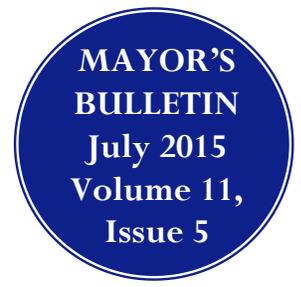




# Village of Mariemont

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## ***GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE EASTERN CORRIDOR PROJECT!***

As most of you are aware, for several years, the Village of Mariemont has been opposing ODOT's plan to run the Eastern Corridor through our South 80 Park. There were times when we felt like David facing Goliath. However, at a meeting with public officials on June 4<sup>th</sup>, ODOT finally backed down from their old plan and announced a new route plan that will bypass Mariemont and completely stay out of the historic valley on both sides of the river. The new design will direct traffic over the Beechmont Levee and onto State Route 32. The levee and State Route 32 would

be improved to accommodate the increase in traffic. This 'low-build' plan will solve a lot of the traffic congestions, but will cost much less than ODOT's original plan, leaving more funds available for other projects like the Brent Spence Bridge.

Our opposition to the original Eastern Corridor plan was extremely instrumental in forcing ODOT to develop the new design. It was a hard-fought battle and there are many people who should be recognized for their contribution to this victory. Those people include:

- The Mariemont Community Planning Council (CPC), which did tons of research, letter-writing, and 'campaigning', and established partnerships with other communities who opposed ODOT's plan, and much more. Because of the CPC, the Village did not need to hire lobbyists, consultants, researchers, attorneys, or other experts to prepare reports and presentations for meetings with ODOT. ***This saved the Village a fortune!*** The CPC includes:

|                         |                 |                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Chairman Joe Stelzer    | Don Keyes       | Charles Thomas   |
| Karen Sullivan          | Sam Duran       | Doug Welsh       |
| Val Garber              | Paul Haffner    | Scott Degerberg  |
| Clem Luken              | Ginger Kelly    | Maggie Palazzolo |
| The late Millard Rogers | Dr. Steve Lewis | Kevin Hassey     |
| Tom Allman              | Jed O'Connell   |                  |

I personally and especially want to thank CPC ***Chairman Joe Stelzer*** and ***CPC member Karen Sullivan*** who worked tirelessly and devoted countless hours of their personal free time toward this effort.

- The late Millard Rogers who put in countless hours to have the entire Village of Mariemont, including the South 80, designated as a Historic Landmark. Not wanting to destroy any part of our historic Village played a big part in ODOT's decision to abandon plans to run the Eastern Corridor through the South 80.
- University of Cincinnati Professor of Archeology Ken Tankersley, who made a big impact when he discovered evidence of a Native American village located directly in the path of the proposed highway. He also found a previously undiscovered burial mound, similar to Serpent Mound, and priceless artifacts, all of which would have been lost forever by the construction of the Eastern Corridor. His findings and support have been invaluable to our cause and our community.
- Renown for her paintings of Native American history, artist Mary Lou Holt, with her depiction of that 17<sup>th</sup> century Indian village, allowed all to see the history that would have been permanently lost if ODOT had stuck to their design and destroyed our South 80 Park. Understanding the importance of this effort, Ms. Holt did not require a commission to create this beautiful painting. However, the publicity that the artwork generated through TV and the newspaper helped us immensely in the court of public opinion as the word spread throughout the entire Greater Cincinnati area of how important it was to stop this highway. Now that this battle is over, we are working to purchase this work of art which we would like to display in the Council chambers, as well as loan out to the schools so students can learn about our history through art. This painting should remain in our community for future generations to enjoy and to be reminded of those who first called Mariemont their home.
- Hamilton County Commissioners, Todd Portune, Chris Monzel, and Greg Hartmann, who provided unwavering support for our side and worked with their contacts to make sure our concerns were heard.
- State Representative Tom Brinkman, who fought to cut off funds for the Eastern Corridor and who finally brought about the turning point in the battle by introducing legislation that gave ODOT a deadline of December 31, 2015, to decide if they would continue to push for their original design or develop one that everyone could agree on.
- Attorney Robert Newman who offered his legal services pro bono and helped direct us in our opposition
- The South 80 Trails, Gardens, and Park Advisory Board for all the improvements they have made to our South 80 which demonstrated to ODOT and other officials the importance the South 80 holds for our community. Members of the South 80 Board include:
 

|                          |                               |                  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Jason Brownknight        | Andrew Seeger                 | Chris White      |
| Tim Duever               | Joe Stelzer                   | Rob Winget       |
| Mark Erhardt (President) | Karen Sullivan                | Judy Foreman     |
| Mark Glassmeyer          | Doug Welsh-Garden Coordinator | Debbie Henderson |
- The Sierra Club, Little Miami, Inc., and Cincinnati Preservation Association who worked with UC Professor Ken Tankersley and whose efforts to protect the Little Miami River and the surrounding fragile environment and animal habitat was so important and who attended all meetings to lend us their support
- Our neighboring community partners of Newtown, Terrace Park, and Madisonville, who stood by us at all the meetings and backed us all the way through the process, and, of course, our wonderful Council.

These groups and individuals have shown extraordinary dedication to protecting our community from the devastating effects the Eastern Corridor would have brought about and we are humbled by their devotion to that cause. Saying thank you just doesn't seem like enough to honor them for what they have accomplished. Now that the hard work of everyone involved has finally paid off, I would ask that every citizen voice your appreciation when you see these folks around the Village.

Finally, I wanted to say that, as your Mayor, I will continue to work with other local officials, as well as State and Federal officials to promote and protect whatever is in the best interest of the Village. In the 'State of the Village' address in March, I stated that, when it came to the Eastern Corridor, we had ODOT 'on the run'. With that obstacle behind us, we can now 'run with' ODOT and work with them to make improvements in our community. I look forward to having ODOT as a partner once again, rather than a foe, but we will not allow ourselves to become complacent on the Eastern Corridor issue or any ODOT plans that would impact the Village.



**2015 STREET REHAB WORK TO BEGIN ON JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Construction is to begin on the 2015 Street Rehabilitation project on July 6th. Roads included in the project are all of Belmont Avenue, part of Lane B at Ann Buntin Becker Park, part of Miami Bluff between Midden Way and Cachepit Way, curb repairs on Spring Hill Drive, and parts of Wooster Pike near Bank Place, East Street, and Madisonville Road. As you know, Belmont is in very poor shape and will be the first place where work will be done. Since half of the road is in Fairfax and half in Mariemont, we will be splitting the cost of repaving that road. Police will help to maintain traffic flow during the construction. While road construction can create a temporary inconvenience, the Village appreciates your patience as we work to improve our community's streets.



**NEW FENCE AT TOT LOT**

Once again, the Mariemont Preschool Parents Group (MPPG) has donated funds to help cover the cost to improve the Tot Lot. We now have a beautiful new fence completely surrounding the play area. As you know, safety is a top priority for this administration and that is especially true when it comes to our children. The new fence will give our little ones a secure place to play and help to keep them from darting out into the street and/or parking areas. We cannot thank MPPG enough for all they do to help improve our parks and playgrounds. They have played a huge role in making the Tot Lot and Ann Buntin Becker Park a place where all our children can enjoy playing, exercising, and just having fun!



**BOB NAUGLE NAMED OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

At this year's Memorial Day Parade, Bob Naugle received the Outstanding Citizen Award. A long-time resident of the Village, Bob served on Council and as both the Clerk and the Treasurer, as well as a coach for our children's sports. After he resigned as Village Treasurer, Bob stayed active in the community through his work with MariElders. We are extremely grateful for all the contribution Bob has made to the Village. Bob accepted his award on the wonderful new stage built as an Eagle Scout project by Reid Fakes. (New stage pictured at right) We want to thank the employees of the Service Department, Fire Department, Police Department and Council for all the work that went into preparing for the parade.



**SCOUTS GET HELP FROM MARIEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Mariemont is proud of the strength of the scouting program in our community. We are especially proud to have so many of our Boy Scouts achieve their Eagle Scout Award and our Girl Scouts achieve their Gold Award. To help the scouts attain these high honors, the Mariemont Civic Association (MCA) has donated funds to pay for the materials needed by the Scouts to complete their award projects. At the May 21<sup>st</sup> MCA, Nathalie Weiss and Nick McCarthy both received contributions for their projects. Nathalie's project includes increasing community activity by installing 'parcourse' signs at the South 80 to encourage residents and visitors to the park to improve their fitness. Nick did an outstanding job repairing and painting the picnic tables at the Mariemont pool. As mentioned above, Reid Fakes constructed a new stage to use for our Memorial Day Parade and other events. We are so proud of these three young people and grateful for the contributions they are making to our community.



MCA President Bob Keyes presents Scouts Nathalie Weiss and Nick McCarthy with donations for their Gold Award and Eagle Scout projects.

**SUMMER ART CAMP AT THE BARN**

The Women's Art Club of Cincinnati will be offering some wonderful art classes for children this summer. There are several different classes with programs starting the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> and ending July 24<sup>th</sup>. You do not have to attend all classes to participate. For more details or to register, please go to: [http://www.artatthebarn.org/\\_thebarn/](http://www.artatthebarn.org/_thebarn/)



**PINK DOGWOOD TREE PLANTED**

Thanks to some very community-minded young ladies, the Village now has a beautiful new pink dogwood tree in the island on Mariemont Avenue. Working with several of their friends, Lindsey Frye and Emily Disper opened a lemonade stand to raise enough money to purchase the tree and help our Service Department plant it. Hats off to these girls! I have always said that a big reason our Village thrives is because we have so many wonderful volunteers. It's great to see our young people taking part in that tradition!

**MADISONVILLE NAMED AS ALL-STAR NEIGHBORHOOD**

We hope you heard the announcement that Madisonville has been selected as one of ten official All-Star Neighborhoods! The All-Star Neighborhood program is sponsored by the 2015 Community Organizing Committee (COC), in partnership with the Cincinnati Reds and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce. This designation includes official All-Star Summer Signage, an allotment of T-Mobile All-Star FanFest tickets, paperback copies of Cincinnati – Our City, Our Story, a Baseball Across the Region Ceremony and an official All-Star Neighborhood Celebration. The Madisonville All-Star Neighborhood Celebration will occur on July 14th from 5-8 PM at Bramble Park. Be sure to mark your calendars and join your family, friends and neighbors for all the fun. More details about our All-Star Neighborhood program can be found at [www.mcurc.org](http://www.mcurc.org).



**HAVE A SAFE AND FUN SUMMER!**

Summertime means vacation time for a lot of families. Please consider notifying the Police Department when you are going to be out of town so they can keep an extra eye on your home while you are away. And don't forget, you can give the Police Department a spare key to your home just in case you should ever find yourself locked out. Many residents who have used this service have been saved the expense of calling a locksmith when their keys were lost or forgotten.

**FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS – FRIDAY – JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> - DONATIONS NEEDED**

The annual fireworks show will be on Friday, July 3rd. The fireworks will be combined with patriotic music from the Carillon performed by Richard Gegner. We have a good start at off-setting that cost with a donation from Mariemont Civic Association of \$1,000. However, we still need the help of our citizens. Any amount you would like to donate would be appreciated and can be mailed to the Village office at 6907 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, OH 45227. This year, the Civic Association will be offering Mariemont 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks t-shirts for \$10 each. The t-shirts will be available in sizes for kids and adults and will feature a red, white, and blue imprint like the design shown at right. Supplies are limited so place your order soon by calling the Village office at 271-3246.



Sincerely,

*Dan Policastro*  
Dan Policastro, Mayor