



Village of Mariemont

6907 Wooster Pike
Mariemont, Ohio 45227

(513) 271-3246

www.mariemont.org

MAYOR'S BULLETIN

Volume 6, Issue 8

DECEMBER 2010

RICK HINES APPOINTED TO POSITION AS FIRE CHIEF

At the November 8, 2010, meeting of Council, Rick Hines, who had completed his six-month probationary period as Police & Fire Chief, was appointed permanently to that position by a five-to-one vote of Council. Working with the Assistant Fire Chief, Jeff Travers, Chief Hines has made great strides with regard to identifying and correcting operational issues within the Fire Department. Some of the challenges identified and corrected are safety-related, while others have to do with a necessary change in the culture of the department. Not only will these changes effect the daily operations, but will, without questions, benefit the citizens of Mariemont. Some of the corrected challenges are as follows:

- Developed Mariemont Fire Department Vision and Mission Statement
- Completed "Equipment Needs" Analysis
- Replaced 12-Year-Old Paramedic Ambulance
- Replaced Personal Protective Equipment that Did Not Meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards
- Replaced 15-Year-Old Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus that were Non-NFPA Compliant
- Purchased American National Standards Institute Approved Cold Weather Gear
- Purchased Fire Manager Software to Handle Scheduling and Track Certifications
- Completed and Secured Memorandum of Understanding for College Credit Courses for Members
- Adjusted Typical 24/48 Platoon to Accommodate Daily Operations More Efficiently
- Hired Three Part-Time Members to Fill Shift Vacancies Created by Reduction in Full-Time Force
- Updated Hamilton County Communications Center Response Cards
- Participated in "National Night Out" with Police Department
- Completed Mariemont Fire Department Project Time Line
- Took a Proactive Approach toward Repairs In and Around the Municipal Building, ***SAVING THE VILLAGE TAXPAYERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS***
- Watered Hillsides and Trees during Summer Drought

Some of the challenges identified, but not yet fully completed are as follows:

- Develop Standard Operating Procedures
- Complete the Continuing Education Units Tracking and Retention for All Members
- Send Personnel to Become Certified in Car-Seat Inspections
- Provide Community CPR Training
- Complete Ambulance Fee Structure Study
- Develop Five-Year and Ten-Year Equipment Replacement Plan
- Develop Annual Technical Skills Training for All Members
- Maintain Lawn and Grounds around Municipal Building Starting in Spring 2011, which will also ***SAVE THE VILLAGE TAXPAYERS THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS***

By making Rick Hines the Police and Fire Chief Administrator overseeing both departments and assigning more responsibility to the Assistant Chief in each department, Village taxpayers will save over \$100,000 and the cost of a vehicle for a fire chief. This action will help us get very close to our goal of balancing the annual budget for 2010. All of this has been done without cutting services. We still have four firefighters on duty on every shift. We appreciate the work Chief Hines and Asst. Chief Travers have done and look forward to the Fire Department continuing to grow and improve.

CANNED FOOD DRIVE AT BOY SCOUT TREE SALE

Together with the Police and Fire Departments, the Village will be collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items in baskets located at the Municipal Building Lobby. Please support our local Boy Scouts at their Christmas Tree Sale and you can bring items to donate when you are purchasing your tree. You may drop off your food donations anytime before December 24th for us to distribute to needy families in the Village for Christmas Day.



VILLAGE APPRECIATES VOLUNTEERS

This holiday season, the Village owes thanks to all those who helped with so many community projects during the year. The Service Department was kept busy watering all the new trees planted to replace those removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Without our volunteers, our flower beds would have been lost, so special thanks go out to the members of the Parks Advisory Board and other volunteers for watering the flower beds and trees during the exceptionally hot and dry summer and fall. Members of the Parks Advisory Board included Louise Schomburg, Mike Benson, Peggy Keyes, Eric Marsland, Doug Short, Nancy Stelzer, Lisa Gordon, and Darla Michael. Others who helped were Amy Carelli, who watered the trees on Miami Bluff, Richard Gegner and Joyce Beck, who designed, planted, and maintained the flower bed on the Settle Road island, Lisa Wharton and Merret Collister, who designed, planted, and maintained the flower bed on Murray Avenue, Mary Ann Schwartz, Abby McKinney and Mira McKinney, for pulling weeds in the beds, and Sally Coffman, who took care of the beds around the pool.



PREVEY PARK BIRD SANCTUARY

Hats off to Sean Mathews who made five birdhouses and designed a sign for the new bird sanctuary for his Eagle Scout project. Sean also planted new shrubbery along the pathway to attract birds to the area. Work on the sanctuary should be completed in the spring, just in time for the birds migrating back to the area. We want to express our gratitude also to Don Hild, a Mariemont resident and bird expert, for his many contributions and his guidance.

NEW SLIDE AT ANN BUNTIN BECKER PARK

The new slide has been installed at Ann Buntin Becker Park. With the swings, skateboarding equipment, and grill previously installed, the park is continuing to enjoy improvements and additions. Little by little, as the budget allows, we will add more playground equipment to make Ann Buntin Becker Park a great place for kids to play and for families to gather. Thanks to Mr. Dan Spinnenweber and to the Mariemont Civic Association for their donations toward the cost of the slide.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEMBERS NEEDED

As the economy continues to sag, crime continues to rise. The Mariemont Police Department needs the help of the Neighborhood Watch Group and the Neighborhood Watch Group needs all the members they can rally. This is a wonderful way to help keep your community one of the safest neighborhoods in the county. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Denise McCarthy at 348-6331 or attend the next meeting, which will be held on January 13, 2011, in the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m.

NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM AT RECREATION FIELDS

Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District presented the Village of Mariemont with the award for being the best recycling community with a population of fewer than 10,000 residents. We were the second highest recycling community overall, with only Montgomery recycling at a higher rate. Our goal for next year is to be the #1 recyclers in the county. One way to improve our rate is to correct an area where we are lacking and that is at the recreation fields. All the paper, the water bottles and the soda cans are currently being tossed in with the trash. We investigated what it would cost to have Rumpke provide recycling containers for the parks and service them. The cost was about \$3000 and that is much more than we wanted to spend. So here is what we will do to further the green initiative in the Village. I have asked our Service Department to make and place marked recycling receptacles at the recreation fields, Tot Lot, and most-used parks and empty them on Monday mornings into the recycling containers at the Municipal Building. Then Rumpke can haul the recycling away as part of our current contract with them at no extra cost, saving us the \$3000. Please look for these recycling cans and make every effort to use them.



POTS NEEDED!



Service Department Superintendent John Scherpenberg is in need of large pots he can use to plant trees in at the Mayor's Tree Farm. This will make transporting the trees to the locations where they will be permanently planted much easier for the department and for the trees. We are especially interested in the larger plastic pots as they will not break as the weather heats up and cools down the way the terra cotta pots do. If you have any pots lying around your garage or basement that you don't want, please contact John at 272-5741 or call the Village office at 271-3246 and we will arrange to pick them up. Donated pots will save the Village about \$350 next year and, as you know, every little bit of savings helps.

VILLAGE TO ADOPT UNIT OF THE ARMED FORCES SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN

At the November 22nd meeting, Council passed a resolution to take part in the *America Supporting Americans Adopt-A-Unit* program. The program allows communities to adopt an active unit of the Armed Forces serving either here at home or abroad. Units serving at home can readily engage with the community and participate in events and activities. Those serving abroad can benefit from letter-writing campaigns and care packages, which help them feel more connected to the community and the public in general. We will be adopting the Headquarters Support Company of the 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan. It is too late to get packages together for Christmas, but we are aiming to send boxes for their Super Bowl Game Day event and for all the holidays in 2011. The Mariemont Civic Association has agreed to cover the costs of shipping the packages. Anyone interested in helping to collect items for the boxes or in any other way, should contact Kim Beach at 271-2398 or me at my home office at 561-2619 or at the Village office at 271-3246.



LEAF PICK UP ENDS DECEMBER 20TH

The Service Department will collect leaves through Monday, December 20th. That will be the final day they will be vacuumed up from the curb. Make sure to have all your leaves raked to the curb by 7:00 a.m. that day. After that date, you will need to bag your leaves and set them at the curb for Rumpke to collect. The Service Department will do their best to get to every street one last time on the 20th, but contact me at 561-2619 if your leaves are somehow missed.

Finally, thanks to Carolyn Tuttle for the beautiful new holiday wreath hanging over the main entrance of the Municipal Building. It was a great addition to our holiday decorations!

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Sincerely,

Dan Policastro
Dan Policastro, Mayor