the request. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

OCTOBER 13, 2014

Mayor Policastro called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The following Council members answered present to roll call: Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Tinkham

and Mr. Wolter.

From Police Chief Hines: September 2014 Monthly Report: Mr. Wolter asked for some insight into the increase in drug abuse. Chief Hines said most of it is from traffic stops. It is way up from this time last year. We are not fighting anything that any other community is not fighting and that is the heroin epidemic which is nationwide. Mr. Wolter asked if the department is adequately staffed with 10 officers. Chief Hines said having the complement of 10 officers is much better than when they were working shifts with 8 officers. Chief Hines said for the third year in a row the department received the gold level award from the Hamilton County OVI Task Force for our impaired driving enforcement for 2014. Mr. Tinkham asked if the arrests were on their own of the department or with aid from OVI checkpoints. Chief Hines said the department runs OVI task force cars on a monthly basis. The grant pays for so many hours per month. The checkpoints are part of the grant. The purpose of the checkpoints is not to make arrests but to educate people and make sure they get home safe.

From Superintendent Scherpenberg: September 2014 Monthly Report. Mr. Wolter asked about the salt shortages. Superintendent Scherpenberg said it should be interesting this year. Morton Salt is not taking bids this year. North American Salt whom the Village deals with has cut our order from 300 tons to 200 tons. There is a new product on the market called Salt Solution which is supposed to stretch the salt supply. He believes the Village should be okay.

Mayor Policastro said we have had some problems in the area of the Waldorf School/ Cherry Lane with complaints of traffic, speed etc. while parents are walking their children to the Elementary School. He and the Police Chief viewed the area and came up with a map that clearly shows how to get around and it was given

to the grade school. A crosswalk has been put in on Chestnut Street. He received one e-mail from a resident that was not happy with it but it should work keeping our children safe.

From Engineer Ertel: Engineer Ertel said Pocahontas was one of the streets bid for the street repair work for 2014. The best solution to fix the drainage issues is to lower the street. It is an additional scope to the work and will cost approximately \$28,000. Half will be picked up by the state grant, leaving the Village to pay the \$14,051.46 balance. Mr. Tinkham questioned if this would take care of the issues of the Spooner residence. Mayor Policastro and Engineer Ertel said it would. Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to add the work to the scope of the project. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Engineer Ertel said the traffic light controllers in the square were old and two new ones were installed. With the new controllers we have the ability to hold the traffic westbound on Wooster Pike so the white crosswalk light will come on (at Madisonville Road by PNC Bank). Now the vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic will be staggered for safety. If this does not solve the problem they will have a traffic study done to determine new timing of the signals.

Mr. Dan Domis, 3901 West Street #304, was granted permission to address Council. As Council is aware the intersection at Madisonville Road and West Street is heavily used and there is quite a bit of traffic proving to be difficult to get out from West Street. During school days in the mornings and afternoons the only way West Street actually clears is if the crossing guard also acts as a traffic conductor and stops traffic on Madisonville Road so West Street can clear. He finds it to be a safety issue. There is also the issue of speed. He believes if there was a four way stop sign it would calm traffic on Madisonville Road. Based on his observations, he does not believe it would back up traffic to Wooster Pike.

Ms. Kate Fenner, 3901 West Street, was granted permission to address Council. She too is an advocate of the four-way stop sign at West Street and Madisonville Road. She has grandchildren at the Elementary School who go back and forth at various times and not always when there is a crossing guard. She has observed speeding on Madisonville Road which greatly concerns her. She believes the four-way stop sign may also help eliminate cross-thru traffic on Madisonville Road from those who do not live in the Village. She implored Council to think of the

Santa Sighting at the National Exemplar

Join Jolly Old St. Nick at the National Exemplar for one of two seatings on Saturday, December 6. The first seating is at 9:00 am, followed by a seating at 11:30. After breakfast, visit Santa's workshop across the street from the Mariemont Inn. Reservations are required, so call soon! (513) 271-2103.



safety of the children and pedestrians. Mayor Policastro said should the Committee choose we could have an engineering consulting firm conduct a traffic study.

Mr. Marsland moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request for a stop sign at the three-way intersection of Center Street, East Center Street and West Center Street. Brian Vianello of 3726 East Center Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to request additional stop signs at East Center and West Center Streets. Bob Alselder of 3700 Center Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to oppose additional stop signs. After deliberation the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that three stop signs be installed at the intersection. The Committee asks that legislation for the stop signs be prepared and the recommendation is for three readings in Council. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Tinkham moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request for a stop sign at the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road. Present were Committee Chariman Jim Tinkham, Committee Members Maggie Palazzolo and Joe Miller, Police Chief Rick Hines and Mayor Policastro. Dan Domis of 3901 West Street, Mariemont, Ohio spoke to request a four-way stop sign at the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road. After deliberation the Committee agreed to deny the request, stating that a stop sign would cause

undo traffic delays on Madisonville Road. The Committee decided instead to address the traffic problem by enhancing traffic speed enforcement on Madisonville Road. The Committee further recommends that Police Chief Rick Hines investigate a new speed trailer that can be used throughout the Village, and a permanent speed indicator for the intersection of West Street and Madisonville Road, as well as parking a police squad car, if available, to discourage speeding. On roll call; six ayes, no nays. Mr. Wolter said he recommends that Council accepts the report but also that we are going to investigate this with the potential to conduct a traffic study to quantify the potential for the backup to Wooster Pike. Ms. Palazzolo is hopeful that what they did will help with the speeding and recommends waiting to see if this helps and if it does not then proceed with a traffic study to help with the traffic calming.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Wolter to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met on Monday September 22, 2014 to consider a request to designate the section of Cherry Lane in front of the Mariemont Community Church as a school zone. The Committee agreed to recommend to Council to designate that portion of Cherry Lane in front of the Mariemont Community Church as a School Zone and indicate such with signage and a 20-mile-per-hour speed zone. Additionally, the Committee recommends that additional stop signs be placed on the island of Cherry Lane for better awareness by drivers. The Committee further recommends that the pedestrian crossing areas be repainted to be more visible. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

VILLAGE

Sears homes (cont'd from page 12)

Jason believes that Sears provided timed railroad deliveries of his home anticipating when the original builder should be ready for the next section of materials to complete the house.

3828 Indianview Avenue is a Willard model. Both of the Indianview Avenue Sears homes were built in 1929. This house recently sold to new Mariemont owners who will certainly be proud of its Sears history. There are six listed Willard homes in Cincinnati with this Indianview example boasting original materials and details in excellent condition. A distinguishing feature is the corner fireplace and colonial mantle in the living room. The kitchen originally boasted a built in ironing board!

Sears was not an innovative home designer. The company was instead a very able follower of popular home designs with the added advantage of modifying houses and hardware according to buyer tastes. Modern Home customers had the freedom to build their own dream houses, and Sears helped realize these dreams through quality custom design and favorable financing.

The process of designing your Sears house began as soon as the Modern Homes catalog arrived at your doorstep. Over time, Modern Homes catalogs came to advertise three lines of homes, aimed for customers' differing financial means: Honor Bilt, Standard Built, and Simplex Sectional. Honor Bilt homes were the most expensive and finest quality sold by Sears. Joists, studs, and rafters were to be spaced 14 3/8 inches apart. Attractive cypress siding and cedar shingles adorned most Honor Bilt exteriors. And, depending on the room, interiors featured clear-grade (i.e., knot-free) flooring and inside trim made from yellow pine, oak, or maple wood. More than nostalgia, it is the old-school craftsmanship that most excites today's homeowners. Hundreds of yards of oak, pine, fir and hemlock would arrive perfectly milled, each piece labeled and cut within 1/16 of an inch of specifications. Sears also made a point of selling old-growth wood stripped from the "virgin forests" of the Pacific Northwest. Sears's catalogs also reported that Standard Built homes were best for warmer climates, meaning they did not retain heat very well. The Simplex Sectional line, as the name implies, contained simple designs. Simplex houses were frequently only a couple of rooms and were ideal for summer cottages.

Modern Home designs did offer distinct



3828 Indianview Avenue, a Willard model Sears home.

advantages over other construction methods. The ability to mass-produce the materials used in Sears homes lessened manufacturing costs, which lowered purchase costs for customers. Not only did precut and fitted materials shrink construction time up to 40% but Sears' use of "balloon style" framing, drywall, and asphalt shingles greatly eased construction for homebuyers.

"Balloon style" framing systems did not require a team of skilled carpenters, as previous methods did. Balloon frames were built faster and generally only required one carpenter. This system uses precut timber of mostly standard 2x4s and 2x8s for framing. Precut timber, fitted pieces, and the convenience of having everything, including the nails, shipped by railroad directly to the customer added greatly to the popularity of this framing style.

Builders used plaster and lathe wall-building techniques which again required skilled carpenters. Sears homes took advantage of the new homebuilding material called drywall by shipping large quantities of this inexpensively-manufactured product with the rest of the housing materials. Drywall offered advantages of low price, ease of installation, and added fire-safety protection. It was also a good fit for the square design of Sears homes. It was during the Modern Homes program that large quantities of

asphalt shingles also became available. Asphalt shingles were cheap to manufacture and ship, as well as easy and inexpensive to install. Asphalt had the added incentive of being fireproof.

Sears helped popularize the latest technology available to modern homebuyers in the early part of the twentieth century. Central heating, indoor plumbing, and electricity were all new developments in home design that Modern Homes incorporated, although not all of the homes were designed with these conveniences. Central heating not only improved the livability of homes with little insulation but it also improved fire safety, always a worry in an era where open flames threatened houses. Indoor plumbing and homes wired for electricity were the first steps to modern kitchens and bathrooms. Sears Modern Homes program stayed abreast of any technology that could ease the lives of its homebuyers.

With the advent of World War I, manufacturing productivity increased rapidly, requiring the need to provide many workers' houses. Catalog housing was the ideal solution. Company towns across America were built with Sears homes. Sears house designs came from a variety of sources. Most of the house plans were created by an in-house architectural design staff. Houses were kept in the catalog

cont'd on next page

VILLAGE

until their popularity waned. The floor plans were carefully designed to maintain an affordable price within the budget of their targeted customers, yet offer a comfortable, desirable home. No space was wasted. The most important innovation responsible for Sears leadership in the industry was introduced in 1911. A buyer could finance his home through Sears with easy payment plans at 6% interest. However, the mortgage plans that Sears so generously offered were the cause of the collapse of its catalog housing business. Forced to foreclose on many mortgages, Sears lost more money than it ever made on the homes and ended its production of houses in 1937. After World War II, Sears discontinued its housing division and sold the lumber mills.

We can be proud that Mariemont is home to three outstanding examples of Sears homes. We all wonder about the first family to build our homes in Mariemont. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to talk to them and learn more about our current house and the decisions they made to build their family home? We know three such families long ago were struck by the designs and

workmanship through the Sears catalog. Current buyers are lured by the Sears homes' old-school craftsmanship and place in history, and by a growing preservation movement. We have small reminders today of the families that lived in our homes almost 100 years ago. The next time you glance at the telephone nook or laundry chute, smile and remember how innovative that space was when the home was originally built. If you'd like to do a little detective work on your own to determine if you may have a Sears house you should check:

- Rafters, moldings and millwork often have numbers stamped on the ends - a letter and a two or three-digit number such as B119.
- Look for shipping labels identifying Sears and the railroad on the backside of basement stairs.
- Check the attic and basement for receipts, floor plans, instruction books. These old documents might be found under the bottom board of a built in bookcase or cabinet.

Online resources that provided valuable assistance for this article are <http://www.searsarchives.com/homes/> and <http://www.searshousesincincinnati.com/> written by local real estate expert Laraine Shape. Readers who desire more information about Sears homes can also do a search of the Cincinnati Public Library's holdings under "houses by mail" to find resources. The Architecture and Urban Planning Collection at the University of Cincinnati Digital Libraries has an extensive thesis titled "Sears Homes in Cincinnati" written by Beatrice Lask in the 1990s. There is even a Sears Modern Homes community page on Facebook.

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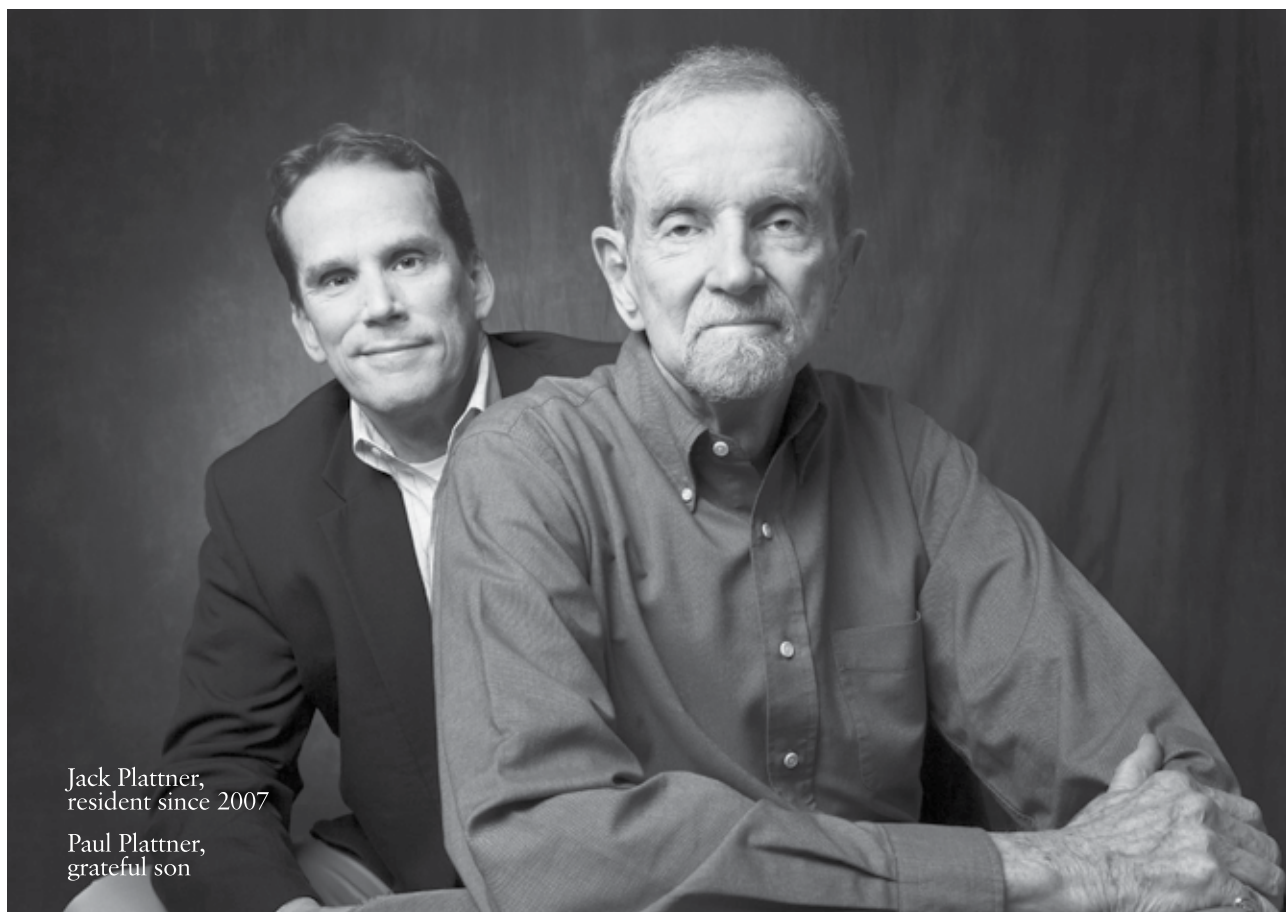
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