

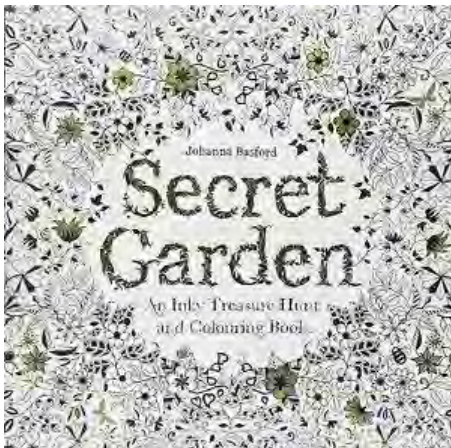
The Art of Adult Coloring Books

By ELLIE KAPCAR

Mothers everywhere encourage their children to color, and babysitters are always cleaning up piles of crayons. Though a coloring book is typically viewed as an activity for children, recent trends show growing popularity among adults. People everywhere have taken up their colored pencils, crayons, markers, and gel pens for a creative way to de-stress.

This fad is not new; in the 1960s, coloring books were marketed to adults as a social and political satire. Laura Marsh, associate editor of the *New Republic*, writes, “The point of the sixties coloring books wasn’t to sit down and do some coloring, but...they were more like a specialized form of political cartoon.”

Recently, though, coloring books like Scottish illustrator Johanna Basford’s *Secret Garden* promote mental health and relaxation. Basford’s coloring book has



sold more than 2 million copies and was Amazon’s #1 bestselling book in April 2015.



Here is a heart for you to color!

Psychological studies suggest coloring helps the brain focus, reduces stress, and tunes fine motor skills. For over 100 years, psychiatrists have prescribed coloring books as a therapeutic exercise. The action promotes calmness which can lessen the effects of many mental health disorders. In our technological age, coloring books take adults back to childhood—no screens, no distractions, no pressure.

Senior associate editor at the *The*

Atlantic, Julie Beck says, “There’s something satisfying about seeing your thought and effort create a tangible, pretty thing at a reasonable, predictable pace. This rarely happens in life.”

There’s even such a thing as National Coloring Book Day on August 2. Additionally, there are coloring books relating to the 2016 Presidential Campaign; you can color between black lines silhouetting Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton.

VILLAGE

Portrait of Former Village Mayor Added

A portrait of former Mayor, Clarence Erickson, was commissioned and dedicated in 2015. The portrait hangs in Village Council Chambers along with paintings of past mayors who are no longer with us. Mr. Erickson was Mariemont's sixth mayor, serving from January 1, 1980 until December 31, 1983. The painting was commissioned by his sons in his honor.



Portrait of former Village of Mariemont Mayor Clarence Erickson

Correction

In the December issue, Mayor Don Shanks was referred to as the Fire Chief, when he was actually the Police Chief. Although Mayor Shanks respected and supported the Fire department, he was blue through and through! We sincerely regret this error.

Author Visit Excites Mariemont Elementary Students

Award-winning American children's book and poetry author Angela Johnson spent time at Terrace Park Elementary and Mariemont Elementary, sharing stories and creative writing tips with all of the elementary students. She has won many awards, including the Coretta Scott King Author Award, Alabama Award and the United States Board of Books for Young People Award; and she has written over 40 books. The students and staff are grateful she was able to share her time and incredible story-telling talent.



News You Can Use

From Shelley Miller Reed

#1 Agent in Mariemont in 2012–2015!

	Houses Sold		Avg Sales Price		Avg Days/Market		Avg \$ per Sq Foot*	
Neighborhood	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Mariemont	54	62	\$363.9K	\$426.9K	60	54	\$202	\$217
Williams Meadow	5	4	\$428.4K	\$465.1K	66	27	\$135	\$149
Terrace Park	42	42	\$520.2K	\$465.3K	116	92	\$194	\$192
Fairfax	33	40	\$116.8K	\$118.4K	54	32	\$109	\$108
Indian Hill	105	109	\$1.00M	\$1.07M	134	183	\$233	\$251
Hyde Park	213	219	\$485.8K	\$457.9K	43	32	\$215	\$216
Mt. Lookout	133	138	\$437.5K	\$424.8K	57	41	\$203	\$218

Mariemont is Hot!

2015 was an outstanding year for real estate in Mariemont. Single family home sales were up 15%, prices were 17% higher and average price per square foot was \$15 more than 2014. *Per Hamilton County Auditor. Source: MLS Greater Cincinnati compilation of broker members (01/01/15–01/13/16).



Shelley Miller Reed

Executive Sales VP

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sreed@sibcycline.com

www.sibcycline.com/sreed

• **15-Year Mariemont Resident**

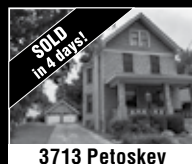
• **Shelley's Average Days on Market in 2015: 32 days**

• **Mariemont Average Days on Market in 2015: 54 days**



SOLD in 2015 by Shelley Miller Reed

#1 Agent in Mariemont in 2012–2015!



ALREADY

SOLD in 2016 by Shelley Miller Reed



Shelley Miller Reed

Executive Sales VP

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

- 15-Year Mariemont Resident
- Shelley's Average Days on Market in 2015: 32 days
- Mariemont Average Days on Market in 2015: 54 days



Contact me if you are thinking about moving. I may have a buyer for your home!

Source: MLS Greater Cincinnati compilation of broker members (01/01/15–01/13/16).

The CRIER Club

The Town Crier would like to thank our supporters! Funding for production of **The Town Crier** comes solely from our advertisers and your contributions. Individuals contributing throughout the publishing year will have their names included in each remaining issue. Those donating more than \$25 are indicated in bold type. Your contribution can be mailed to: Mariemont Town Crier c/o Claire Kupferle, 3844 Indianview Avenue Mariemont, OH 45227

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NOAH VANAGS
ERIN WILDER

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

March deadline:

The deadline for the next *Town Crier* is **February 18, 2016**. All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 5 pm 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

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

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Jr. High Students Take Hands-On Learning to the Next Level

Students at Mariemont Junior High School are suturing bananas, creating blogs, learning how to cook and plate food, tiling mosaic pieces, climbing rock walls, gutting fish, building robots, lending a hand in elementary classrooms, learning new dance moves and reading young adult fiction – all during regular school hours.

Through the newly-launched Expeditions program, junior high students are now presented with exciting, innovative learning opportunities each Friday during the school year. Through expeditions such as Tinkerspace, The World's a Stage, Innovative Blogging and Digital Journaling, The Art of Glass, Chopped Cooking Challenge, H2O Fitness and Fun, and Outdoor Survival Skills, students are problem solving, building confidence, engaging in physical activity, collaborating and thinking critically. When asked about the Expeditions program, students responded in the following ways:

"Expeditions give you a chance to explore." – Hannah Madden

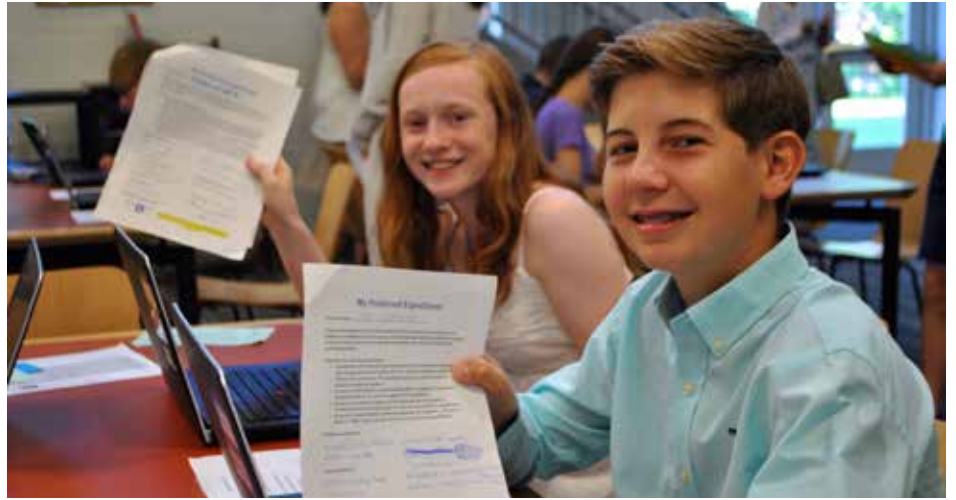
"I like Expeditions because you are able to do things you like and you can do them in school." – Shannon Renner

"You have the freedom to pick what you want to do." – Mike Ryan.

"Expeditions give you more chances to learn about things that aren't typically in school." – Madi Smith

"I like expeditions because they are fun, not graded and keep me entertained." – William Buchholz

Students ranked their choices in three categories: Wellness, Arts and Learning Beyond. From there, a schedule was crafted for each individual student, based on their interests, resulting in seven, four-week-long mini-sessions spanning each of the categories. This year, students could choose from 54 expedition courses.



Claire Wilder and Max Northrop share their choices for expeditions.

All expeditions are hands on, ungraded and focused on lighting a spark of student interest.

"From a teacher's perspective, expeditions are a great way to connect with students," said Mariemont Junior High teacher Erica Eppert. "I have met students who are not in my classes and learned more about those who are. I wish I had these opportunities when I was in junior high."

The school has partnered with over 25 community organizations to bring real-life experts to teach, guide and interact with the students through the Expeditions program, including Cincinnati Sports Club, WCPO, Taft Museum of Art, Lachey Arts, Crayons to Computers, University of Cincinnati, Jungle Jim's International Market, Neusole Glassworks and IKEA.

It has been wonderful watching this program come to life. Expeditions demonstrates true, authentic learning in action," said Molly Connaughton, Mariemont Junior High principal.

"The entire program is a true testament to the skills and talents of our junior high staff, as well as their collective and remarkable focus on student success. It has been a privilege to be a part of this experience."

The Expeditions program is part of Warriors BEyond, Mariemont City School District's flagship program for student opportunities offered beyond the traditional curriculum.

"Warriors BEyond offers the opportunity for students to join their peers in activities where they share the same interests in a challenging and motivating environment," said Steven Estep, superintendent of Mariemont City Schools.

"I believe that offering a variety of learning experiences will help nurture the love of learning and help students discover their true passions."

Contributed by Lauren Barrett, William Buchholz, Charlotte Coates, Thomas Henderson, Nicholas Jones, Isabella Paz, Olivia Pullen, Michael Ryan, and Ella Waltz as part of the "Intro to PR" expedition.

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THE NATIONAL EXEMPLAR

Creative Spotlight - Snow Characters

BY KAREN KENNEDY

The recent snowy weather around here coincides with the theme for a reading and art assignment in Mrs. Fields' kindergarten class. After reading *Snowballs*, by Lois Ehlert, the children decorated the downstairs hall with characters from the book. The Mariemont Elementary kindergarteners put together their rendition of these whimsical characters, using all types of craft materials. As you can see... Snow Mom and Snow Dog were popular choices. Thank you, Brayden Sebens, Sanah Badran and Story Coleman for these adorable pieces of art! Many of the children came out to show me their contribution in the hall. The energy-charged kids were clearly excited about the book they had just read!

Our only request, Mrs. Fields, is to change to a "sunny and warm" story next time. Perhaps our actual weather would once again match the theme!

Official Village Flag Available

Show your pride in our wonderful village by flying the official Village flag! This beautiful 3ft x 5ft 100% nylon flag was designed by former Mariemont Resident and artist Carolyn Schwenkmeyer. Fly the flag on Founder's Day (April 23rd) to celebrate the Groundbreaking of Mariemont or on any national holiday.

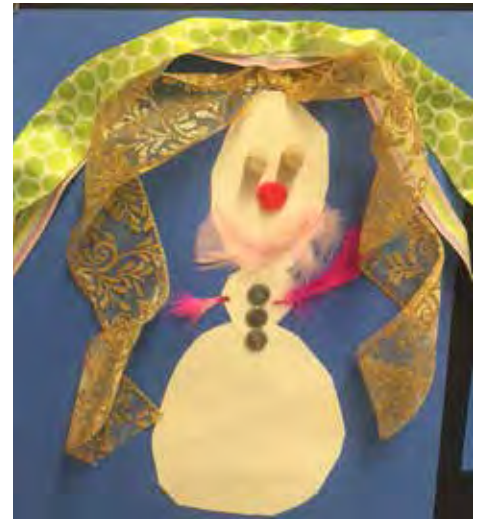
Flags are available from Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF) on their website at www.mariemontpreservation.org



org/store-new/ or in person at the MPF museum, located at 3919 Plainville Road on Saturdays from 9 am-12 noon. Price: \$39 or MPF Member Price \$35. Questions? Call (513)-272-1166. HURRY! Limited quantity available.



The Storybook



"Snowman" by Sarah Badran



"Snowmom" by Story Coleman



"Snowdog" by Brayden Sebens



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SCHOOLS

Hats Off – Erik Vanags

The *Town Crier* congratulates resident Erik Vanags on being awarded Ohio Division 2 Coach of the Year! Erik is head coach of the Mariemont Varsity Soccer Men's team and has been recognized for his success with the program by being chosen Southwest Ohio Coach of the Year twice. Mr. Vanags coached his team to championships in the CHL (Cincinnati Hills League) in 2013 and again this year, achieving an undefeated season in their league games.

Tom Nerl, Director of Athletics for Mariemont City Schools, said, "It's great to see Coach Vanags recognized for the great work he does with our student athletes. He is a coach that demands his athletes give their best efforts in the classroom and on the field. Through his coaching and teaching, he exemplifies our motto of "be better". I am so happy to see him receive this honor."

Coach Vanag's son, Noah, who is in fifth grade at Mariemont Elementary, is proud of

his father's accomplishment. He said, "My dad always says he is so lucky to have such great players on his team. My dad does not want to take any credit and always talks about his players and the other coaches. He never wants the attention on him but on the others, instead."

Another big *Town Crier* tip of the hat to Connor Jacob, a senior on Coach Vanags' team, who was voted to the First Team, All State, in Division II soccer.

Mariemont Elementary PTO Carnival Excitement Builds

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 27 and make plans to attend the Mariemont Elementary PTO Winter Carnival. This year's event will be held inside the elementary school from 4 to 7 pm. It promises to be fun for children of all ages.

The Carnival PTO committee has been hard at work planning a variety of fun activities including games with great prizes, Inflatables/Jump Houses, Face Painting and a Photo Booth. This year's inflatables will include a giant slide, obstacle course, and jump house dedicated to children ages 6 and below. Please bring the kids and check out some of the new games including Skywalker's Shuffle, "Frozen" Plinko, and the Super Hero Slide.

You also won't want to miss your chance to win one or more of the incredible raffle baskets being offered this year. Raffle tickets are being sold by Mariemont Elementary students and can also be purchased during the day of the event. Remember all proceeds benefit the Mariemont Elementary PTO.

Game tickets or unlimited game wristbands can be purchased the day of the event. Concession offerings, beginning at 5 p.m., will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, and pizza, along with chips and fruit. A Kona Ice stand will also be set up in the dining hall for all to enjoy (cash required).

The Carnival is a guaranteed good time that your family won't want to miss. It's the PERFECT event for Mariemont families to get out of the house in this cold weather for a fun-filled night!



Students had a ball on the Giant Inflatable Slide at last year's Carnival



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SCHOOLS

Mariemont School District Presents Namesake Award to Marie Huenefeld

In honor and recognition of retired Mariemont Board of Education member Marie Huenefeld, the Mariemont City School District presented the inaugural Marie Huenefeld Friend of the School Award to the award's namesake.

"We were inspired to create this award by the quiet compassion and generosity demonstrated by Marie throughout the entire tenure of her service to our school district and community," said Steven Estep, superintendent of Mariemont City Schools. "Her generosity has positively affected countless students, staff members and families. Our district will forever be a better place to live, learn and grow because of Marie Huenefeld."

The Friend of the School Award will be

awarded to a person each year in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Mariemont City School District.

"We feel it is our obligation and honor to recognize individuals whose service has helped advance the educational experience in the Mariemont City School District," said Mr. Estep. "We are fortunate to have an active and engaged community and the support we receive from our community is critical to helping guide our work to go beyond the norm and enhance the experience for all who enter our schools."

Marie Huenefeld was elected to the Mariemont City School District Board of Education in November 1987 and served as board president five times. She also served



Marie Huenefeld

on numerous board committees, most recently including the Facilities Committee for the multi-building construction project completed in 2012.

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VILLAGE

Kiwanis' Holiday Nut Sale Sets New Record with Over \$4,000 Raised for Scholarships

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont would like to extend a thank you to everyone in the community for once again making their holiday nut sale a great success, and helping the club set a new fundraising record with over \$4,000 raised for local scholarships.

A special thank you to everyone involved in the school music programs for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful holiday concerts as well as all of the school offices who were a great help again this year. Kiwanis would especially like to recognize Terrace Park Elementary as our 2015 sales leader.

Additional thanks to our retail partners: Snappy Tomato Fairfax, Mac's Pizza Pub, Ace Hardware, Tri-State Running and Terrace Park Subway, and a huge thank you to MariElders for warehousing throughout the fundraiser!

"We have a ton of fun with our nut sale," said chairman David Peterson, "but we couldn't do it without the help of our great schools and communities. We appreciate them allowing us to be a part of their Christmas programs and all of the parents who attend and buy nuts and

chocolate, allowing this to be a success."

The annual holiday nut sale is one of three fundraisers the club puts together for local scholarships. Each year, the Kiwanis Club of Mariemont raises nearly \$15,000 for students in Fairfax, Terrace Park and

everyone at our spring golf outing in May!

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

KIWANIS CLUB of **mariemont**



Mariemont through events such as the Art & Craft Fair in the fall and spring golf outings. Since 2000, over \$200,000 in scholarships has been awarded to over 60 students from Mariemont School District, many of whom receive funds beyond their freshmen year. We look forward to seeing

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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VILLAGE Heart & Sole

BY KIM BEACH

It was his passion for running and years of business experience that started Cameron Simoneau on the road to entrepreneurship. Cameron started his career in the corporate world but then decided he wanted to make a bigger impact in his community. In 2009, he developed a business plan and then "on a wing and a prayer," the Tri-State Running Company (TSRC) opened in 2010. Cameron is the "sole" owner of the company that boasts its first location in Edgewood, KY and its most recent addition in the "Wooster at Walton Creek" shopping plaza near the Village of Mariemont.

The store carries all of the major brands of shoes and equipment including Adidas, Asics, Brooks, Hoka, Mizuno, New Balance, Nike and Saucony (the writer's personal favorite). You can also find running apparel, inserts, nutrition, compression socks/sleeves and much more.

When asked about favorite local races, The Warrior Run (cincywarriorrun.org) and the Flying Pig were mentioned. The TSRC is a proud sponsor of the 5K that is held the day before the Flying Pig half and full marathon. As far as "destination" races, the Badwater 135 is a store/community favorite. It is an Ultramarathon that takes place in Death Valley. One of TSRC's very own, Craig

Wheeler, completed it in the past two years. Harvey Lewis is another local runner who has competed in the race and actually won the race in 2014. The support of the local running community was incredible!

If you are looking for help in training for your first race (walking or running), or need some training companionship, the TSRC has training groups you can join. Whether you are training for your first 5K or sixth marathon, they have a group for you! There are a variety of paces in the groups

(cont'd on next page)



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*Kids 0-5th grade meet during both services
Jr & Sr High youth group meets at 11am*

www.mariemontchurch.org

VILLAGE



too so you can always find someone to run at YOUR pace. They also provide running routes, hydration, and a training plan for days when the group doesn't run together. But the groups aren't just about running... they are also about having fun, meeting new people and trying a new experience. From Pasta Parties to Happy Hours, there are a variety of social events throughout each training session. To learn more, visit www.tristaterunning.com.

Running "gear" is also important to the success of the runner. The right shoes with the correct fit are essential! Most running shoes last about 300-500 miles, 3-5 months for hardcore runners but longer if you are just starting out. The appropriate apparel is very important too so that you are comfortable and pain free as you train. Being comfortable will enable you to run/walk longer which leads

to a healthier lifestyle. And the better the quality of gear, the longer it will last!

Between the two stores, the TRSC has 15 employees. A majority of them are runners but there are several walkers as well. The Tri-State Running Company is a specialty store that focuses on complete satisfaction. Their employees will take the time to fit each customer for running/walking shoes by conducting a gait analysis (not as scary as it sounds, they promise!). By spending more time with the customer, they are able to recommend the shoe that will help keep you healthy and pain free so you can continue with your healthy lifestyle. The folks at TSRC will also fit for sports bras which is not available at most "box" stores.

Another outstanding benefit of shopping at TSRC is that they are locally owned and

operated. According to the Independent Running Retailers Association, where you shop matters. Locally-owned stores account for 75% of all jobs and employ over half of all workers in America. They also reinvest in the local economy 60% more than the larger sporting goods chains. Last year alone, the TSRC gave \$49,856 back to the community through race scholarships, high school cross country scholarships and in-kind donations. Now that's a good neighbor!

At the heart of the Tri-State Running Company are the communities they do business in. All the TSRC employees agree that helping the folks from the existing communities achieve their fitness goals is the best part of their job. They all enjoy giving back to the sport that has given them so much by encouraging and supporting each and every person who walks through the doors of the Tri-State Running Company!

For *Town Crier*

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VILLAGE

What's Happening at the Mariemont Branch Library - February

All Ages

Holiday Open House: Bring the whole family in to enjoy music, crafts, and sweet treats from 3 pm to 6 pm Thursday, December 10.

Children

Winter Play Day: Let's Hit the Beach—1-3 pm, Saturday, February 20

Get out of the house for fun and music.

Ages: 1-5 (*Play begins at 1 pm, music at 2 pm*)

Movers & Shakers—10:30 am on Wednesdays

Bring the little ones in for stories, songs and dance as they learn about the Library.

Ages: 1-4

Library Babies—11:30 am, Wednesdays

Have fun, meet other parents and babies and promote early literacy!

Ages: 6-18 months

Preschool Story Time—1:30 pm, Wednesdays

Join us for stories and crafts.

Ages: 3-5

Crafty Kids— 4 pm, Thursday, February 25

Get crafty at the library—make-it and take it!

Ages: 5-10.

Teens

Presidential Trivia—All day, Monday, February 15

Test your knowledge of all things presidential.

Adults

Which Craft Needlecraft Club—10:30 am, Saturday February 6 and February 20

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.

Branch Book Club—6:45 pm, Thursday, February 25

Life on the Colored Line by Gregory Williams is February's featured title. Copies will be available at the desk.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 8 pm.; Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm.

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The Mariemont Strand Expands



BY JOAN WELSH

You may have been wondering about the new construction at the Mariemont Strand. We will soon welcome four new retail shops to the community. The building is fully rented. There will be a florist, toy store, juice shop, and monogramming shop. Each renter is currently working on their own spaces.

The first shop to open will be Events & Florals of Mariemont/ The Flower Shop. Owner Donna Lennox is returning to Mariemont after having taken a two-year hiatus to deal with family health matters. Donna's shop will open on February 8 just in time for St. Valentine's Day. Donna grew up in the floral business in Indiana in her parents small flower shop. She took a slight corporate detour for several years, but in 2001 decided to dive into the world of floral and interior botanical designs. Her goal is to evoke and have an influence on the innovation and cutting edge direction of the floral and event industry. Donna states "I always ask myself 'what would I like?,' 'What would be important to me as a guest or client?'" The Flower Shop will assist in orchestrating her clients' journey when embarking on a wedding, celebration, or business event. Donna is happy to return to Mariemont where she has many friends and

clients and which is the type of community where family is important. For more information see Donna's website at <http://eventsbylennox.net/index2.php#/home/>.

Rooted Juicery + Kitchen is a 100% organic cold-pressed juicery that also serves smoothies, acai bowls, and a selection of prepared foods to go. Everything is plant-based and vegan, with a number of gluten-free options. Owner Megan Tysoe reports the store will open in March or April. The Mariemont store will be in addition to their Oakley store. When asked how the concept was developed, Megan replied "This is a long story! But the short story is that we wanted to bring healthy and fast options to the Cincinnati community that helped our own founding team find a new level of health and vitality." The store will sell plant-based juices, nut milks, vitality shots, smoothies, acai bowls, salads, wraps, raw desserts and more! All of their food items are made in-house from hand-selected organic superfood ingredients, and made with extra love and care. They also use state-of-the-art water filtration systems and are constantly adding to their line of items to make the most health-supportive food and beverage options possible. Megan adds, "None of this would be possible without our awesome team of

employees that we are very grateful for! We love Mariemont and are so excited to be a part of the community! We have already had many members of the community come to our store in Oakley and are so thankful for the support." For more information see their website at <http://www.rootedjuicery.com/>.

Mariemont resident Julena Bingaman will be opening a monogramming shop called Jules & BING!, which will offer full-service embroidery and personalized monogramming. Patrons can bring in their own items to embellish but also have the option of purchasing special and seasonal items in-store. Bingaman wanted to create a customer-centered experience that caters to personal needs. She found it difficult to find an embroiderer who could accommodate her ideas, so she decided to create her own. Julena has lived in Mariemont with her family for almost five years and looks forward to working with local organizations and residents to add personal touches with embroidery. Her website will be available in mid-February at www.julesandbing.com.

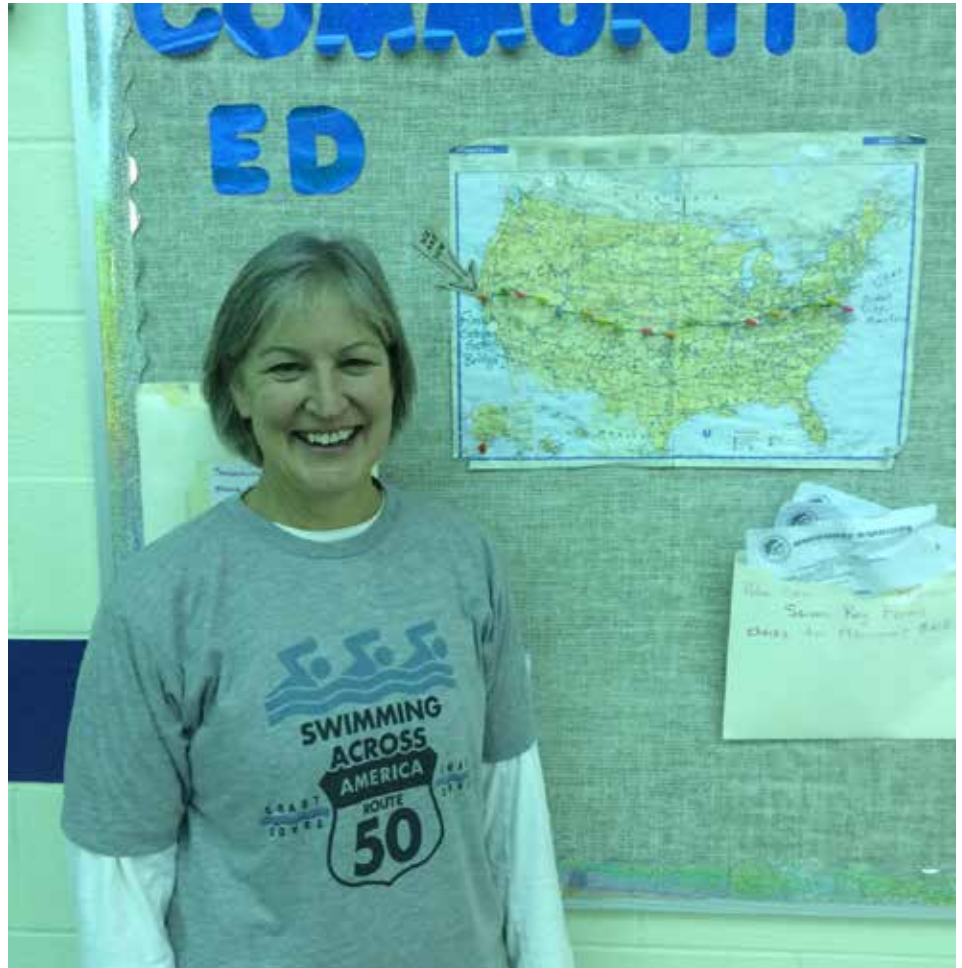
The fourth store is being opened by Elliot Werner and will be called the Coolest Toys on Earth. Let's all welcome these four new proprietors and businesses!

Swimmers Complete the U.S. 50 Coast-to-Coast Swim

BY REX BEVIS

As reported last year in the *Town Crier*, the adult swimmers in the Mariemont High School morning swim sessions have been aggregating their swim laps in order to swim across the country. Beginning in Ocean City, Maryland on January 1, 2014 the swimmers passed the midway point on January 1, 2015 and arrived in San Francisco on January 1, 2016. Robin Pendery, the group leader and Terrace Park resident, recently reported that, "We have covered 3,073 miles in the two years, crossing the Chesapeake Bay, traveling through the Nation's Capital, across the Ohio River, through Terrace Park, Mariemont, and Fairfax, over the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains before reaching the Pacific Ocean in San Francisco." At a recent gathering of the swimmers, Robin presented each with a commemorative "Swimming across the country on US 50" tee shirt.

Mariemont residents participating in the swim include Becca Vianello Hlad, Kent Jacob, Kathy & Jonathon Brodhag, Rex Bevis, Suzi Vianello, Wes Iredale, Stacy Wilson, Sarah Martin, and Peter White. Other swimmers include residents of Fairfax and Terrace Park, as well as surrounding communities. The morning swim sessions are Community Education offerings of the Mariemont City Schools and are conducted mid-mornings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and early mornings on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.



US 50 Coast to Coast Swim T-Shirt modeled by Robin Pendery of Terrace Park.

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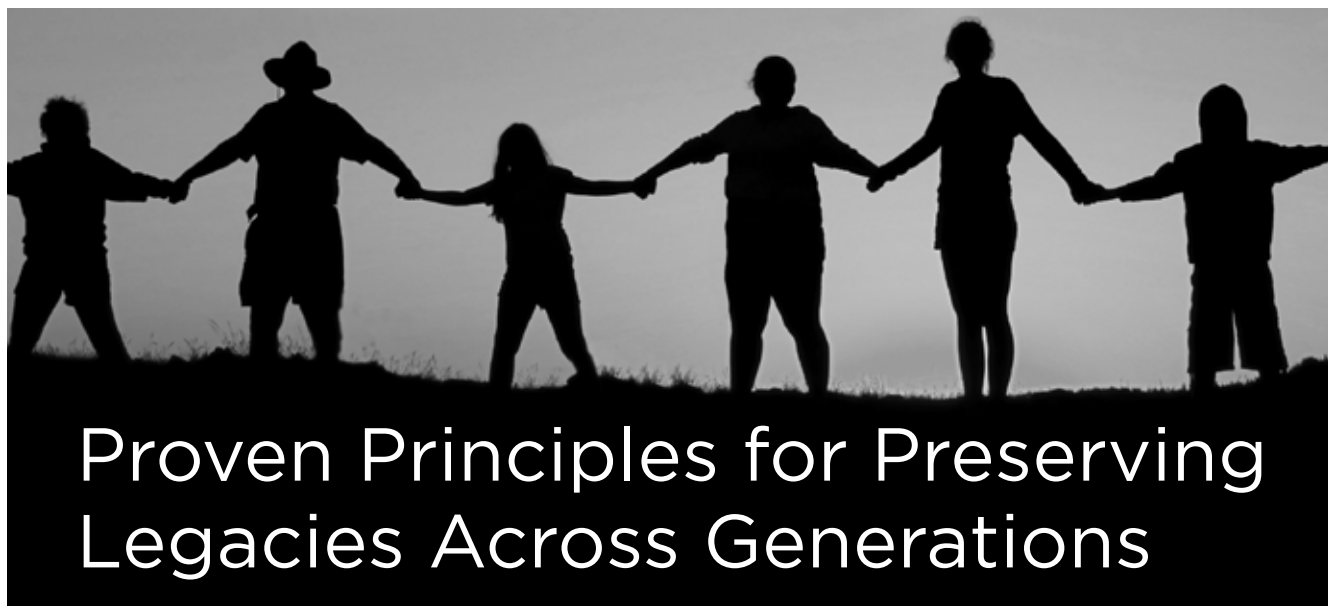
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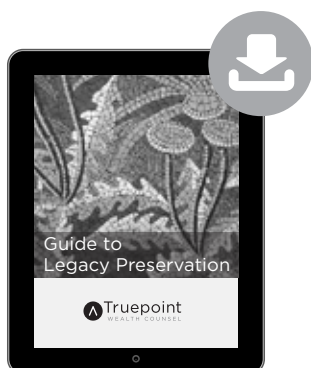
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Stop in and visit Tom Walsh, Mariemont resident and Founder of Walsh Asset Management.



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DAR Honors Vietnam-Era Veterans at Armstrong Chapel

The Mariemont Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution honored thirteen veterans and their spouses on November 21 at Armstrong Chapel. As a Commemorative partner of the United States of American Vietnam War Commemoration Program, Mariemont Chapter is authorized to provide certificates and lapel pins as a token of appreciation by a grateful nation for the faithful service of veterans during the Vietnam War Era.

The entire program was directed toward honoring those who served. The Nolan Carson Memorial Color Guard under Michael B. Gunn, PhD., Color Guard Commander and President of the Cincinnati Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, presented the colors. Mariemont chapter

presented a certificate of award to Goshen high school student Connor Thomas, for his extensive philanthropic efforts for all veterans. The following men and women were called forward and individually honored for their service during the Vietnam War era: Daryl Ned Zeigler (United States Army), Floyd Wulfeck (United States Marine Corps), George S. Speidel (United States Army), Richard S. Smith (United States Army), Marjorie E. Smith (United States Army), Bobbie Maybrier (United States Army), William H. Luken (United States Army), Wayne J. Homer (United States Army), Ace Gilbert (United States Marine Corps), William Scott Fee (United States Army), Gary R. Everling (United States Army), Steven Michel Barron (United States Marine Corps), and Edmund J. Adams

(United States Army).

Wives of those honored were presented a red rose to thank and honor them for their sacrifice, love and support.

Marjorie Smith, Veteran and DAR member of the John Riley Chapter, then presented a program entitled "The History of Women in the Military."

This was the first of several events Mariemont Chapter plans to hold to honor additional Vietnam Era Veterans. For information about the Mariemont partnership or the Mariemont Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution contact Jan Mauch, Regent, at jan@



Connor Thomas accepts an award for his philanthropy.

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Mental Health Issues Affecting our Youth

On January 11, the Warrior Coalition was pleased to host Nancy Miller who spoke to the group about mental health issues affecting our youth. Nancy is a resident of Mariemont and founder of the Warrior Run, which commemorates the life of her husband, Jim, who died from suicide in 2008.

Since its creation in 2010, the Warrior Run has been a staunch supporter of the "Surviving the Teens" program at Children's Hospital. In 2014, The Warrior Run expanded its reach through the creation of the High School and College "Fitness Challenge." The goal of the Fitness Challenge is to encourage students to improve their physical and mental fitness and give back to the community by participating in the Warrior Run, volunteering in their community and fundraising for their school or college. All funds raised by students go to create mental health programs at their institution. Since its inception, the Warrior Run has raised over \$350,000 in support of these programs and has been instrumental in raising awareness about mental illness which affects about 20% of



youth ages 13-18. In fact, half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Many of these youth drop out of school, abuse substances and/or end up in the juvenile justice system. Suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24. Annual screening by pediatricians and parental vigilance are critical for early detection and intervention.

Warning signs can include:

- Feeling sad or withdrawn for more than 2 weeks

- Attempts or plans to harm oneself
- Risky behaviors
- Feeling overwhelming fear for no reason
- Changes in eating habits; weight loss or gain
- Severe mood swings
- Repeated use of alcohol or drugs
- Changes in personality, behavior or sleeping habits
- Difficulty concentrating
- Intense worries or fears

If you suspect that one of your children is suffering from mental health issues, talk with your pediatrician and request a referral to a mental health specialist. Many employers have employee assistance programs that can connect families with mental health services. Also, make use of school counselors and be sure to connect with other families who are experiencing similar issues. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is one organization in our area that provides support and education for individuals and families experiencing mental illness.

For more information on this important topic, please join us at 7pm on February 29th at Mariemont Elementary for "Surviving the Teens- the Unrecognized Signs of Depression". This parent-only workshop will be facilitated by Cathy Strunk, MSN, RN, Cincinnati Children's Division of Psychiatry.

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Spotlight: Alicia Kintner, ArtsWave

BY REX BEVIS

One would be hard pressed to find a more enthusiastic supporter of the Cincinnati Arts scene than Ms. Alecia Kintner, Mariemont resident and President and CEO of ArtsWave, formerly the Fine Arts Fund. Before I had an opportunity to meet Alecia to discuss this article, I saw her in action January 4 at the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra (CSO) ArtsWave Special Concert at the Taft Theater. This Special Concert was preparatory to the CSO New York City Tour as well as a big thank you to ArtsWave supporters. Alecia was front and center on the Taft Stage with Louis Langree, CSO Music Director, thanking the ArtsWave audience for their continued financial support. As Alecia stated at the ArtsWave Concert, "With the help of tens of thousands of donors, ArtsWave supports the work of more than 100 arts organizations making an impact in the Greater Cincinnati / Northern Kentucky metro region. Your support allows us to leverage the power of the arts to build a more vibrant economy and connected community in Greater Cincinnati." Cincinnati ArtsWave is the nation's largest community campaign for the arts.

Alecia showed the same high level of passion for ArtsWave when the two of us met. I learned ArtsWave was rebranded from the former Fine Arts Fund in 2010. Whereas the Fine Arts Fund focused its support primarily on the major central city arts organizations (CSO, Playhouse in the

Park, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cincinnati Ballet, for example), ArtsWave has an expanded regional mission impacting more than 100 regional arts organizations. Bringing that close to home, ArtsWave provides support to the Woman's Art Club Cultural Center at the Resthaven Barn and even to after school arts programs of the Mariemont City Schools.

Funding the arts at this high level takes money, and ArtsWave recently reported that 42,000 donors contributed \$12,250,000 in 2015. A large percentage of these donors are employees of local companies such as P&G, Kroger, Macy's, and Fifth Third Bank. Organizations with Mariemont connections having employee outreach programs include Comey & Shepherd Real Estate, Sibcy Cline Realtors, Mariemont City Schools, Frisch's, and North American Properties. Entry level contributors at the \$75 level receive an ArtsWave ArtsPass with discounts to arts events and even discounted Reds tickets.

Alecia suggested that an excellent way for Mariemonters to explore the Arts is by way of the upcoming Arts Sampler Weekend sponsored by Macy's during the weekend of February 27 – 28.

For more information about Cincinnati ArtsWave and the many art offerings



Alicia Kintner

available, go to www.artswave.org and www.CincyArtsGuide.com.

About Alecia

Alecia, her husband Mike, and twin third graders, Delaney and Hayden, moved to Mariemont from Hartford, Connecticut in 2013 for a role that Alecia feels "she has

(cont'd on next page)



Generously sponsored by our friends at Macy's, ArtsWave's FREE annual arts festival is celebrating its 30th year connecting people to the amazing arts opportunities offered in our region.

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V I L L A G E

been preparing for her whole life.” Prior to relocating to Mariemont, Alecia served as Deputy Director of the Greater Hartford Arts Council for a decade. Her other professional experiences include being the Vice President for Advancement at the Connecticut Science Center; Development Director at New York’s Dance Theater Workshop; and as dance writer for The Moscow Times in Russia.

In 2007, Alecia and Mike took time off to live out a lifelong fantasy – giving up careers, home, and health insurance to move to the Caribbean island of Roatan for three years with their six month old twins. Alecia built a development program from the ground-up for Clinica Esperanza (Place of Hope.)

Alecia holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Performing Arts Journalism emphasizing dance history, and an MBA, from schools in her native Southern California. She currently serves as the Chair of the Private Sector Network Council for Americans for the Arts.

Art All Around Saturday, February 27, 2016

Explore art in local neighborhoods. Enjoy Madcap Puppets at the Cincinnati Art Museum, try belly dancing at the Art Academy of Cincinnati, or explore the UNMuseum at the Contemporary Arts Center. Try some opera at the MYCincinnati Firehouse or puppet madness at the Warsaw Federal Incline Theater in Price Hill. Community art centers in Hamilton (The Fitton Center), Oxford, Kennedy Heights, Clifton and Wyoming will feature live music and dance and many more opportunities for families to try something new.

Be the Hero at Music Hall Open House Sunday, February 28, 2016

Spend the afternoon at Cincinnati Music Hall before it closes this summer for renovations! The open house concludes a special joint concert, “Be the Hero!,” sponsored by Dewey’s Pizza, featuring

the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Opera, and the May Festival Chorus, and including selections from Star Wars, Superman, Frozen and more! Kids of all ages are encouraged to come dressed as their own favorite hero!

But before that, performances and activities for all ages will be offered throughout Music Hall. Discover the world through dance in the main lobby with Pones, Inc. Get the kids up and moving with interactive theater, dance, face-painting and hands-on crafts in the ballroom. See the next generation of artists in Corbett Tower with special performances by the May Festival Youth Chorus, CSO Nouveau Chamber Players and CCM Prep.

We can’t wait to show off all the wonderful arts programs and organizations making Greater Cincinnati an amazing place to live!

Mariemont Resident is \$200 Mio's Contest Winner

On December 22, 12-year old Maya Anderson was awarded \$200 for being the 2015 winner in the Mio’s Pizzeria Coloring Contest. Mayor Dan Policastro and Mio’s owner Sean Spurlock presented her with the check.

For many years the local pizzeria has used butcher paper to cover their table tops, allowing customers to doodle and draw with crayons while waiting for their meals. Customers 13 years of age and under may submit their drawings for weekly prizes. First and second place winners are chosen in three categories: Most Artistic, Most Creative and Most Humorous. Certificates for free pizzas are awarded. Weekly winners are then eligible for a monthly prize which includes a \$25 gift certificate and cute Mio’s stuffed animal. From the twelve monthly winners an annual winner is chosen to receive the \$200 cash prize.

In early October Maya’s drawing was chosen Most Creative and then went on to

win for the month. Maya’s drawing will be on display on the Wall of Fame inside the restaurant throughout 2016. The owners

and staff of Mio’s congratulate Maya on her creative masterpiece!



Maya and her mother along with Mayor Policastro and Sean Spurlock.

Signature Member Show and Sale Arrives in February

It's our signature line

The Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati Signature Member Show and Sale is upon us. February 12-28 marks the date that some of the region's most accomplished artists will present their work at the Barn for public viewing and for purchase. New this year to the club's highest level of recognition is Mary Louise Holt, Judith Reed, Kathryn Al-Lamadani and Angie Meehan. Judges awards Signature status to those member artists who have demonstrated consistency in one area of fine art by presenting four-framed pieces and a statement of intent.

Opening Reception: Friday, February 12 from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

Closing Reception: Sunday, February 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

The exhibit will be open Saturday, February 13 through Saturday, February 27. Hours are Tuesday through Friday

10:00 am to 2:00 pm. On weekends the Barn is open from 1:00 to 4 pm.

Call for Entries

Calling all Female Artists! It's time to submit your artwork to the 123rd Annual Juried Art Exhibition! The goal of this exhibition is to assemble a collection



of fine art works produced by women from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The focus of the jurying process will be on craftsmanship, color, and composition, with an emphasis upon diversity in style and subject. (Computer-generated art will not be accepted). Awards total more

than \$3500, with a Best of Show Award of \$1500. The deadline for submissions is March 1. For complete information, please visit www.artatthebarn.org, look for the horizontal banner that changes at the top of the home page, and click on the Juried Show banner.

Making an Impression

The Brush and Palette Painters presents its annual showcase of Plein Air work completed last summer on March 4, 2016 (opening reception) from 6-9 at the Barn. "Unique Impressions" runs through March 27. Gallery hours include Tuesday through Fridays (10-2) and Saturdays and Sundays (1-4). Free admission.

Escape the Chill for Family Fun

Thanks to another generous grant from the Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF), the Barn offers a unique series of family-fun events for 2016.

All programs start at 10:30am. You can register and prepay online at <https://thebarn.cincyregister.com/MPF2015>.

(cont'd on next page)



A sample of artwork by Mary Beth Dowlin ("Water Dance") to be presented at the Brush and Palette Painters exhibit in March

WOMAN'S ART CLUB CULTURAL CENTER

Each event costs \$5.

February 20: "Under the Bonsai Tree" with MadCap Puppets. Strength and courage can come from the humblest of creatures. Ko, a little beetle, must say "good-bye" to his life under a bonsai tree in spite of dragons and emperors.

March 19: "Chamber Music for Kids" with Ensemble Fioratura. Cincinnati's child-friendly classical chamber ensemble interacts with children to experience what it's like to play a flute, bow a violin, tickle the ivory and hear a soprano hold a high C.

April 30: "The Garden of Rikki Tikki Tavi" Rudyard Kipling's classic tells a story of friendship about a pesky young mongoose, a dim-witted muskrat and a bossy bird.

May 21: "The Joy of Zentangle" with teaching artist Joy Ritter. Learn the art of meditative and reflective drawing. The studio will provide basic Zentangle supplies, including drawing tiles and pens. For ages five and older.

Speaking of Monet, van Gogh and Daubigny...

Talk of the Taft. Join art enthusiasts from around the Tri-State on February 11 at the Barn (6980 Cambridge). Doors open at 6:30 PM for a lecture regarding the Daubigny, Monet, van Gogh Exhibition: Impressions of Landscape. The lecture, given by long-time Taft Museum of Art docent Sue Monteith, begins at 7:00 pm. The Taft is running this exhibit from February 20-May 29, 2016 at the Taft Museum of Art (316 Pike Street). Free admission. Light refreshments.

Macy's Art Sampler

The Barn announces its participation in the Macy's Art Sampler on February 27. Come to the Barn to watch Signature members of the Woman's Art Club of Cincinnati demonstrate their painting techniques, then head to the classroom to try your hand at acrylic painting with artist Dave Laug. Thanks to a grant from ArtsWave, this event, including materials, is free. Appropriate for ages 6 and older.



Lynn Hogan, former Mariemont resident, stands by her pastel painting at PastelPoint, an art show presented in January by instructor Ray Hassard.

Saturdays with Charlie

Artist Charlie Berger is offering two series of six drawing classes beginning in March.

March 5-April 9 (9 am-Noon): Warm and Wonderful Conte Crayon. You will discover how pencils and crayons create a unique sense of light and shadow. \$120 for six sessions.

April 16-May 21 (9:00 am-Noon): Dynamic Figure Drawing. Focus on observation, gesture, measurement and the geometry of the human figure through the use of tonal value to define form and to create mood. Nude and clothed models. \$140 for six sessions.

For more information, call Charlie Berger at 513-212-4679 or e-mail him at charlieberger3@gmail.com.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars NOW for The Barn's Springtime Gala – "Party at the Moulin Rouge." Friday, April 22 is the

date, a night to be transported to the iconic Parisian cabaret! While we can't promise CanCan dancers, we will have wonderful French food, wine and music. This party also welcomes Dr. Richard Brettell, a world-renowned authority on Impressionism, to Cincinnati. Party at The Barn Friday night and then attend Dr. Brettell's lecture the following day at the Taft Museum of Art. Guess which famous French artist and painting Dr. Brettell is going to discuss on Saturday? What do you know about Henri de Toulouse Lautrec? For more info, go to www.artatthebarn.org. More to follow...

Did you know?

The Barn is open from 10 am to 3 pm on the second, fourth and fifth Tuesday of each month for anyone who would like to paint with other artists. Bring your own supplies. Fee is \$5 for non-members and free for Woman's Art Club members.

For more information about any of these events, please visit www.artatthebarn.org or call 513-272-3700.

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Council Minutes - November 23, 2015

In attendance were Mayor Policastro, Mr. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz, and Mr. Wolter.

Fiscal Officer Borgerding said as of the October monthly report, the money is coming in and we are on track for ending the year on budget (\$100,000 deficit) but overall we will have \$1.2 million in the General Fund.

Mayor Policastro suggested joining First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio. He said he believes years ago we were a member but it became too expensive. The group does a lot of good and he thinks for \$200 it would be a good investment. Ms. Palazzolo asked about their charter. Mayor Policastro said it is sort of like the Municipal League. We will have meetings together and work together for the benefit of local governments. It will help with concerns such as municipalities only being able to tax citizens and not those who work there. Mr. Wolter said it sounds like a bargain for \$200. They would be helpful in the fight against centralized tax collection. Mr. Wolter moved, seconded by Mr. Miller to join the First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

Mr. Rob Bartlett, 3611 Mound Way, was granted permission to address Council. He said he has a petition signed by 73 residents of Mariemont that respectfully request two things. First, to remove the three stop signs at the Emery Lane and Mt. Vernon intersection, and to remove the three stop signs at the northern end of Center Street. While we are sure these were well intentioned when installed, all of these stop signs violate the Ohio Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, which is based on the Federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Because they violate these manuals, we believe these stop signs put the residents of Mariemont at a greater risk. Also, by choosing to violate these manuals, the Village is at greater risk from a liability standpoint. In addition to violating those two manuals, there have been numerous studies done throughout the United States on the use of stop signs to try and manage speed and traffic. For example, 13 studies showed that the safety of pedestrians, especially small children, got worse where unwarranted stop signs were installed. In spite of the best

Council Representative Information

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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:	Lorne Hlad	lhlad@mariemont.org
Mayor:	Dan Policastro	mayordan1@gmail.com

intentions, the data show more stop signs do not necessarily equate to greater safety.

The second part of the petition requests a committee create a documented process for determining when traffic calming is warranted and that this process be data based, criteria driven and follow guidelines that have been established by professionals in this area. We also believe the process should assess all potential means of traffic calming to determine the most appropriate method. The group questions what hard data exists to indicate what has changed versus the previous fifty plus years when children were being raised on these same streets without the need for stop signs at this intersection. The current process is simply too arbitrary. In looking at the Mariemont website, the group found a guideline already exists in the form of a document dated September 28, 2011. The Safety Committee, chaired by Mr. Wolter at the time, put together a traffic calming plan and he complimented Mr. Wolter on the thoroughness of the document. It lays out a data based, criteria driven process, including using a point system which gives heavier weighting to safety measurements. It looks at things like number of accidents over the last 5 years, the speed difference between the 85th percentile speed and the regulatory speed, the traffic volume, if there is a school or other special pedestrian generator like a playground within 500 feet and other measures as well. Clearly this process was not used for the decision to install the stop signs at Mt. Vernon and Emery Lane because on a scale of 0-4 in the point system created by the Safety Committee this location would have received 0 points. Having a written process helps ensure consistency, both in applying the criteria at different locations throughout the Village and when there is turnover on Council. And it also helps in explaining to

residents in a very concrete way the basis that is used for determining when traffic calming is warranted and when it is not.

The last concern related to the stop signs at Emery and Mt. Vernon is when the decision came before Council it was passed under an emergency clause. Instead of three readings at three separate Council meetings and allowing residents to have input on the proposal, it was all done in one meeting. That means these stop signs that registered a score of 0 for traffic levels and have not been there for 50 plus years were deemed so critical to install that the decision was made to not allow other residents to share any safety concerns they might have with Council before Council voted on and passed this Ordinance. If Council is truly concerned about the safety of all the residents of Mariemont, Council will put in place and use a process similar to what the Safety Committee has already created and remove the stop signs that are included in this petition.

Mr. Jerry Vianello, 6570 Wooster Pike, was granted permission to address Council. He said many may be aware of the work being done at the Boathouse and he wanted to thank Council for the support and the Maintenance Department for their help and use of equipment. It is a three phase approach to the work. Ms. Schwartz and many volunteers are contributing and coordinating with this effort.

Mr. Stan Bahler, 6965 Crystal Springs, was granted permission to address Council. He complimented Mr. Bartlett on his presentation and he agrees whole heartedly. More needs to go into when we put up a stop sign. He believes it would help if Council would do more as far as communication when trying to reach out to people. He came and looked

(cont'd on next page)

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

at the minutes and is not sure why the matter of the stop signs was given to Public Works. The Committee report indicated the date and time of the meeting, mentioned that a petition was submitted and a few residents came. It further said after discussion it was determined to put in three stop signs. That was the substance of the report – no mention of why the Committee came to this decision. He does not know what data the three Committee members used as their basis for approving the recommendation to Council. There was nothing in the report indicating it needed to be an emergency.

Chief Hines said in the letter he sent to Mayor Policastro he was asked by the Committee to look at this matter and study it. He has 31 years of experience of law enforcement and he has heard people say that that does not constitute an expert. He disagrees with that. If you look at the wall in the hallway you can see the awards given to the Village for traffic safety from AAA six years running. We have won the Platinum Award which is the highest award given. There are no sidewalks in the area of Mt. Vernon and Emery Lane. There is a large number of pedestrian traffic. Several occasions he witnessed people running, walking and residents pushing jogging strollers. There are a lot of children in that area. He does not understand personally how the signs being put up is a bad thing. If it enhances the safety just a little bit he believes that is a good thing.

Mr. Wolter said there was a process in place with the stop signs at Emery and Mt. Vernon. 19 people signed a petition. In response to that he and the Mayor stood in the area for over an hour with several residents and looked at what was going on. It was decided that in the view of safety to send Chief Hines, whom he considers an expert on maintaining safety in the Village, to evaluate the area. Where would Council be if we now took these stop signs out and someone got hurt? He is beginning to question what is driving the motivation behind all the pushback. Is it just that people do not want to be inconvenienced to stop one more time on your way home from work, etc.? Do people really think that the stop sign is aesthetically detrimental that it is hurting the quality of life? He is beginning to wonder if this is being driven by political

fervor. Since he has been on Council he has heard all kinds of negative comments about Mayor Policastro and he believes it is being carried over to this Council. There are some folks who are just waiting to find something to come in and try to embarrass this administration. Council is just trying to do the right thing. He has been accused of wanting to put a plethora of stop signs around this Village – he does not want to do that. If he sees a need and it is confirmed by the Police Chief and it is wanted by the residents who live there then he is going to be supportive. There is a lot of tension created over something that he thinks is very intuitive and the responsible thing to do. If we take those stop signs down we will have exposure that we will not be able to hide from.

Mr. Hlad thanked everyone for attending and showing such passion about this issue. One thing he hears that he thinks goes a long way in all matters is to try to inform residents when issues are going to be discussed. He believes going forward Council is learning lessons on what it means to engage the community at the Committee level and seek a broad consensus to hear dialogue from surrounding residents at an earlier stage. Moving forward he would like to find a way to come together when there are sensitive issues.

Ms. Jan Ring, 6920 Miami Bluff Drive, was granted permission to address Council. She was unclear on the need for the new stop signs on Center Street. Mr. Jerry Vianello said his son along with Jerry and Callie Stephens led the request for the kids that play in the area especially in the green median. Cars were flying from the Concourse area around the bend and the concern was a child being struck by a car. Mr. Vianello said he thinks part of the problem may be Council uses too many emergency clauses when passing legislation. Many times there are too many quick emergencies that some people are made aware of and many people are not aware of them. People as a general rule just want to be heard. When there was a problem at Homewood and Hawthorne he picked up the phone and had the Mayor and Mr. Wolter there within a half hour. They agreed that it was a horrible situation and the stop signs went up immediately. He appreciates as a citizen having that kind of response.

Ms. Linda Bartlett, 3611 Mound Way, was granted permission to address Council. She would like to see the process that was put on the website and utilized in 2011 adopted by Council so a process such as this one at Emery and Mt. Vernon is done in a more thoughtful and data filled manner rather than perceptions. She does not feel that location deserved to be an emergency. She suggested if the area is dangerous, extend the sidewalks. There is no animosity. A group of residents are just concerned about the number of signs that have appeared recently. We are getting so many stop signs we are beginning to look like Fairfax. We are a Historic Village and a National Historic Landmark and part of what brings people here is the lack of signs. That is part of the beauty of the Village. She would rather see enforcement of the speed limit. Ticket residents if you must if they are speeding. Hold people accountable if they run a stop sign or speed instead of a simple warning.

Mr. Wolter said we are pursuing the Safe Way to Schools grants. From the time you apply to the time it is implemented is typically three years. The big priority for the Village is more sidewalks. We are a small Village and grant money is an important part of our ability to maintain a balanced budget. We have put many sidewalks in recently.

Mr. Grant Karnes, 6909 Mt. Vernon, was granted permission to address Council. Mr. Bartlett makes several good points. No one believes that we should not value our children. This is a community response to an action that was taken by the Village. That is all. It was not an attack on Chief Hines or any member of the Committee or Council. He believes it is incumbent upon Council to look at the facts that were presented and respond to it. At the end of the day having a process that is more data base driven cannot hurt anything. It does not hurt to go backwards in time and ask the question did we do the right thing. If we cannot do that as a community then we have lost the essence of what government is.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Schwartz, to accept the recommendation of the Public Works and Service Committee regarding the Mariemont Code of Ordinances

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VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

to include hours of use for powered yard maintenance equipment. Present at the meeting were Public Works & Service Committee Chairman Dennis Wolter, Committee Member Eric Marsland, Council Member Joe Miller, Mayor Dan Policastro and several Village residents. After discussion, it was determined that allowable time for commercial use of lawn mowers by Village contract grass maintenance crews will be as follows: 7:30 am to 9:00 pm, seven days a week. After discussion, it was determined that allowable times for residential use of powered yard maintenance equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws and weed eaters, by residents of the Village of Mariemont will be as follows: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. seven days a week. The prescribed times do not apply to the use of emergency equipment. The Ordinance shall go into effect at the earliest date allowed by law. On roll call; six ayes, no nays.

December 14, 2015

In attendance were Mayor Policastro, Mr. Hlad, Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro said tonight we will have the unveiling of the Don Shanks portrait which will hang in the Council Chambers. He had always considered Don Shanks a great friend and credits him with getting him involved with the Village. We worked hard to get him elected Mayor in the early 1990's. By being elected Shanks brought a lot of new business and good attitude towards our Police Department. Back then residents got tickets if their grass was too tall, not a warning. Mr. Shanks was elected to be our 8th Mayor.

Ms. Rozanne Lithenhaus (Mr. Shanks's daughter) and Police Chief Hines unveiled the portrait of former Mayor and Police Chief Don Shanks. Ms. Lithenhaus said the painter did a beautiful job capturing her dad and the kindness in his eyes. She thanked everyone who made this possible

From Police Chief Hines: November 2015 Monthly Report. Mayor Policastro said for the sixth straight year the Police Department was awarded the Traffic Safety Platinum Award from AAA. Out of 140 departments in the Greater Cincinnati area the honor was only given to ten departments and it is the highest

award that AAA gives. Chief Hines said the credit goes to his department.

Mayor Policastro said that we gave fair raises to full-time employees, we used money from the Permanent Improvement Fund at the pool to put in a complete new pump and filter system under the pool which cost approximately \$49,000, replaced two air handlers (and removal) in the Municipal Building plus Belmont Avenue was repaved. We had some really big expenditures this year but we are in good shape and have made the last \$250,000 payment on the new fire truck. Council and Fiscal Officer Borgerding did a great job in 2015!

Ms. Avery McGuire, 3860 Homewood, was granted permission to address Council. She and some of her friends have a problem they want to address and that is the stray cats in the Village. They want to solve the problem by setting out live traps baited with cat food and take them to the OARS (Ohio Alley Cat Resources) so they may be spayed or neutered if need be. Then they will try to get them adopted.

Ms. Grace Mavridoglou, 3726 Homewood, was granted permission to address Council. We are hoping to help the stray cats in Mariemont survive and get new homes. We will trap the cats and take them to the shelter. The OARS will then help home them for the winter so they will have food and shelter.

Mr. Max Marsland, 3602 Center Street, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked Council for their time and asked if people were willing to donate money towards the cause. They would be grateful for any help.

Mr. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Palazzolo to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee which met to discuss increasing the pool membership rates for 2016. Present at the meeting were Eric Marsland, Joe Miller and Mary Ann Schwartz, Mayor Dan Policastro, Maggie Palazzolo and Dennis Wolter, and Service Department Superintendent John Scherpenberg. A new filtering system was just installed at the pool at a cost of \$48,950 and next year the main pool will need to be repainted and the baby pool will need to be repaired. Due to

the expense of installing the new filtering system and the increasing costs of operating and maintaining the pool, the Committee recommends that all Pool Membership fees be increased for the 2016 season in the amount of ten percent. The fees would be as follows: Family Membership \$319, Adult, \$143, Junior \$82, Senior \$110, Babysitter \$82, Junior Guest Pass \$18. The Committee further recommends that the rate for all one-day passes and one-week Guest Passes remain the same as the rate for 2015. Mayor Policastro said this is still a bargain. Fiscal Officer Borgerding said we have not raised the rates in 8-10 years. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The Village received a proposal from our current contractor, Grass Cor, to renew the current contract for 2016 with an increase of 2%, taking the total contract amount from \$45,455 to \$46,365. The Committee acknowledged Grass Cor's exemplary service and therefore recommends accepting the proposal to renew the contract.

JANUARY 11, 2016

In attendance were Mayor Policastro, Mr. Marsland, Mr. Miller, Ms. Palazzolo, Ms. Schwartz and Mr. Wolter.

Mayor Policastro introduced new Assistant Fiscal Officer, Eli Wendler, and welcomed her aboard.

Tax Administrator Busam said House Bill 5 makes it necessary to set up a new Committee Board of Appeals should someone file an appeal. Council will need to appoint two members and the Mayor will need to appoint one person. Mayor Policastro said we had in place a similar Board for years with Syd Sabo serving. Mayor Policastro is going to appoint him and referred the matter to the Finance Committee to recommend two appointments from Council. He suggested Joe Stelzer, who is a CPA and attorney Jed O'Connell but asked the Finance Committee to discuss any other candidates they may feel would be interested.

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JAMES T. WESTERFIELD, D.V.M.
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VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

Mr. Joe Stelzer, 6609 Pleasant Street, was granted permission to address Council. He wanted to update Council on some of the activities with the South 80 Park and Trails Advisory Committee and the progress of the new trail at the Bell Tower. The Committee advises the Mayor of their recommendations. If approved, they will find the resources to accomplish those recommendations. They meet monthly and encourage residents to attend. They continue to make progress transforming the previously underutilized South 80 Park into a wonderful amenity for residents of the Village. It has been accomplished with a lot of volunteer hours. He thanked all the departments, Mayor and Council for their support. Many are aware that the transformation of the South 80 into a well-used public park was one of the critical factors in the successful opposition to the routing of State Route 32 through Mariemont. You cannot use federal dollars to tear up a park. In 2015 the public gardens were expanded. The demand continues to increase and has turned into a great social spot in the summer. Also, the railroad improved the track crossing leading to the South 80 with new blacktop. In 2016 we are seeking a grant from local foundations to pay for the installation of some blacktop in the area leading from the railroad tracks down to the public gardens. Presently it is loose gravel and blacktop would be a great improvement. They are working on a master plan for future changes with current focus on the following: (1) Try to expand the area of the park. They are talking with adjacent land owners about allowing them to expand the park and trails on their property (2) They are looking at developing additional hiking and biking trails by getting rid of some of the honeysuckle (3) They are working on a re-forestation plan. A lot of the trees are very old and are going to die. We need to try to come up with a plan on trees that will flourish. (4) They are identifying organized programs that will help the area such as more bird watching tours and star gazing. They do have a Facebook page with updates and information about the Bell Tower trails. He anticipates formally opening the trails in the next couple of weeks once the language for the signage has been approved.

Mr. Grant Karnes, 6909 Mt. Vernon, was granted permission to address Council. He



complimented the Mayor and members of Council for their support on this project. He welcomed the opportunity last year to be part of the South 80 Parks Advisory Board. He has built several single track multipurpose trails and is excited to be a part of this. He distributed a detailed handout to the Mayor and members of Council. The Bell Tower Trail will be a 0.8 mile single track multipurpose trail that will connect Dogwood Park to the South 80 scenic trails. From December 1, 2015 to January 5, 2016 we completed the construction of the trail. The construction and design are consistent with standards for both mountain bike (IMBA) and hiking/running use. They used natural materials such as logs, rocks, gravel to reinforce trail surfaces. The only man-made feature that exists on the trail is a safety railing. We have had hundreds of people using this trail. The response has been positive from the community and other communities as well. It is an intermediate trail. The last phase of the project will be the trail signage. Mayor Policastro asked about crossing the creek, adding that Mr. Seeger said we could put in a flat boulder at one point and questioned if a bridge would be put in. Mr. Stelzer said they are going to use the natural environment with limited crossing to the creeks. If there are funds available later it may be something to consider.

Mr. Andrew Seeger, 6988 Crystal Springs, was granted permission to address Council. He thanked the Mayor and members of Council, the Police, Fire and Service Departments for their support. He has walked

the trail several times and witnessed many people using the trails including children. He believes there are other opportunities within the Village to do the same sort of project. He believes it will keep the property values high. The next phase might also include the opportunity to teach classes. We could offer classes to young children/teenagers to teach them how to ride the trails. It would be a positive step to teach the community how to use what they have.

Mr. Miller said he had the opportunity to walk the trail and he was really impressed with what the Parks Advisory Board has done in the past 30 days. He really likes the idea of keeping it natural and believes it will help keep the costs down. He encouraged everyone to go take a walk on the trail. It is a huge asset and so different than the South 80 acres.

Ms. Palazzolo moved, seconded by Mr. Miller, to accept the recommendation of the Safety Committee which met to discuss restricting parking to one side only on Denny Place and Miami Bluff Drive. In attendance were Lorne Hlad, Maggie Palazzolo, Joe Miller, Mayor Dan Policastro, Chief Rick Hines, Dennis Wolter, Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer, and Village Engineer Chris Ertel. The Committee recommends that no changes be made on Denny Place. The Committee further recommends that parking on Miami Bluff be restricted to the residential side of the street and no parking be allowed on the bluff side of the street. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

My First Village Council Meeting

BY ELIZABETH MILLER WOOD

I've lived in Mariemont just over a year now, and I've managed to check quite a few "Mariemont essentials" off my bucket list for this column: hiking the South 80 trails, swimming at the pool, touring the carillon tower, and even visiting the pioneer cemetery. All have been good and fun, but my latest adventure—attending a Village council meeting—was uniquely different. Not just because I had no idea what to expect, but because it felt...what's the word? Noble, I think? Like some small fulfillment of a patriotic duty.

Let me first say that my only previous experiences with local government were being on student council in eighth grade and watching Season 1 of "Parks and Recreation." So, yes, I had a lot to learn.

Village council meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building. I attended a meeting in November that

had about 25 attendees. Council member Maggie Palazzolo says attendance has been increasing lately, in part due to the more creative and interesting issues being addressed.

New Kid on the Block

I grabbed a seat next to Police and Fire Chief Richard Hines and Assistant Fire Chief Jason Kiefer, who attend every meeting unless they have emergency calls. The pace of the meeting was orderly, logical, and efficient. The atmosphere was congenial, yet professional. There was an official agenda, and it was adhered to. I appreciated that.

I learned that new issues can be voiced at the general council meeting during the scheduled "three minutes to address council," but the issue will not be discussed at length during that meeting. Instead, the issue will be analyzed by the appropriate committee and then put on the general

meeting agenda for a later date. That way, all citizens will know when the issue will be discussed and can prepare to participate, if desired. Palazzolo says council tries to get new issues on the agenda as soon as possible, understanding that citizens' needs should be addressed promptly.

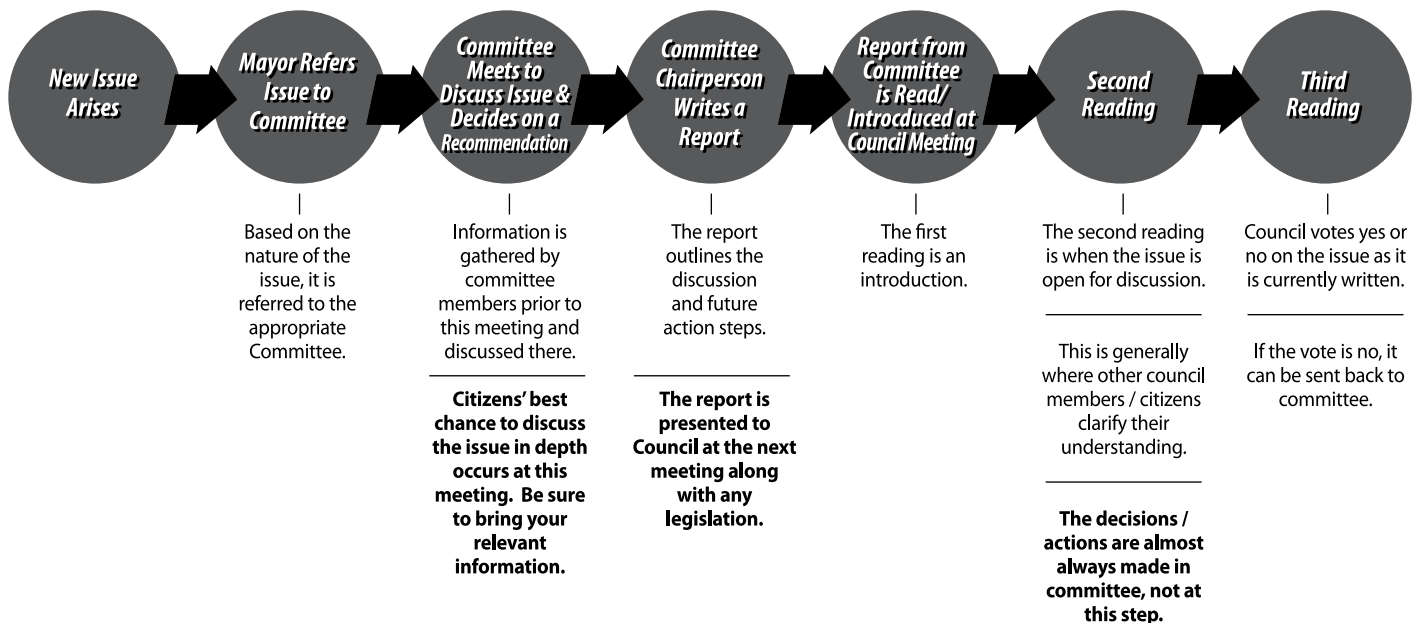
To receive communication about upcoming council agendas, residents can email joanee@mariemont.org and request to be put on the email list. Agendas are also available at the village office on the Friday prior to a meeting. (See adjoining sidebar for more detail on the official process.)

It seems I chose a good night to attend my first council meeting because there was a lengthy discussion—and I won't call it heated, but I'll call it "warm"—about the recent emergency placement of a stop sign. A team of citizens presented a well-researched statement to support their dissatisfaction with the stop sign. Council members responded with respectful justification about

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When an issue comes before village council, here is the path it takes and what happens at each step:



VILLAGE

why the stop sign was placed and why it will remain.

Despite some differences of opinion, which can be expected during any healthy decision-making process, I was encouraged to hear both sides in agreement about

how to take steps in the future to avoid a similar conflict. Everyone seemed to agree on the need for greater communication about Village issues so that citizens can get involved at an earlier stage. Of course, that calls for responsibility and accountability on all sides. Better communication from council

and better proactive participation from citizens will help make our local government more effective.

Though I don't personally have any issues I need to bring to council at the moment, it's empowering to know how it's done if needed in the future. And I know there will be people willing to listen.

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



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2015: The Year in Review in Our Village



Average Sale Price increases by 13.75%

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Our Village continues to see home sales increasing and home prices continue to see positive momentum; fewer homes on the market and low interest rates continue to attract buyers.

	2014	2015
HOMES SOLD	62	71
TOTAL \$ AMOUNT	\$23,000,000	\$30,000,000
AVG SALE PRICE	\$371,000	\$422,000
DAYS ON MARKET	56 Days	51 Days
% LIST TO SALE PRICE	95%	96%



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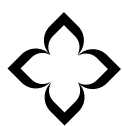


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