

MAYOR'S BULLETIN
Volume 7, Issue 2
MARCH 2011

NEW WEST STREET PARKING PLAN IN THE WORKS

The parking on West Street between our elementary school and The Strand has been a problem for years! With the help of Building Commissioner Dennis Malone and Village Engineer Chris Ertel, we have finally come up with a plan to have enough parking for all parties in and around this area. As one can see by the diagram at left, the Village will need 10 feet all along the east side of the street, which is owned by Spinnenweber Builders and 10 feet on the west, which is owned by Mariemont Schools. I have met with School Superintendent Paul Imhoff and Dan Spinnenweber and both gentlemen agree that with the tear down of the old elementary school and the future construction of the new one, now is the time to improve this part of our infrastructure and put in 80 to 90 perpendicular parking spots for all to use. Right now the Building Commissioner is working with the School and their construction company, Turner Construction, to put a plan together to figure how to complete this important project this summer. I will continue to keep you informed in future issues of this bulletin. If we take advantage of this opportunity (*that will not impact any residential streets or neighborhoods*) many good things can and will happen:

1. The elementary school will have nearby public parking for major events like festivals, plays, sports events, Veterans' Day, assemblies, art shows, and Grandparents' Day.
2. With parking close by, parents of elementary school students can walk their children up to the access door in the mornings and have a parking spot where they can wait for their kids when picking them up.
3. This plan makes the street much safer because there will be plenty of parking spots right up next to the school, and therefore, no need to park across the street and have our kids cross over.
4. The new 80 to 90 parking spots will help merchants like the Dilly Deli, Starbucks, Pomegranate & Lime, The Sweetery, Sara Benjamin's, and the National Exemplar with overflow parking when their lot is full on weekends.
5. The Kiwanis Club's Arts and Crafts Fair that we all enjoy will finally have the parking it needs.
6. The Sweet Gumball trees would be replaced by a much better type of tree for the area - a tree that will not drop hard fruit that is a trip hazard.
7. When the 64 condominium units are finished on Madisonville and Thorndike, the residents can have their guests park right across the street instead of having them park back on Thorndike, Nolen Circle and Murray Avenue.
8. The plan would attract tenants to the empty retail shop on the corner because there would be open parking along the side of the store for their customers.
9. Currently, when the parking lot at The Strand is full, people park behind the theatre and walk over to the Inn or the Dilly Deli, especially on the weekends when the theatre really needs those parking spaces. With all the extra parking this plan would provide, that would no longer be a problem. This is important because we are working very hard to add extra screens to the facility and save the theatre from leaving the Village.
10. And, finally, if this plan comes to fruition, I would put a Citizens Committee together to look into having a weekly Farmers Market during the summer in the teachers' parking lot when the school is not using it, because we would have the public parking for it to work

KIM SULLIVAN LEAVES COUNCIL – DENISE McCARTHY STEPS IN

District 5 Councilwoman, Kim Sullivan, announced at the February 14th Council meeting that she was resigning her position on Council. Ms. Sullivan stated that the increasing demands of her full-time job no longer allowed her to devote enough time to her duties on Council. She believed the residents of District 5 and the Village could be better served by someone who is able to give more to the job. Ms. Sullivan will be missed and we wish her well. Denise McCarthy has accepted the appointment to fill the vacancy created by Ms. Sullivan's resignation. Denise's appointment was approved by Council at the February 28th meeting to complete Ms. Sullivan's term, which ends December 31, 2011.

RICK HINES NAMED AS PRESIDENT

Mariemont Police & Fire Chief Rick Hines was elected as President of the Hamilton County Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Hines was sworn in by Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge and Village resident Steven Martin. Judge Martin stated that being elected as to the office was "recognition of the esteem in which Rick is held by his fellow professionals." He went on to say, "It is also an honor for the Village. We are indeed lucky that a superb professional like Rick has chosen to pursue his professional career in Mariemont." We congratulate Chief Hines on his election and thank him for his service to the Village.

MARIEMONT INN NAMED A BEST WESTERN PREMIER HOTEL

The Best Western Hotels has selected Mariemont Inn as one of only five hotels in North America to earn the level of a *Best Western Premier* hotel. This is the highest level within the Best Western family of hotels and inns. They describe their Premier facilities as ones that will leave a lasting impression, offering distinct style and plush amenities with a refined level of comfort and courtesy for business and leisure travelers alike. The Mariemont Inn has offered the finest accommodations since opening in 1926 and its 2009 renovation only added to the elegance of this establishment. Congratulations to the Inn for receiving this honor.

TOWNHOME LANDSCAPING BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST ANNOUNCED

With spring right around the corner, now is the time for owners and tenants of our historic townhouses to start planning their front yard gardens for the first annual Townhouse Beautification Award! English garden aficionado, Louise Schomburg, and landscape architect, Jim Gerace, will join members of the Mariemont Parks Advisory Board to judge the landscaping of the townhouses, looking for the one with the most improved and beautifully designed front yard. The grand prize will be a one-year family membership to the Mariemont Swimming Pool. (If the winner of the pool pass has already purchased one, they will be reimbursed.) Additional prizes include breakfast at the National Exemplar in the Mariemont Inn, tickets to the theatre, and a golf putter being donated by Bob McGraw and more donation prizes are being added. The Mariemont Civic Association will announce the winners at their meeting on May 19th! Those wishing to participate should contact the Village office at 271-3246.

LET'S BE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERS

Having a pet is a joy, but it is also a big responsibility! There are ordinances in place in the Village to make sure that pet owners live up to those responsibilities. Under no circumstances should any pet – cat or dog – be allowed to roam freely. They must always be under the control of their owners. Be considerate of other residents is also part of having a pet. For instance, don't allow your dog to bark repeatedly and disturb those who may be sleeping or just trying to enjoy a peaceful time of day. When walking your dog, remember it is your responsibility to clean up after your pet. It helps to always carry a plastic bag. You can then put it in a trash receptacle. We all need to be good neighbors as well as good pet owners.

DUSTY RHODES TO SPEAK AT MARIEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Hamilton County Auditor Dusty Rhodes will be the guest speaker at the March 17th meeting of the Mariemont Civic Association. The topic of his presentation will be the new home appraisals and the appeal process. Mr. Rhodes has been the county auditor since 1990 and is certain to be a very interesting speaker. This would be a great time to bring someone new to the meeting to learn about the Mariemont Civic Association and how it serves our community. The meeting will be held at 7 PM at the Mariemont Parish Center.

COCKTAILS WITH MARY EMERY

The Mariemont Preservation Foundation is hosting an informative evening with a display and slide presentation on Mary Emery and the History of Mariemont on Friday, April 8th from 6 PM to 8 PM at the WACC Cultural Center, 6980 Cambridge Avenue. Join friends and neighbors for drinks and appetizers and learn about the history of our National Historic Landmark Village. Guests will also have the opportunity to preview the WACC 118th Juried Art Exhibit on display in the main gallery!

MEN'S SOFTBALL

A team sport available to those who are a little beyond their youth is the Mariemont Men's Softball League. Games are played Sunday afternoons, starting May 15th and lasting through July. Anyone interested in being a part of this fun and entertaining league should fill out the form below and return it to the Mayor's office by May 2nd. You may drop it off or mail it to 6907 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, Ohio 45227. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 271-3246. ***If you are already on a team from last year, you do not have to return this form.*** Your manager will contact you. New members will be contacted in early May with full details. ***If you are new to the Village, this is a great way to meet your neighbors while having a lot of fun!***

See you at Town Meeting on Sunday, March 13th at 1:00 PM at the Mariemont Elementary School!

Sincerely,



Dan Policastro, Mayor

SOFTBALL REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____
