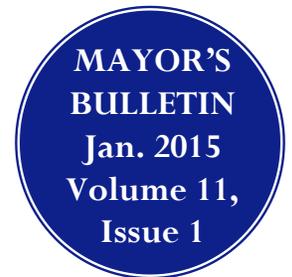




# Village of Mariemont

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Mariemont, Ohio 45227  
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## POCAHONTAS AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT COMPLETED



With a grants from the Ohio Public Works Commission, the Municipal Road Fund, and Hamilton County Storm Water offsetting 93% of the cost, the Village was able to repave the south end of Pocahontas Avenue, and install new curbs and new sidewalks. This area had experienced drainage issues for many years. Village Engineer Chris Ertel worked with a design team to address these issues as part of the improvement project. The total cost of the project was \$183,201.00. With the grants secured by Engineer Chris Ertel, the Village cost was \$12,824.07.



## VILLAGE RECEIVES SEVERAL GRANTS IN 2014

One of the reasons the Village is on solid financial ground is the grants our department heads and employees have secured. The grant which financed the Pocahontas Avenue project was just one of several we received during the year. We received 12 grants, totaling \$284,550.00, which were as follows:

OVI Task Force Grant	12,000.00	State Fire Marshall Training Grant	450.00
Crossing Guard Equipment Grant	1,000.00	Municipal Road Fund (Pocahontas Ave.)	18,000.00
Bullet-Proof Vest Grant	2,500.00	Ohio Public Works (Pocahontas Ave.)	91,600.00
HCPA Training Grants	3,000.00	Ham. Co. Storm Water (Pocahontas Ave.)	75,000.00
Radar Equipment Grant	2,000.00	Ham. Co. Storm Water (Whiskey Creek)	75,000.00
OH. Dept. of Public Safety EMS	2,500.00	Interact for Health (Ann Buntin Becker)	15,000.00

## EASTERN CORRIDOR UPDATE

When it comes to the Eastern Corridor, there is no resolution in sight at this time. Opposing the Eastern Corridor and promoting the best interest of the Village of Mariemont in the matter will be an on-going endeavor. Our opposition to the project continues to gain momentum. Those supporting our position include:

- Hamilton County Commissioner Todd Portune. At the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mariemont Civic Association, Mr. Portune stated that he and the other County Commissioners had made it clear to ODOT that the Eastern Corridor must NEVER run through Mariemont. He said that if the highway runs through any portion of a municipality, then that county's government must contribute funds toward the cost of building that portion of the project. He then stated that Hamilton County will not agree to contribute any funds if ODOT tries to build any part of the Eastern Corridor through Mariemont.
- The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Coalition and four of the five divisions of the Shawnee Tribe have voiced their opinion to ODOT that the South 80 holds great historical significance for the Native Americans of this region and cannot be destroyed.
- Dr. Ken Tankserley, University of Cincinnati professor and archeologist, who discovered the Indian village is continuing to do research on the area. He and his team have found even more archaeological sites in the South 80. He has made it very clear to ODOT that this area must never be destroyed. He is working to have all of the South 80 along with Newtown's Historic Valley site across the river, a Registered Archeological District as a way to preserve this important area and protect it from development.
- Dr. Denis Conover is a Professor of Biology and Botany at the University of Cincinnati and specialist in Ecological plant physiology. He concentrates his research on various aspects of ecological plant restoration and is conducting a study of the plants and animals in the South 80 with a focus on endangered plants. This study will be very important when ODOT makes its next run at us.
- Dr. Stanley Hedeem, former Dean at Xavier University, recently completed a traffic study showing that the volume of traffic on State Route 32 between the east boundary of Hamilton County and I-275 in the period between 2000 and 2014 has declined by approximately 38%, which supports a "no-build" option. This will be another important factor in our opposition to ODOT's plan.
- The Village of Newtown has also seen their opposition to the Eastern Corridor gaining strength. Many of their objections are similar to ours. They are also worried about the destruction of historic sites and the negative impact the highway would have on their local businesses. ODOT's most recent plan for the highway has the road cutting through Mariemont and connecting to State Route 32 in Newtown. Therefore, our position supports Newtown's and their position supports ours.
- As the newest member of the Ohio House of Representatives, Tom Brinkman has pledged to work with the Village to block any plan that would allow the Eastern Corridor to run through any part of the Village. Representative Brinkman appeared before Council to express his intentions to oppose ODOT's plans to destroy the South 80 Park for construction of the highway. He has remained in regular contact with us and continues to support our position. When the House reconvenes, he will be introducing a bill to stop the flow of money to the Eastern Corridor project.
- ODOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution engaged the services of Consensus Building Institute (CBI) to evaluate the proposed Eastern Corridor project. CBI is a not-for-profit organization that provides mediation services to help public, private and non-governmental organizations reach agreement on complex public policy matters. In their report, CBI stated that one of the perspectives on the Eastern Corridor is that it is a "solution in search of a problem". The report cited the Little Miami River as one of the "few jewels remaining" in Ohio's endowment of riverine ecosystems and the river could not afford the damage of having a new highway crossing it. The report emphasized the importance of the South 80 American Indian burial grounds and artifacts, saying that a major roadway would permanently spoil the area because of the extent of excavating and fill its construction would require. CBI also noted that any such highway passing through the South 80 would create noise that does not currently exist and would destabilize the bluff and endanger the homes above it from the vibration of the construction and the high-speed traffic that would use the road.
- Credit also needs to go to the South 80 Park Board and their Chairman Mark Erhardt. They have done a wonderful job of expanding and improving the South 80 Hiking Trails and Gardens. The garden area now has a well and a pump. Gardeners no longer have to haul water to their garden plots and the number of plots in use has increased to approximately 100. As you know, we were working to improve this area long before ODOT surprised everyone with their plan to shift the Eastern Corridor route to run through the South 80. As we continue to improve the area, it will make it harder for ODOT to get approval to destroy it.

It is important that we stay focused and not become compliant. To that end, I will continue to bring you updates whenever we get new information. The Eastern Corridor and South 80 committees will continue gathering and reviewing information. We will work together to bring others on board to support our position. We will seek additional information from our experts. I ask that you continue to speak out against this ill-conceived project.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT EARNS SAFETY AWARD FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR IN A ROW**

Each year, AAA presents awards to those police departments that have demonstrated exemplary performance in drunk-driving (OVI) enforcement, OVI check points, reduction of auto accidents involving injuries, speed enforcement, random seat belt checks at high schools, a Crossing Guard program, a Police Bike Patrol program, and traffic safety education programs within the schools. For the fifth straight year, the Village of Mariemont Police Department received a Platinum Award – the highest level award given by AAA. Police/Fire Chief Rick Hines credits the entire Police Department for the work that they do every day to keep the drivers and pedestrians of the Village safe. With the Police Department earning this award and the Fire Department being awarded an ISO rating of 2 (one of the best in Ohio), it’s easy to see why the Village is considered one of the area’s safest communities.

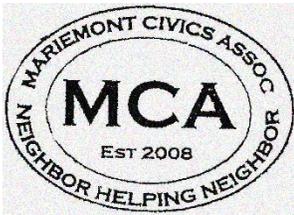
**NOTE: Even the safest communities must be proactive to protect against crime. The Police Department reminds everyone to LOCK YOUR DOORS and do NOT leave valuables in sight! Thieves recently attempted to break into numerous cars, but were only successful when they found cars that were NOT locked. Thanks to our great Police Department, the thieves were later apprehended.**

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911**

When experiencing an emergency, many residents think they will receive a faster response by calling the Village Police and Fire Departments directly. That is not correct! The fastest way to get assistance is to call 911. Often times, the Police Officers are patrolling the Village and the Firefighters/Paramedics are on another emergency run and no one is in the building to answer the phone. Calling 911 will dispatch emergency services to you immediately! Some people think their situation isn’t serious enough to “bother” the 911 operators; however, any time you need the Police or Fire Departments, it is considered an emergency and you should call 911.

**SAFETY FOR OUR PEDESTRIANS / IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

It’s been said that the infrastructure in this country is crumbling, but not in Mariemont! The Village of Mariemont is known for being one of the most “walkable” communities in Ohio. During 2014, we took several steps to improve the safety of our pedestrians. New sidewalks have been added along Wooster Pike and east Murray Avenue. A new sidewalk was installed at the Tot Lot with financial help from Preschool Parents. Several sections of broken sidewalks have been replaced and numerous trip hazards caused by Village tree roots have been repaired. All in all, we’ve repaired and installed almost 5000 lineal feet of sidewalks in 2014. We will continue this program into 2015.



**MARIEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION (MCA) WINTER RAFFLE**

The winner of this year’s MCA Winter Raffle was Mary Ann Schwartz, who took home the grand prize of a 1950’s Lionel train set. MCA wants to thank Councilman Dennis Wolter for assembling the train for the raffle. We would also like to thank all those who purchased a raffle ticket. The money raised by MCA goes back to our community for such things as helping to pay for the Fourth of July fireworks, paper-shredding day, Destination Imagination for grade school kids, sponsoring the Porsche Rally, assisting Village families in need with preschool tuition costs, pool memberships for children in need, and several other worthwhile causes. None of this would be possible without your support of the raffles.

**LULA GETREU RECEIVES PROCLAMATION**

On August 23, 2014, Lula Getreu gathered with friends and family to celebrate her birthday. Mrs. Getreu turned 96 years old on August 8<sup>th</sup>. She has lived in the Village since 1957, where she and her late husband, John, raised their three children, Linda, John, and Lou Ann. To top off the birthday celebration, Mrs. Getreu was presented with a proclamation recognizing her as one of our ‘most senior’ citizens.



**VOLUNTEERS DO IT AGAIN!**

Without our wonderful volunteers, there is no way we could have accomplished all that we did in 2014. I hope everyone will join me in letting all these great volunteers know how much we appreciate all they do for our community! The list of volunteers includes:

- The Parks Advisory Board, led by Louise Schomburg, kept our Village Square and flower beds looking great! This is hard work done in the heat and humidity of summer and this group deserves all the recognition we can give them. In addition to Louise, members for 2014 included Joan Vago, Peggy Keyes, Dave Wuertemberger, Nancy Stelzer, and Ruth Varner.

- The South 80 Park Board has also worked tirelessly to improve the trails and gardens. As reported previously, there is now a well so gardeners no longer have to haul water to their garden plots. Doug Welsh took the reins and did a wonderful job managing the garden plots. The campsite was completed and has received rave reviews from all who have used it. The trails have been cleaned and cleared and are getting more use than ever before. All of these efforts will help in our opposition to the Eastern Corridor, which would destroy this unique natural park. In 2014, the South 80 Park Board included:

Jason Brownknight	Mark Glassmeyer	Joe Stelzer	Chris White
Tim Duever	Debbie Henderson	Karen Sullivan	Ron Winget
Mark Erhardt	Andrew Seeger	Doug Welsh	

- We kept the distributors of the Mayor’s Bulletin busy this year with eight issues that were delivered door-to-door. A special thank you goes out to resident Frank Moone, who has been making color copies of the bulletin at no cost to the Village. We also want to give a big thank you to Rich Ewald who coordinated the distribution of the bulletins until moving out of the Village in the fall. He did this job for several years and is sorely missed. Those who helped deliver the bulletins include:

Wendy Ackenbach	Mike Eisenhauer	Darla Michael	Gretchen Thomas
Maria Bailey	Leah Geldbaugh	Joe Miller	Jim Tinkham
Joan Bender	Jim Howe	Beth Moone	Carolyn Tuttle
Tony Borgerding	Marilyn Illig	Bob Naugle	Jerry Vianello
David Boyles	Wes Iredale	Kelly Rankin	Jani Viox
Rebecca Bruggeman	Becky Jones	Father David Robisch	Joy & Ken White
Merret Collister	Cal Long	Nina Rogers	John Widecan
Laura Cruickshank	Casey Marchal	Syd Sabo	Becca Wilson
Carl DeBlasio	Mary Marchal	Terry Spooner	Leah Wilson
Carole Demaret	Eric Marsland	Nancy Stelzer	Jack Wineland
Jennifer & Bill Ebelhar	Larry McGonegle	Mary Ann Terry	Dennis Wolter



Sincerely,

*Dan Policastro*

Dan Policastro, Mayor