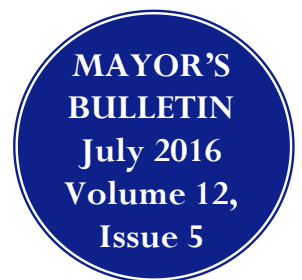




# Village of Mariemont

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## **DUKE ENERGY PROJECT**

Starting in mid-July, Duke Energy will begin a project to remove the existing trees and electric poles in the island on Murray Avenue, west of Plainville Road. Many years ago, Duke Energy deeded that median to the Village of Mariemont, but retained a utility easement. Over the years, trees were planted in the island in a haphazard manner. Many of those trees grew up into the power lines and had to be trimmed out of the lines, leaving them lopsided and unattractive, as shown in the picture at the left. Having trees in the power lines also posed a fire hazard. If the lines in the trees had started a fire there, the outage would have stretched on for quite a distance. Duke Energy came to us and said they needed to replace the utility poles and electric lines, but they would have to take out many of the trees to do so. After meeting with Duke Energy officials, we were able to come to an agreement on the project. Duke Energy will remove the old wood poles and replace them with new metal poles. They will run totally new power lines on the new poles. They will remove all the trees, weeds, and other overgrown vegetation in the island and will, at their expense, plant new trees using species that will not interfere with the power lines. The trees will be planted approximately 15 feet apart, giving the island a neat and uniform appearance, which will create a much more attractive border between the Village and the adjoining community. We actually did not expect this project to start so soon. Therefore, I have cancelled my knee replacement surgery planned for this summer so that I can be present to oversee the planting of the trees and make sure the beautification of this area goes as planned. Our goal is to make the Murray Avenue Island look like the one on Center Street.

## **WHISKEY CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT**

There have been several Nextdoor Mariemont postings, phone calls, and emails from residents expressing their dismay that the Whiskey Creek Trail has been damaged. This frustration and concern seems to stem from residents not receiving a more detailed description of the work that was planned for that area. In a previous Mayor's Bulletin, it was explained that the Village had received a grant that would allow us to address the erosion issues behind Mariemont Avenue. While it was not detailed in that bulletin, correcting those erosion issues also involved widening a one-mile stretch of Whiskey Creek and clearing out about 80 dead trees. The flow of the creek was being disrupted by natural debris and fallen trees. This caused the creek to overflow its banks in some areas and/or back up, cutting into the hillside along the creek. If the erosion was not stopped, it would have eventually made the hillsides behind Park Lane, Mariemont Avenue, Dogwood Park, and the Bell Tower completely unstable, putting houses and other structures in jeopardy. According to the Village Engineer, Chris Ertel, the natural flow of the creek needed to be restored. Over the years, our Service Department has been trying to use their smaller equipment to employ stop-gap measures to control the erosion along the creek. Unfortunately, all of their efforts were not effective enough to keep the hillside behind Mariemont Avenue from reaching a point where a more permanent solution became necessary. With grant money we received, a gabion wall was installed behind one house that was moving and lost about 10% of its back yard. While that corrected the erosion problem in that specific location, it did nothing to correct the problems along the rest of the creek. Village Engineer Chris Ertel had been monitoring the erosion issue for the past couple of years and advised us that we needed to have the creek cleared out. This became especially apparent following the exceptionally rainy spring we had this year. The ground on the hillside became so saturated and unstable that several trees had pulled out of the ground and fallen into the creek blocking its flow, as shown in the picture above. One of the fences along the creek that had been put in by volunteers just a little over a year or so ago had already fallen down due to erosion. Additionally, many of our storm sewers empty into Whiskey Creek, so it is imperative that we keep it flowing to prevent backups like we had last fall. Therefore, with the remainder of the grant money, we began completing the work needed to restore the flow of Whiskey Creek and, in the process, insure that the hillside would remain stable. Some dead trees and large honeysuckle bushes had to be taken out to get in the larger equipment that was required to do the work. The work is nearly finished and the trail will be restored. Some trees that were leaning and in serious danger of falling have been reinforced with new dirt on the downhill side of the trees. Reforestation will begin soon and we will continue to work on the area to return it as much as possible to its former state. We should now be able to get our smaller equipment in there in the future to keep the creek cleared. They will also now be able to remove all the old appliances and other litter that has been dumped down the hillside and accumulated there over the years. (This violation was stopped a long time ago, so once it is cleared out, it should never recur.) Having the creek cleared will also provide us with a way to install an ingress and egress route for the Fire Department's Emergency off-road vehicle, which would allow them to extract an injured person from the trail. In the meantime, those with homes along the hillside can rest assured that their homes will not be in danger due to erosion. While this administration never wants to disturb a treasured natural area, sometimes we are forced to look at the bigger picture and do what is necessary to prevent future and more serious and costly problems. Please remember, Mariemont is one of a very few communities where you can still call your Mayor directly by calling my cell phone at 615-5729. I am happy to provide answers about any concern you have. I feel it is much more constructive to talk to citizens directly, which is why I typically do not address Village matters on social media.

*One of the Many Blocked Areas in Creek*



## **75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND FIREWORKS**

July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a big day in the Village! It will start off with an old fashion fair from Noon until 4 PM at the Bell Tower with booths, games for the kids, food, even an old fashion bake off! The Village Church of Mariemont will host pony rides from approximately 12:30 to 3:30PM. Be sure to check the Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Mariemont75](http://www.facebook.com/Mariemont75)) for detail updates. Then at dark we will gather back at the Bell Tower for our annual fireworks which are sure to be spectacular!!!

## **75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PIE & CAKE BAKE-OFF.....CALLING ALL THOSE WHO LOVE TO BAKE!**

In honor of the 75th Anniversary of Mariemont's Incorporation as a Village, Mariemont Preservation Foundation (MPF) is proudly sponsoring a Homemade Pie and Cake Bake-Off at the 75th Anniversary Celebration at the Bell Tower Park on Sunday, July 3.

- ▶ Please enter! Simply email: Marcy Lewis ([mgetoorlewis@gmail.com](mailto:mgetoorlewis@gmail.com)) with your name, contact info, and name of your entry by Friday, July 1. Multiple entries are allowed! Make a pie, a cake...or BOTH!
- ▶ \$75 Gift Certificate awarded to one Grand Prize Pie Winner and one Grand Prize Cake Winner.
- ▶ Award Ribbons for 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention, "most original" and "most attractive presentation" in both categories.
- ▶ Grand Prize winners will be given an opportunity to share their recipes in an upcoming issue of the Town Crier. All winners will be recognized in the Town Crier, Mayor's Bulletin and MPF publications, if they so desire.
- ▶ Drop off your entry at the MPF table at the Bell Tower Park at the 75th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> BY **2:00 PM**. Judging will start promptly at 2:30pm.
- ▶ So far, judges include Mayor Dan Policastro, Town Crier Editor Claire Kupferle and Police Chief Rick Hines. There may be additional judges.
- ▶ PLEASE SUBMIT HOMEMADE ITEMS ONLY! Recipes may include mixes, premade frostings, etc.

### **FIREWORKS DONATIONS NEEDED**

Thank you to those who have already sent in their donation for the Fourth of July fireworks! We still need donations to make this year's show extra special as part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. You can drop off your donation at the Village office or mail it to the Village of Mariemont, 6907 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, OH 45227. The fireworks will be held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.



### **75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANNERS**

We want to thank all those involved with the design and purchase of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banners now featured around the Village Square. Thanks, again, to the Mariemont High School students who helped design the logo and to the folks at Haney PRC who used those ideas to create the final version of the logo and for making the anniversary signs now posted at the entrances to the Village. Thanks to Garland Signs and Banners for making the banners, and, **a special thanks to Steve & Marcy Lewis** for their generous contribution to cover the cost of the banners. The banners look great and are the perfect way to let everyone know how proud we are to be celebrating our community's 75 years of success!

### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY QUILT RESTORED**

One of the other ways in which we are honoring our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was by having repairs made to the quilt that was created for the Village's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In 1991, the Mariemont quilt was conceived as a Bicentennial project to commemorate the past, present, and future of our unique Village. It depicts landmarks, events, scenes, and people of our community. The center section pictures the Family Statuary, which was selected as the symbol for the bicentennial. Forty one women, ages 21 through 73, participated in the completion of the thirty nine squares that make up the quilt. Those women include Phyllis Hoffman, Recie Scott, Marcia Hendricks, Jackie Pickering, Donna Kent, Anna Schroer, Dortha Straley, Sharon Lakeman, Ruth Tieman, Marilyn Wedig, Jinny Cowell, Loretta Conn, Pat Shuster, Diane Morgan, Carol Gettleman, Hazel Stanley, Charlotte Hafner, Hope Kain, Marianne Jenkins, Carolyn Schwenkmeyer, Joyce Rosselot, June Flores, Erica Chrusciel, Sandra Garland, Donna Lou Davis, Florence Birks, Betsy West, Lois Gallmeyer, Ruth Bullock, Barbara Boersig, Julia Stegmaier, Roberta Bolling, Nancy Krody, Betsy Fowler, Lois Ralston, Betsy Smith, Charlie Morgan, Betty Orr, Barbara Anderson, Pat Slater, and Ann Beach. Over the 25 years since the quilt was made, some of the edges had started to fray and it had become increasingly fragile. Fortunately, we were able to find a quilting expert to make the quilt like new again so we can proudly display it once again in the municipal building. A big thank you goes to the Civic Association for the \$500 donation to save this important piece of our history! If you would like to make a donation to help offset the remainder of the \$1,750.00 cost of having the quilt repaired, you can drop off your donation at the Village office or mail it to the Village of Mariemont, 6907 Wooster Pike, Mariemont, OH 45227.



### **VILLAGE RECEIVES \$13,000 GRANT FOR SIDEWALK**

Several months ago, we requested a grant from Hamilton County to cover the cost of putting in a sidewalk that will lead from Pleasant Street to the Bell Tower and the Clarence Erickson Shelter in Dogwood Park. The county was not able to approve our request, but Jeff Weckbach of the Hamilton County Office of Budget and Strategic Initiatives agreed that it was a worthwhile project and he forwarded our request on to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office immediately approved our request and awarded us a grant from their Parking Violations Fund. The Parking Violations fund is restricted to being used on projects that would help address disability issues. The proposed new sidewalk would extend an existing walk to reach the shelter, the Bell Tower, and the restrooms to provide handicap accessibility for both private events as well as those hosted by the Village, such as the carillon concerts, Fourth of July fireworks, the annual Warrior Run, the Pan Ohio Hope Ride, and the Carillonners Convention scheduled for July 2017. The last step in the project will be to install a concrete ramp by the steps leading into the Bell Tower to give wheel chair access to the restrooms located inside the building. Weather permitting, the work on the sidewalk should begin later this month.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL FINAL PHASE SCHEDULED**

In mid-July, the final phase of the Safe Routes to School project will be completed with the installation of two rectangular rapid flashing beacons the relocated crosswalk and a raised median near the intersection of Wooster Pike and Belmont Avenue. The final phase also includes the widening of the existing sidewalk along Wooster Pike between Belmont Avenue and Harvard Acres. When this work is finished, the Safe Routes to School project will be completed.



### **OUTSTANDING CITIZEN NAMED**

At this year's Memorial Day Parade, Sharon Bevis was named the 2016 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Along with her husband, Rex, Sharon has been a resident of the Village for 40 years. She was a second-grade teacher at the Mariemont Elementary School for over 20 years. She was one of the original trustees of the Mariemont Preservation Foundation and served two four-year terms on Village Council during the 1980's. During her time on Council, Sharon was the chairperson of the Health and Recreation Committee, overseeing the renovation of the Village pool. She helped to establish the Mariemont Tennis Association.

Sharon has always been a driving force on any committee or project with which she was involved and is a well-respected and much-loved resident of the Village. Congratulations to Sharon on this award!

### **TOWNHOUSE GARDENS BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's Garden Beautification Contest! We had 14 entrants and each and every one did an outstanding job of making their landscaping look great! This year's 1st place winner was Becky Moore, with Britton Martin taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and Shirley Jordan earning 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Thanks to all the contestants for helping to make our community even more beautiful!



### **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

The Village of Mariemont celebrated Arbor Day on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, with the planting of a dogwood tree in the island on Denny Place. This year's event was made more special since the tree was planted in memory of Betty Rhoades, a long-time resident of Denny Place. Betty always cherished the beautiful trees in Mariemont and especially those in her yard and on her street. The new dogwood tree would certainly have made her happy.

### **MARIEMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING – THURSDAY – JULY 21<sup>st</sup> – GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS**

The speaker for the June meeting of the Mariemont Civic Association (MCA) will be Municipal Court Judge Curt Kissinger. Also at this meeting, the winner of MCA's summer raffle will be announced. The first prize winner will receive a "Night in the Village" package for two, which includes dinner at the National Exemplar, movie tickets to the Mariemont Theater, a one-night stay at the Mariemont Inn, and breakfast at the National Exemplar. The second prize is a numbered print of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Indian village by artist Mary Lou Holt. Third prize is a baseball signed by the legendary Pete Rose. You can purchase tickets from any member of the Civic Association or by calling me at 615-5729. Remember, everyone is welcome to attend all MCA meetings, which are held at 7PM at the Village Church of Mariemont, located at the corner of Oak and Maple Streets in the Village.

**Don't forget to buy your tickets at the Villager for the Big Band Beer Garden Bash happening on September 10<sup>th</sup>.**

Sincerely,

*Dan Policastro*  
Dan Policastro, Mayor