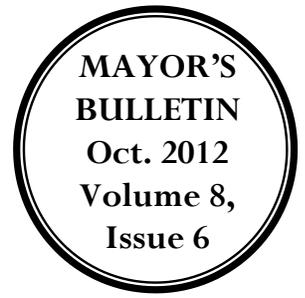




Village of Mariemont

6907 Wooster Pike
Mariemont, Ohio 45227
(513) 271-3246
www.mariemont.org



FORMER MAYOR DON SHANKS

On October 5th, former Village of Mariemont Mayor and Police Chief Don Shanks passed away following a brief illness. Mr. Shanks served as Mayor from January 1992 through December 1995. Prior to that, he was a Police Officer in the Village from 1949 to 1954, when he became the Police Chief. He served as Police Chief for 33 years, retiring in 1987. As Chief, Don oversaw the move of the Police Department from Oak Street to its present location in the Municipal Building. In addition, in 1993, Don was Mariemont's representative to the board for the Joint Ambulance Service to ensure the availability of paramedic services for the citizens of Mariemont. During his term as Mayor, he was instrumental in restoring the financial well-being of the Village. He created the Parks Advisory Board to help preserve and improve our Village parks and green spaces, and he oversaw the rehabilitation of the Concourse and Hopkins Park. He was also instrumental in the development of The Strand. Through his commitment to cooperation, he fostered the working relationship with our local businesses that remains strong to this day. Mayor Shanks was well-liked and well-respected by those who knew him and served with him. We offer his wife, Norma, and their daughter, Roxanne, prayers and sympathy in their time of loss. We share their grief. Council is currently considering a recommendation to rename the Mariemont Municipal Building in honor of Don Shanks. The building would become known as the Col. Donald L. Shanks Municipal Building and a plaque listing his many contributions to the Village and the Hamilton County Community would be displayed on a boulder at the entrance to the building. Evans Landscaping has already donated the boulder for the plaque. If you would like to make a donation toward the cost of the plaque, please contact the Village office at 271-3246.

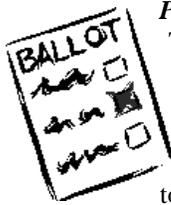


IN MEMORY OF TED SHANNON

Fairfax Mayor Ted Shannon also passed away recently. His death occurred on September 24th. Mayor Shannon was always a good friend and neighbor to the Village of Mariemont. While Fairfax grew and flourished under Mayor Shannon's leadership, he always took into consideration what effect that growth would have on neighboring communities like ours. He was a good Mayor, a good man, and a good friend. Ted Shannon will be missed by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

THE LOWER 80 GARDENS AND TRAILS PARK and ODOT's UNACCEPTABLE PREFERRED ROUTE

On the back page of this bulletin, you will find a copy of my latest letter to ODOT regarding the new route ODOT is pushing as the preferred route for the highway. In response to ODOT's position, I have also formed an ad hoc committee, made up of Mariemont residents Charlie Thomas, Don Keyes, Clem Luken, Paul Haffner, Karen Sullivan, Val Garber, Millard Rogers, Ginger Kelly, Doug Welsh, Sam Duran, and Councilman Joe Stelzer. As you can see from the letter, the committee recently met with three engineers from ODOT and Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. At that meeting, Mr. Portune said that allowing the Eastern Corridor to cut through our Lower 80 Gardens and Hiking Trails Park would be as devastating to the Village of Mariemont as destroying the Village Square. Yet, ODOT continues to try to force the idea of running the Eastern Corridor through our Lower 80, saying it will be a small road that should be palatable to residents. Not only do we feel that describing the Eastern Corridor as a 'small road' is misleading, we maintain the position that ANY road running through our Lower 80 gardens and park is unacceptable. We also feel ODOT has neglected to include public input in their decision-making process on this matter. That is why we are adamant that a public involvement meeting be held here in the Village at the new elementary school auditorium. We want to make sure your voices are heard by ODOT. We will keep you informed of any plans for a public meeting and will give you as much notice of the date and time as possible.



PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT RENEWAL LEVY (ISSUE 34) ON NOV. BALLOT WILL NOT RAISE TAXES

This levy pays for things such as new police and fire vehicles and life-saving equipment, buildings, care for our parks (including the Lower 80) plus the athletic fields, and maintenance of our precious trees that set our Village apart from other communities, and swimming pool and tennis courts repairs and maintenance. Revenue for this Permanent (or Capital) Improvement Fund comes from a 3.5 mil property tax levy that is renewed every five years. Renewal of this important levy does NOT raise taxes, but rather keeps them at the current rate. This November, voters will be asked to renew the levy (Issue 34). A good example of how this money is used is work currently being done to repair and repave our streets, curbs, and sidewalks, including the sanding down of about 40 to 50 trip hazards. Work to repair the trip hazards should begin in mid-October.



NOLEN PARK CONDOS GROUNDBREAKING

A ceremony was held on October 5th to mark the groundbreaking for Nolen Park Condominiums. This project is Phase III of the four-part condominium plan being developed by Greiwe Development Group and North American Properties. The design of Nolen Park, located on Madisonville Road at the northeast corner of West Street, will mimic that of the first two phases of the development, which are Jordan Park and Emery Park. Nolen Park will consist of 27 luxury residences ranging from 1500 to 3500 square feet with two or three bedrooms, studies and hearth rooms, with pricing beginning at \$460,000. The project is scheduled for completion approximately one year from now.

MARIEMONT THEATRE EXPANDING – ECONOMIC GROWTH CONTINUES

I am pleased to announce that two new screens will soon be added to the Mariemont Theatre! Joe Miller and I have been working with Dan Spinnenweber and Gary Goldman on a proposed plan to expand the theatre from three screens to five and can now say for sure that expansion will happen. Mr. Spinnenweber, who owns the building the theatre is housed in, will be enlarging the space so that Mr. Goldman can purchase and have installed the two new screens. Having our businesses grow is an important part of maintaining the financial health of the Village. Thanks to the Mariemont City School District Board of Education for allowing the tax abatement that helped to make this expansion possible. This important addition clearly means that the Mariemont Theatre is here to stay!!





WELCOME TO A NEW MARIEMONT BUSINESS

Last month, we said goodbye to a unique Mariemont business when Tycoon Harry’s Men’s Salon closed its doors. Fortunately, the shop won’t be vacant for long. Roosters Men’s Grooming Center will be taking over the location and is scheduled to open in early November. Roosters is a national franchise that offers classic barber services to give men and boys an old fashioned barbershop experience. Customers can relax in oversized leather barber chairs and select from a variety of custom services including precision haircuts and shaves with hot steam towels, deep cleansing facial massages and moisturizing lotions. Of course, we are very fortunate to also have the Mariemont Barber Shop, located at the Mariemont Inn. Owned and operated by Ron Salzano, this shop has been a part of the Mariemont Community for many years.

FIREMEN BUILD NEW STORAGE SHED FOR VILLAGE

You may have noticed the new storage shed located in the rear of the Municipal Building along Wooster Pike. This shed is just one of the many tasks the Fire Department took on over the last year or so. Now completed, the shed is being used to store lawn equipment used at the Municipal Building, the lighted speed indicator sign used by the Police Department to discourage speeding in the Village, and other large equipment items that we had no place to keep before the shed was built. Having a secure and enclosed place to store it will help to prolong the life of the equipment. Also, with the development of the South 80 Trails, we will need to purchase a “Gator” type vehicle that will allow paramedics to quickly access anyone who might become ill or injured on the trails, which is something the ambulance cannot do. That vehicle will, of course, need to be stored in close proximity to the Fire Department for immediate response to any calls for help in the South 80 and the shed provided just the right answer for that. Thanks to the Fire Department for another money-saving project!



MARIEMONT GIRL SCOUTS CREATE NEW BIRD SANCTUARY

Members of Mariemont Girl Scout Troop #41262 are helping to establish a new bird sanctuary in the green space by the Mariemont Community Pool. They built several bird houses and worked with the Service Department to mount the houses in existing trees. It is their hope the new sanctuary will bring more birds to the area of the Nolen Pavilion and the entrance to the Mariemont Gardens and the South 80 Trails Park. This new sanctuary, combined with the Paul Prevey Sanctuary also means that birds will have a refuge at both ends of the Bluff. The Scouts involved in the project included Katherine Alsfelder, Ann Brokamp, Corinne Fanta, Emily Ferguson, Alcid



Jacobs, Fiona Kane, Ellie Long, Clare Oberton-Vester, Madison Telgkamp, Nathalie Weiss, Emma Phillips, Taylor Powers, and Clare Scholtz, The Village thanks the Girls Scouts for their dedication to the project and for this wonderful addition to our community and to resident bird expert Don Hild for advising the Girl Scouts on this project.

MARIEMONT RESIDENT FINISHES 2ND IN LOCAL EVENT

Special congratulations go out to Larry McGonegle who finished 2nd in the Men’s Division of the 13th Annual Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI) “Know You Can” 5K run/walk. The 360 participants of the event included walkers, runners, people who use wheelchairs, and people with vision loss who use sighted guides. Benefits from the event provide support to CABVI’s services to help people of the Greater Cincinnati area who are blind or visually impaired maintain independence despite their vision loss. Larry’s 2nd place finish was quite an accomplishment with a time of just 49:16. Well done, Larry!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OLYMPIAN NICK THOMAN

Mariemont High School graduate Nick Thoman won both a silver medal and a gold medal in the 2012 Olympics in London. He earned the silver medal in the 100-meter backstroke with a time of 52.92. He also earned a gold medal swimming the backstroke leg for the winning U.S. team in the preliminaries of the 4 x 100-meter medley relay. During his swimming career, Nick has won a total of eight medals in such important competitions as the Olympics, the World Championships, the Pan Pacific Championships, and the Summer Universiade. He also teamed with Mark Gangloff, Michael Phelps, and Nathan Adrian to break the world record in the 4 x 100-meter relay at the 2009 “Duel in the Pool”. We certainly are proud that Nick started his swimming career in Mariemont and wish him all the best.



CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES PRIZES FOR UPCOMING RAFFLE

The Mariemont Civic Association Raffles have become a popular fundraiser in the Village and this year the top prizes are truly special. The First Prize is a 1952 Santa Fe Diesel Lionel Passenger Train Set. Also being offered is a needlepoint of the Mary M. Emery Memorial Carillon by Richard Gegner and who better to create this beautiful piece of art than the Carillonneur himself! Mr. Gegner values the art work at \$500. Additional prizes will include tickets to the Mariemont Theatre, which is soon to be expanded to include two additional screens to offer more movie choices. Money raised from the raffle will help the association with its many charitable causes, including mentorship programs, assisting with preschool tuition for Village children in need, donating bikes to kids who cannot afford them, sponsoring the Police Departments ‘Trading Card’ program, providing assistance to Senior Citizens with odd jobs, helping to sponsor the fireworks, and several other very worthwhile community projects. To purchase a ticket, contact any member of the Civic Association, or call me at 561-2619.



OVERNIGHT PARKING RULES

The Village of Mariemont has always had overnight parking restrictions in place for the hours between 1 AM and 6 AM. The parking restrictions allow the night shift Police Officers to monitor any strange vehicles that may be parked on the street for the purpose of criminal activity, such as casing residences for burglaries and/or breaking into vehicles. The restricted parking also encourages residents to use their driveways and garages at night, which helps to prevent vehicle thefts and break-ins and it allows emergency vehicles enough room to respond to emergencies throughout the night. Overnight parking stickers are issued to those residents with unusual circumstances that require them to park on the street. Recently we have received a number of complaints from residents about cars *without* stickers being parked on the street overnight. In the past, we have issued ‘courtesy tickets’ to those who violated the overnight parking rules. With the number of complaints increasing, we are asking for residents to call 271-4089 and let us know if you have a good reason to park on the street for a night so the Police Department does not have to issue you a “money citation”, which is the last thing we want to do. Letters have been mailed to those with overnight parking stickers informing them that they must reapply for stickers before the end of this year. If a resident has a question about applying for an overnight parking sticker, they should contact Lt. Tom Ostendarp at 271-4089 between 3 PM and 11 PM.





NEW RULES FOR TRUCKS IN LANE A

The Safety Committee of Council presented a recommendation at the regular meeting of Council on October 8th that large trucks be prohibited from using Lane A for any purpose, including trash collection, deliveries, and/or moving. This means that residents living on Homewood Road and Beech Street will need to have all deliveries made to the front of the house instead of the rear. This would include deliveries of appliances and furniture, UPS packages, etc. The reason for this change is that the large trucks were causing damage to the streets.

VILLAGE SCORES HIGH FOR RECYCLING – # 1 IN HAMILTON COUNTY

The Village of Mariemont continues a 2 ½ year streak of achieving the highest recycling rate of any Hamilton County community. In the first period of 2012 Mariemont recycled an impressive 34.02% of the waste stream! The next highest score was for Wyoming at 30.60% - a full 3 ½ points behind the Village. We applaud Mariemont residents for their commitment to learning about the benefits of recycling, not only as a cost-saving measure, but because of their concern for the environment. Great work, Mariemont residents! Let's keep raising that bar!

CHANGES TO TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Effective immediately, Rumpke will no longer be coming back to the Village on Friday to collect any trash, recycling, or yard waste not picked up during their regular route days of Monday and Tuesday. Instead, they will be making that run on **Thursdays**. Therefore, if they fail to provide service on your regular collection day, you will need to notify the office no later than **3 PM on Wednesday**. Please note that Rumpke cannot take large items on this extra pick-up day as they must use a small truck to get into the lanes in the historic district and that truck is not large enough to collect furniture or other big items. Also, if you live in the historic district where trash is normally picked up in the lane behind your house, you will now need to call the office in advance if you have large items to dispose of and you will need to place those items at the curb **IN FRONT** of your property. This, again, is due to the large trucks being restricted from driving in the lanes. Finally, with the holidays quickly approaching, we want to remind you that Rumpke works all holidays except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. For those of you who normally have your trash collected on Tuesdays, you will need to set it out for pick up on Wednesday, December 26th and on Wednesday, January 2nd. All other regular pick up days remain the same, including Christmas Eve Day and New Year's Eve.



PORSCHE RALLYE A HUGE SUCCESS

The Porsche Rallye held on October 7th was a big hit with residents and visitors to the Village. The Ohio Valley Region Porsche Club of America, sponsor of the event, was extremely pleased with the turn-out and hopes to make this an annual show. The Village's architecture and unique characteristics made it the perfect backdrop for these fine automobiles to be showcased. Approximately 150 owners and collectors of Porsches participated in the rallye. Proceeds will benefit several local charities.



LEAF COLLECTION TO START IN NOVEMBER

The Village of Mariemont Service Department will begin vacuuming leaves from the curb the week of November 5th and will continue collection through the week ending December 21st. The Service Department has established routes that will allow them to collect leaves from each street in the Village one time per week. The streets they service each day may differ, depending on the volume of leaves to be collected. This means they may not be on your street on the same day each week. Therefore, to ensure your leaves are collected once per week, please have them raked to the curb (not in the street) by 8 AM each Monday. If you miss the collection on your street one week, you will need to wait until the following week for leaves to be vacuumed up. During the week of Thanksgiving, some streets may not receive service, but those streets will be first on the list the following week. You may, of course, still bag your leaves and place them at the curb to have them picked up by Rumpke on your regular trash collection day. Please call the office if your street has a special need and we will try to help out.



TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

October 31st is Halloween and you can expect to see plenty of ghosts, goblins, and other costumed youngsters out for Trick or Treat night from 6PM to 8PM. Please remember that if you want to participate in handing out treats, you should turn your porch light on during those hours. Parents should also instruct their children NOT to knock on doors where the porch light is NOT ON. Drivers should use extra caution during these hours and be alert to excited little ones walking in the streets and dashing from side to side in search of more goodies!



FARMERS MARKET COMING TO MARIEMONT NOVEMBER 2ND – PREVIEW FOR NEXT YEAR

On November 2nd from 5 to 7 PM, several vendors will set up a "Farmers Market" in the parking lot of the elementary school. There will be booths from Urban Greens (<http://www.urbangreenscinci.com>), Shadeau Bread (<http://www.shadeaubreads.com/home.html>), Liberties Works Hot Sauce (<http://sweet-hot-momma.com>), Georgia Nold Flowers, Cincinnati Health Clergy Smoothies (<http://clergyhealthcouncil.org>), The Tree Hugger Company, and BiLog Coffee Tea and Gelato (<http://bilogcoffee.com>), as well as a booth from the local Champions Day Care Program. This unique group of vendors supports programs that encourage participation from the community, helps to provide employment for inner-city residents and young people, and promotes a healthy diet and lifestyle. Having the Farmers Market visit the Village will introduce our community to these wonderful companies and allow residents to decide if they would like to see it become a regular event in the Village. If anyone in the Village wants to add a booth, please call the Village office.



LANDSCAPING BOULDERS NEEDED

If anyone in the Village has a landscape boulder in their yard that they do not want, do not pay to have it taken away. Instead, call the Village office at 271-3246 and we will pick it up and use it elsewhere in the Village. We need boulders for some of our parks and in other locations.



GO WARRIORS!

Sincerely,

Dan Policastro
Dan Policastro, Mayor

October 4, 2012

Mr. Andy Fleugemann
District Deputy Director
Ohio Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) - District 8
505 S. State Route 741
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

Dear Mr. Fleugemann:

First of all, thank you for meeting with Village of Mariemont Councilman Joe Stelzer, committee member Karen Sullivan, Commissioner Todd Portune and myself on this very important topic.

It was approximately ten years ago when an article appeared in Volume 2, Issue 1 of the *Eastern Corridor Travel* newsletter stating the "project brings federal, state and local agencies together". The article said that the traditional way of approaching such projects was for each agency to review the project, revise it, provide input, and approve it before passing it along to the next agency. It went on to say that bringing all the agencies to the table early would improve the decision-making process.

Unfortunately, this is not at all the process that was used in the Tier 1 study. No communities that would be impacted by the Eastern Corridor were allowed the opportunity to be a part of the route design. Instead, ODOT based its preferred route, as presented on August 2, 2012, solely on the requirement from the Department of the Interior for a clear span over the Little Miami River. The documents showing the current preferred alignment over the Little Miami River were, according to Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune, produced without any approval by the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District (TID) or involvement from elected officials and the public.

Furthermore, this decision was made without the Department of the Interior being provided with information that had to be considered before the Tier I study was completed, and yet, ODOT has already begun moving forward with Tier 2 studies. Those studies must not go forward until the Tier 1 study has been amended to include input from the local agencies as it was originally intended.

In a meeting of the Hamilton County TID on Monday, September 24, 2012, Commissioner Todd Portune advised the TID members that a community group is needed for the Villages of Newtown, Terrace Park, and Mariemont, and Anderson Township. He further stated that certain areas need to be considered off limits for the re-routing of State Route 32. He said the preferred route, as presented by ODOT on August 2nd, goes through an area of Mariemont that is a sensitive one, second only to the Village Square. He provided members with a copy of the trail map for the Lower Gardens and Hiking Park located in what is known as the South 80 in the Village of Mariemont. At the same meeting, Hamilton County Engineer Ted Hubbard referenced the letter that was sent by me to him and later forwarded to ODOT. He said the issues raised in that letter have to be dealt with. Commissioner Portune then said the concerns raised by Mariemont residents merit additional conversation.

It appears no mention was made by ODOT to the Department of the Interior that the Village of Mariemont is a National Historic Landmark community as designated by the National Parks Board which is a division of the Department of the Interior. No mention has been made to date about the instability of Miami Bluff. This fragile hillside has suffered several landslides, one that was severe enough to cause parts of the Mariemont Promenade, located just east of the Mariemont's corporation limit, to be unusable for a long period of time. No mention has been made to date that the new preferred route would take State Route 32 directly through the Little Miami floodplain. No mention has been made to date of the increase in air pollution and noise pollution caused by the increased traffic traveling at 45 mph on the new State Route 32 or the fact that this area is rich in archeological artifacts that would be forever destroyed by the new preferred route.

This is interesting, as all of these points were brought forth in a letter I sent on January 4, 2005, to Hans Jindal, who was the Planning and Environmental Engineer in ODOT's District 8 at that time. So while ODOT had that information and was aware of our concerns more than seven years ago, those issues seem to have been eliminated from the decision-making process in which we were supposed to be included.

How can ODOT possibly move forward into Tier 2 of studies on the Eastern Corridor when so much has been omitted from the Tier 1 study? Can anyone show us the part of the Tier 1 study that indicates the possible destabilization of Miami Bluff with the relocation of State Route 32, and/or if a retaining wall would need to be built there, especially at the foot of the hill. Does the study include the amount of landfill that would need to be brought in to raise the roadbed above the floodplain? What impact will that have on the fish and wildlife along that part of the Little Miami River? The area of the Little Miami River near Mariemont is a dedicated bird sanctuary. The Little Miami River is one of only 156 American rivers designated by the U.S. Congress or the Secretary of the Interior as a National Wild and Scenic River. Would that designation remain with a high-speed four-lane highway running along its banks rather than briefly passing over it?

If these points and the issues raised by the Village of Mariemont are not included in the Tier 1 study, then it cannot be deemed to be complete, but rather that the whole process is flawed.

I am attaching the copy of a map of the area which shows there is plenty of room farther downstream from Horseshoe Bend where a clear-span bridge could be erected. This would take the relocation of State Route 32 through the Little Miami Scenic River Park near its northern boundary.

Sincerely,
Dan Policastro, Mayor