



Village of Mariemont

6907 Wooster Pike
Mariemont, Ohio 45227

(513) 271-3246

www.mariemont.org

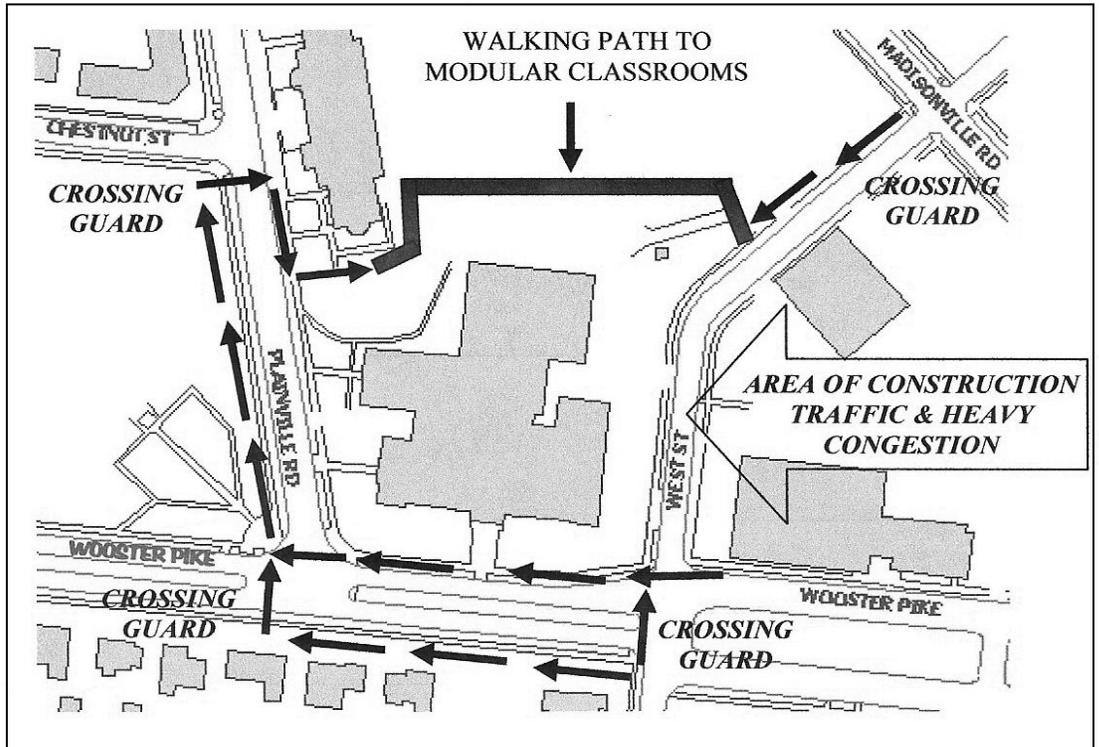
MAYOR'S BULLETIN

Volume 7, Issue 6

AUGUST 2011

SUMMER IS ENDING & SCHOOL IS STARTING

It's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone, but it has, and a new school year will begin on Wednesday, August 24th. We want to welcome new Crossing Guard, Betty Kuntzman, who will be taking over the post from retired Guard, Patty Combs. Our Crossing Guards will be helping students navigate through all the construction at the elementary school and keeping them on the designated path that will take them safely to their classrooms. The sidewalks along the side of the school are closed and cannot be used. Instead, as shown in the diagram at the right, students coming from Wooster Pike will cross over to the west side of Plainville Road, walk down the sidewalk to Chestnut Street, and cross back over Plainville Road to access the walking path to the modular classrooms. Students coming from West Street will be able to access the modular classrooms walking path directly from that street. There will be a Crossing Guard at each of the intersections where the students must go through heavy traffic. While this new route may be inconvenient, safety is the top priority and this is the safest route. Due to the construction traffic, limiting your use of West Street will also help to make things safer for all.



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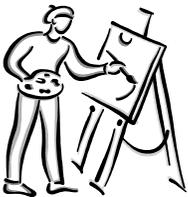


A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I want to publicly thank Mark Glassmeyer and Chris Fahnstock for all the work they have done this summer to maintain the ball fields at Dogwood Park. It was quite a surprise to find out that Mark had a 1959 'farm tractor' that had belonged to his grandfather. It was an even bigger surprise that he was willing to use it to drag the ball fields. With the help Mark got from Chris Fahnstock, our ball fields have never looked better! Mark and Chris were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Mayor's Office. Thank you to both of these volunteers!

MORE THANKS

Thank you to Linda Bartlett who donated a ping pong table to the swimming pool. Over the past couple of seasons, we have tried to increase the amount of activities at the pool and everyone has enjoyed being able to play ping pong. In fact, they have played so much that we wore out the table that had previously been donated. Mrs. Bartlett's donation kept the games going! Also, thanks to Don Hild who donated a freezer to the pool. These types of donations really help and keep our expenses down.



ART & CRAFTS FAIR

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont will hold their 26th Annual Fall Art & Crafts Fair on Sunday, September 11 from 11AM to 5PM on Wooster Pike in the heart of Mariemont. It will feature 75 exhibitors from across the Tri-State area who will be showing a wide variety of original art and crafts. These unique items are not available anywhere else. Proceeds from the art & craft fair benefit the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund for students of the Mariemont School District. For more information, please contact Matt Nickum at 561-2292.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE!

For the year 2010, the Village received the award for the best recycling community in Hamilton County with a population under 10,000 residents. Our recycling rate for 2010 was 31%, which means almost one third of all the trash generated in the Village was recycled. Because of our high rate of recycling, the Village received just over \$17,000 in funds from the Residential Recycling Incentive Program for 2010. With our budget concerns, this extra income really helps, so please keep up the good work and remember to recycle!

3M MOVES OUT AND NATIONAL PRIZE & TOYS MOVES IN

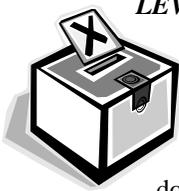
Executives from the 3M-Futuro plant in Mariemont announced to Village officials on August 3rd that they would be moving their operation to a larger facility in Milford by the end of the month. They have been looking for a bigger building since the one they were in on Mariemont Avenue was purchased last year from the Jung Trust by National Prize and Toys, who wants to increase its operation here. While 3M's departure will result in the loss of some earnings taxes, we feel certain that loss will be offset by National Prize and Toys' growth. Additionally, other businesses in the same building are going strong. Those businesses include Bistro Management, the office of the second largest TGI Friday's franchisee in North America, and Cutting Edge Selections, a leading importer and wholesale distributor of fine wines. We appreciate the wonderful working relationship we have had with 3M-Futuro over the years and wish them great success in their new location. We also look forward to continuing our relationship with the other businesses in the Mariemont Avenue building and doing all we can to help them continue to grow.

BUDGET WORK CONTINUES

In light of the recent changes in the State budget, we must continue to look at ways to reduce expenses. One of the things I have done is to direct the Village Solicitor and the Village Engineer to attend only the first Council meeting of each month. This will save us about \$4,000 per year as these professionals are compensated for their time when they come to a meeting. We will be saving about \$2300 per year by canceling the lease contract for the postage meters at the Tax Department and the Village office. Additionally, next year I am cutting the budget for trees from \$50,000 to \$35,000 because that will make up for the budget reduction. The Mayor's Tree Farm now has quite a few trees that will be ready to plant throughout the Village next year. We can use these trees instead of having to buy any. (If you have any 'volunteers' from trees in your yard, please put them in pots and call the Village office to arrange for someone to pick them up. We will plant them at the tree farm and in a couple of years, they can be used elsewhere in the Village.) We are also going to raise the fines for traffic citations to equal the amount Hamilton County imposes for violations. Our Village employees have agreed not to ask for any salary increases in 2012. All of these steps will help offset the 10% reduction in the funds local governments will receive under the new State budget. The chart below shows Village Clerk Borgerding's budget projection for the next five years. As you can see by the Ending Balance figures, two and a half years from now we will be facing a deficit. The State has done a number on our five-year budget plan, but we will remain creative and proactive to avoid this future problem to compliment the past hard decisions made by this Council and previous Councils. We will not, however, reduce services. Please do not hesitate to contact the Village office if you have any ideas on further reducing expenses. We will consider all reasonable and workable suggestions.

<i>Amounts Shown in Thousands of Dollars</i>	<u>Actual 2009</u>	<u>Actual 2010</u>	<u>Current 2011</u>	<u>Budget 2012</u>	<u>Long-Range Plan</u>		
					<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Beginning Balance	1,268	1,010	1,027	838	683	234	(229)
Receipts							
Real Estate Tax	280	283	295	300	310	315	320
Personal Property Tax	48	27	25	10	0	0	0
Inheritance Tax	257	379	250	250	0	0	0
Local Government Funds	142	110	90	76	60	60	60
Mayor's Court	117	121	117	119	120	120	120
Earnings Tax	1,747	1,681	1,724	1,750	1,768	1,803	1,839
Trash Fees	142	166	225	228	228	228	228
Other	320	351	265	307	307	307	307
Total Receipts	3,053	3,118	2,991	3,040	2,793	2,833	2,874
Expenditures							
Salaries	1,735	1,610	1,632	1,658	1,675	1,708	1,742
Benefits	683	608	632	670	677	690	704
Other Op. & Maint.	623	610	595	592	600	607	613
From Paramedic Exp.	0	0	50	0	20	20	20
Trash	270	273	271	275	271	271	271
Total Expenditures	3,311	3,101	3,180	3,195	3,242	3,296	3,350
Adv. Or Transf. In/(Out)							
Inc./(Dec.) during Year	(258)	17	(189)	(155)	(449)	(463)	(476)
Ending Balance	1,010	1,027	838	683	234	(229)	(707)

LEVY WILL NOT RAISE TAXES



This November, Mariemont residents will see a 3.5 tax levy on the ballot for Capital Improvements. I want to make it clear that this is a levy RENEWAL and NOT a new tax. This levy has been renewed every five years since it was first voted for by citizens in 1941. Money from this levy goes to maintain our streets, sidewalks, and buildings, to maintain and replace police and fire vehicles and equipment, to maintain our parks and recreation areas, including the swimming pool and tennis courts, and to care for and replace trees. If you have any questions about the levy, please do not hesitate to contact me at my home office number of 561-2619.

PLAINVILLE ROAD GRANT

Another way we can save money is to apply for grants for necessary expenses. Village Engineer Chris Ertel was able to secure a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to partially pay for the repaving of Plainville Road. The total cost of the project was \$73,404. We received \$42,000 from the State of Ohio State Issue 2 Program and \$14,000 from the Municipal Road Fund, for a total of \$56,000 in grants. This allowed us to repave Plainville Road from Chestnut to Murray for a total cost to the Village of \$17,404 which is approximately one fourth of the total for the project. We will continue to seek grants as a way to stretch our dollars as far as we can.



LUMBERMEN WIN!

Congratulations to Coach Randy York and his team, the Lumbermen, who won the championship tournament for the 2011 Men's Softball League. They were challenged in the final game by Don Slavik's team, Don's Tramps. This 'just for the fun of it' men's softball league, a part of the Mariemont Recreation Association, has a great time each summer and we are always looking for new players. If you would like to join in the fun next year, call me at 561-2619.

Sincerely,

 Dan Policastro, Mayor