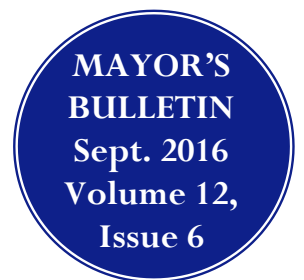




# Village of Mariemont

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## ***VILLAGE ENGINEER CHRIS ERTEL GETS GRANTS FOR VILLAGE***

One of the ways the Village keeps expenses down is by getting grants for many of our large projects and one Village employee who has been very successful in getting grants is our Village Engineer, Chris Ertel. As you know, we are saving Capital Improvement money for next year's **Settle Road water detention project, the Murray Avenue flooding and parking issues, the Mariemont Avenue/Pleasant Street water run-off problem, and in 2018 the Homewood Road storm water catch basin project.** No doubt, an important factor in financing these improvements will be state grants, and, you guessed it....our Village Engineer is now working very hard to obtain those grants. Securing grants for these large projects has meant that the Village has not had to ask voters to pass a new operational or capital improvement levy for 20 years. Instead, we have simply renewed the old levies every five years. We were fortunate to have Chris join our team as a part-time employee in 2003. As a part-time employee, we are able to pay Chris by the hour, which saves the Village the high cost of hiring an engineer for each project and Chris brings with him excellent experience and credentials. Chris graduated from the University Of Cincinnati College Of Engineering in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with a concentration in Transportation and Construction Management. He worked with Pflum, Klausmeier & Gehrum, Inc. a Civil Engineering Design Firm, specializing in Highway, Traffic Control and Traffic Signal Design until he was hired by the City of Cincinnati in the Department of Transportation & Engineering. Chris received his Professional Engineering license in December of 2002. Since Chris came to work for the Village, he has secured close to \$500,000 in grant funds for various projects and has vastly improved our annual street rehabilitation program. Although he continues to work full-time for the City of Cincinnati, Chris is very dedicated to the Village and always willing to take on any task we give him. From drainage issues to street repairs to traffic studies, Chris can be counted on to give us great advice on how to correct a problem....and will usually get a grant to help pay for it! Those grants, combined with our fiscally responsible Council has allowed us to put away the money needed for projects **like the basketball court at the swim pool, the water retention tank that reduced the flooding at the bottom of the hill on Miami Road, the concrete ramp to the South 80 Gardens, removing trip hazards on sidewalks, and replacing sidewalks where needed.** These were all projects that Chris worked on and ones for which we did not have to pay an outside engineer. Not having to bring in an outside engineer created the savings that allowed us to complete these projects. When we have had to bring in an outside engineer, the costs are high and the results are not always satisfactory. For instance, as part of the Safe Routes to School grant project, we needed to redesign the crosswalk on Wooster Pike at Belmont Avenue to make it safer for our children. We were required to bring in an outside engineering firm for that design and it cost us about \$20,000. Another example is when residents asked for a left-turn signal on Wooster Pike at Pocahontas Avenue to make it safer for students going to the high school. Because Wooster Pike is considered a 'state highway', we had to hire an outside engineer to do a traffic study. The result of that study called for a left-turn lane that caused eastbound traffic on Wooster Pike to back up so much that we had to take out that turn lane. It's been our experience that using outside engineers is costly and they do not understand the needs of the Village the way our own engineer, Chris Ertel, does. That is just one more reason we are so glad to have him on our team.



## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT***

Why do I have to get a permit to put up a fence on my property or replace the roof or fix the sidewalk? That is a great question. The answer is that Mariemont uses the permit system, as do most communities, to keep track of changes to property and to insure that those changes are done according to the federal, state, and local building codes. There are a few projects that do not require a permit. You do not need a permit for *exterior* painting **UNLESS you live in an historic area or property.** (Those living in historic areas must get a permit for exterior painting as they must use only the colors that are approved for those areas.) You do not need a permit for planting bushes, replacing kitchen appliances, or *interior* painting. However, for essentially **any other construction activity**, you **DO** need a permit. Additionally, because Mariemont is a Tree City USA community, a permit is required for the removal of certain trees. To determine if a permit would be required to remove a tree, measure the tree from the ground to a point five feet up the trunk. Then measure the diameter of the trunk at that five-foot point. If the diameter measures 12 inches or more at that point, you will need a permit to take it down. Tree removal permits are usually issued because of rot or damage in a tree; however, sometimes "hardship" is considered because the tree is blocking a drive or heaving a sidewalk causing a trip hazard. If it isn't clear, whether you need a permit for tree removal or for **any other job**, please call Don Keyes in the Building Department at 513-271-3315. He'll be glad to tell you and he won't open a permit if it is not necessary. Additionally, new legislation has just been passed that will require that any new homes being constructed be in keeping with the existing buildings in the neighborhood surrounding the new house. This means that new homes must conform to existing structures in style and materials.



## ***SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER***

The Village of Mariemont Police Department has been working with the Mariemont City Schools and its board for several years to place a School Resource Officer at the Mariemont High School. We can now report that, after many discussions with the school administration and members of the board, we agree there is a need for a police presence in the school. Therefore, we have now hired Officer Terry Zinser who will serve as the School Resource Officer during the school year on a part-time basis starting when the new school year begins. The school board will pay 80% and the Village will pay 20% of Officer Zinser's salary. Officer Zinser comes to us with 37 years of police experience, including serving as the Union Township Police Department's Police Chief. While Officer Zinser's main responsibility at the school will be to address any situation that needs police involvement, he looks forward to getting to know the students and providing any assistance they may need. As one can see, keeping our kids safe is what it's all about.

**DUKE BEGINS WORK ON MURRAY & HIAWATHA AVENUES**

Residents on Murray Avenue and Hiawatha Avenue will start seeing workers from Duke Energy removing trees as Duke makes way to install new electric poles all along those streets. This is part of a major upgrading project to install new metal utility poles to replace the old wooden ones which suffered damage from weather, rot, woodpeckers, and insects. Fortunately, officials from Duke Energy are very aware of the unique nature of our community and the importance of our tree program. They have worked with us to develop a landscaping plan so that the new trees will be planted in a much better pattern that will allow for us to add several parking spaces along Murray Avenue. The new trees will be species that will not grow as tall as the old trees and, therefore, will not have to be trimmed out of the high tension electric lines. As you know, the trees that are being taken down are all lopsided due to the way they have had to be trimmed over the years and had some fire damage. While it is always upsetting to see old trees come down, we feel confident that when this project is over and the new trees are in, we will all be pleased with the end result. **ALL THE WORK IS BEING DONE BY DUKE ENERGY AND THROUGH COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY NEGOTIATIONS, ALL THE NEW TREES WILL BE PAID FOR BY DUKE ENERGY.**

**75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS!**

The spirit of Mariemont was certainly alive on July 3<sup>rd</sup> as we celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Village's incorporation! The rain didn't spoil the fun. We simply moved the festivities inside to the Mariemont Elementary gymnasium. The kids had a great time playing all the games and selecting prizes provided by National Prize and Toy, a company located in our industrial district. There were great all-American refreshments, including hot dogs, popcorn that was donated by the Mariemont Theater, and some beautiful and delicious pies and cakes. The finishing touch on the day a terrific fireworks display. None of this would have come together if not for all the volunteers and the donations from our incredible residents. Please join me in thanking each and every one who played a part in making this a day we will remember for years to come.

First I must thank the very talented members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee:  
 Delta Crabtree                      Don Keyes                      Claire Kupferle  
 Marcy Lewis                          Nancy Miller                      Mary Beth York  
 Barbara Policastro

The next group to thank are all those who donated toward the cost of the fireworks, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, and the repairs to the anniversary quilt. They are:

- Stan & Bobbie Bahler
- Nancy Becker
- Sara Benjamin's
- Rex & Sharon Bevis
- Jeff & Suzanne Bischoff
- Bob & Barbara Blum
- Don & Dolores Butler
- Mariemont Civic Association
- Cliff & Mary Jane Clemons
- David & Donna Lou Davis
- Carl & Linda DeBlasio
- Char Downing
- Barbara Policastro

- Mariemont Garden Club
- Richard Gegner
- Kathy Graeter
- Don Gurney
- Paul & Karri Haffner
- Valerie Hanley
- Bill & Karen Herkamp
- Wes & Nina Iredale
- Claire Kaeser
- Bill & Amy Kapcar
- Greg & Bennita Laukhuff
- Peggy Possert

- Steve & Marci Lewis
- Memorial Day 5K Run Association
- Lori & Jeffrey Miller
- Mariemont Preschool Parents
- Mariemont Preservation Foundation
- Andy Kulesza (R.E. Kramig Co.)
- Jan & Miriam Riker
- Cathy & Andrew Seeger
- Mariemont Town Crier Newsletter
- Mr. Simoneau (Tri-State Running Co.)
- Ed & Carolyn Tuttle
- Mike Bohn



PIE JUDGING

Being Mayor of Mariemont is always rewarding and sometimes it's a real treat...like when you get to judge the pie and cake contest! Helping me with the judging were Police Chief Rick Hines and Town Crier Editor Claire Kupferle.  
 (Photo courtesy of Ron Schroeder)



The Marsland Brothers  
 Out Getting Contributions

A special thank you goes out to the young people of our community who worked together to raise over \$600 through cash donation requests and a lemonade stand. At the July 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, they were named Fireworks Finance Superheroes. Those special young people are:

- |                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Carlin Evans       | Addie Evans     | Ginger Evans    |
| Arthur T. Evans, V | Cate Brannon    | William Brannon |
| Mac Marsland       | Thomas Marsland | George Marsland |

Finally, congratulations goes out to the winners of the Pie & Cake Bake-Off that was part of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. In the PIE category, First Place went to Lindsey Frye, Second Place went to Liz Fuller, and Third Place went to Maria Bailey. Brenda Westfall received Honorable Mention, Gretchen &

Matt Griffith received the award for Most Creative Appearance and Marion Molsky was honored for Most Unique Flavor. In the CAKE category, First Place went to Mary Ann Schwartz, Second Place went to Megan Weinland, and Third Place went to Liz Fuller. Amy and Melanie Weiss received Honorable Mention, Megan Weinland received the award for Most Creative Appearance, and Delta Crabtree was honored for Most Unique Flavor. A huge thank you to all those who entered the contest! It was one of the highlights of the day!

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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▶ **75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY BIG BAND BEER BASH – SATURDAY – SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Response to the "Beer Bash" was overwhelming and the event is sold out! Anyone planning to attend who lives within walking distance is asked to **WALK** to the event rather than drive. We need to reduce the need for parking as much as possible and your cooperation is appreciated!

▶ **ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR – SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

The Kiwanis Club of Mariemont will hold their Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair Sunday, September 11th from 11am to 5pm on Wooster Pike. This year's Fair will feature close to 100 exhibitors from across the Tri-State area, including many from our local community. Exhibitors will be showing a wide variety of original art and crafts. Because of their unique nature, most items are not available anywhere else. The Annual Fall Arts and Crafts Fair is Mariemont Kiwanis's largest fundraiser for local scholarships. Along with their annual spring golf outing and holiday nut sale, the fall fair helps raise close to \$15,000 in scholarship money for graduating seniors of the Mariemont School District.

Sincerely,

*Dan Policastro*  
 Dan Policastro, Mayor