


# The MERION VILLAGER



THE MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER • VOL. 11, No. 2 • MARCH/APRIL 2004

## Urban Basics

MARTIN CATALINE

If you read *The Merion Villager* with any regularity you can see the many activities our association is involved in. We have a lot going on in Merion Village and it is all great fun. However, it is important to return to the basics on a regular basis if we want to preserve an environment for all that fun to occur in. I have a couple of basics to remind you of now.

*Any successful community has to deal with the effects of so many people living so close together. One effect is the huge amount of trash we cast off and the other is the noise we can create. To make a neighborhood a desirable place, the highest level of consideration is required of us all.*

Have you happened to notice of late that items in our alleyways have

had large labels applied to them reading "THIS IS ILLEGAL DUMPING"?

Those signs are the Safety Committee's way of saying this practice is wrong and your neighbors do care. It's all about education.

When it comes to trash disposal, take the time to do it right. The rules are simple and they are the law : nothing is to be placed on the ground except bulk items too big to fit in the containers. Those items are to be placed behind *your* residence away from any dumpster that might be on

your property line and called into bulk pickup at 614-645-TRSH. It's that simple.

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... it is important to return to the basics on a regular basis if we want to preserve an environment for all that fun to occur in.

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*Civilized people throughout history have spoken about the need for peace and quite in our lives. People like us who live in urban settings also have the right to expect those needs be met.*

*Although I am of the Captain Kangaroo generation, I loved to*

*hear Mr. Rogers say to his viewers, "Quiet came first."*

Ms. Tavaris of our city council worked tirelessly with every office of city government and with neighbor-

hood groups like our own Safety Committee to craft an excellent noise ordinance. The head of our Health Department. spoke to us at length about the health effects of noise in our life. Please respect those efforts and your community when you celebrate this coming year. Try to keep the noise down, indoors, and behind closed doors. Your neighbors will love and respect you for it.

If you are interested in taking part in our neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, March 13th, from 10 a.m. to noon, please contact the Merion Village Association A.S.A.P. at 614-444-3144. We will be coming together afterward for a potluck luncheon following the clean-up. Please join us.

## March Membership Drive

Have we got a contest for you! In the spirit of fun and competition that Merion Villagers thrive on, we are setting a challenge to all of our members. Through March 31st, the Merion Village Association is sponsoring a membership drive. And to the winner goes all the spoils! The person bringing in the most new (or renewed), paid memberships will receive a voucher, so generously provided by World of Travel and Homewatch CareGivers, for three-day/two-night stay at a resort

redeemable in many cities through out the United States, Mexico, and Canada (you must provide your own transportation). Each membership level counts as one new (or renewed) membership. For instance, if you bring in 10 individual memberships, that is counted as 10 memberships or five individual, three household, and two business memberships will equal the same.

Each new member will need to complete the orange 2004 membership form. To get

credit for the membership your name must appear on the form. You can obtain the forms at the Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth Street, or by contacting Darrin Wasniewski at 614-445-8856 or d\_wasniewski@hotmail.com.

All entries *must* be received at the Information Center by Wednesday, March 31st. The winner will be announced at our April 7th Merion Village Association meeting.

Good luck to all!

Have you checked out Merion Village's Web site? Log on to [www.merionvillage.org](http://www.merionvillage.org)



### ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Darrin Wasniewski, President
- Allen Price, Vice-President
- Ken Fultz, Secretary
- Laura Wiles, Treasurer
- Joseph Stefanko, Member-at-Large

The Merion Village Association conducts monthly meetings involving neighborhood and city issues. For information about the meetings, call 614-444-3144. You don't have to be a member to attend the meetings.

### MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

|   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Association Issues and Events</b> .....          | 614-444-3144                  |
| <b>School Issues</b>                                |                               |
| Bob Leighty.....                                    | 614-445-7830                  |
| <b>Membership/Newsletter Committee, Advertising</b> |                               |
| Allen Price.....                                    | 614-214-7548                  |
| <b>Safety Committee, Friends of Moeller Park</b>    |                               |
| Martin Cataline.....                                | 614-444-3144                  |
| <b>Garden Club</b>                                  |                               |
| Jan Heinlein.....                                   | 614-444-6420                  |
| <b>Trash Issues</b>                                 |                               |
| Laura Wiles.....                                    | 614-443-4184                  |
| <b>Zoning Issues</b>                                |                               |
| Ken Fultz.....                                      | 614-443-5365                  |
| <b>Neighborhood History</b>                         |                               |
| Kevin Himmelberger.....                             | 614-444-6675                  |
| <b>Social Club</b>                                  |                               |
| Dawn Vosbury.....                                   | 614-444-5560                  |
| <b>Code Enforcement Issues</b>                      |                               |
| Darrin Wasniewski.....                              | 614-638-6757                  |
| <b>Problems with City Services</b>                  |                               |
| Mayor's Action Line .....                           | 614-645-2489                  |
| <b>Neighborhood Liaison</b>                         |                               |
| Jo Anne St. Clair.....                              | 614-645-5220                  |
|   | fax: 614-645-5221             |
|   | e-mail: JASclair@Columbus.gov |

#### THE MERION VILLAGER 2004 AD RATES

|                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Business card (1/8 page) ..... | \$30 per issue, \$150 for six issues  |
| Quarter page ad.....           | \$55 per issue, \$275 for six issues  |
| Half page ad.....              | \$90 per issue, \$450 for six issues  |
| Full page ad.....              | \$180 per issue, \$900 for six issues |

Deadline for advertising for next issue of *The Merion Villager* is **Friday, May 7, 2004, 5 p.m.** To place an ad or for more information, please contact Allen Price at 614-214-7548.

# Helping kids helps our neighborhoods

## BOB LEIGHTY

Few things in life are as rewarding as helping children.

A local South Side institution dedicated to children is the South Side Learning and Development Center (SSLDC), 255 Reeb Avenue, in the Reeb-Hosack neighborhood just south of Merion Village and Hungarian Village.

This center has been providing day care and social services to South Columbus children since the 1920's. Many families have been more stable because of the quality day care and educational programs provided by the center's teachers and staff. The center helps kids from toddler through ten years of age.

The community's major fundraiser for center operations is called Bowling for Children. This 14th annual family event is set for Saturday, April 24th at 1 p.m. at Rainbow Lanes on 3224 S. High St.

Bowling for Children raises money through pledges for individual bowlers, and through lane

sponsorships. Local businesses and other groups, such as the Merion Village Association, sponsor bowling lanes for \$100 through \$500. We need lane sponsors and bowlers to help make the day a success. For more information, please call Bob at 614-449-9634 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

At Bowling for Children, entertainment is provided for the kids, including visits by clowns, face painting, and other festivities. The balloon hats last year were a big hit. Both adults and kids can bowl, and bowlers will receive T-shirts for helping the center. Prizes will also be awarded for bowlers who bring in the most money in pledges.

For the adults, there will also be a silent auction with proceeds going to the center.

So, the next time you think about making investments in your neighborhood, consider making an investment in your neighborhood's children.



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# Upcoming Merion Village meetings and events

## **Merion Village Neighborhood Clean-Up**

Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m. to noon

Register at Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth St.

*Potluck at noon. Details on page 1.*

For more information, call 614-444-3144.

## **Merion Village Garden Club**

Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m.

Merion Village Information Center 1330 S. Fourth St.

*Hostess: Pam Bentley and Kitty Stackpoole. Topic: Merion Village Planters*

*We invite everyone who has adopted or are interested in adopting a Merion Village planter to attend this informational meeting.*

For more information, call Pam at 614-444-6675.

## **Merion Village Safety Committee**

Wednesday, March 17, 5:30 p.m.

Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth St.

For more information, call 614-444-3144.

## **Merion Village Social Club Pub Crawl RSVP Deadline**

Tuesday, March 23

*Details on page 7*

## **Merion Village Social Club • Pub Crawl**

Saturday, March 27

*Details on page 7*

For more information, call 614-444-3144.

## **Merion Village Association Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m.

CMACAO South Side Action Center, 190 Southwood Ave.

For more information, call 614-444-3144.

## **Merion Village Garden Club**

Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Fisher's Greenhouse, 4290 Parsons Ave.

*Topic: Spring plantings for containers, window boxes, and more.*

For further information, call Jan at 614-444-6420.

## **Bowling for Children**

Saturday, April 24, 1 p.m.

Rainbow Lanes, 3224 S. High St.

*Join your neighbors for this great event! Details on page 2.*

For more information, call Bob at 614-449-9634

## **Garden Tour Application Deadline**

Saturday, May 1, 5:30 p.m.

*Details on page 5.*

## **Merion Village Association Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, May 5, 7 p.m.

CMACAO South Side Action Center, 190 Southwood Ave.

For more information, call 614-444-3144.

## **Merion Villager Deadline**

Friday, May 7, 5 p.m.

*Advertisement and editorial copy due. No late submissions will be accepted.*

To place an ad or for more information, please contact Allen Price at 614-214-7548.



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*- Katherine Graham*

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# Merion Village Re-Zoning

**DARRIN WASNIEWSKI,  
MVA PRESIDENT**

The South Side Plan, adopted by Columbus City Council in 2002, called for the rezoning of Merion Village to a more consistent residential zoning. I am happy to report that the process has begun. On February 7th, members of the Merion Village Association met with Craig Noreen from the Planning Office and Jo Anne St. Clair and Dilip Kapur from the South Side Pride Center to establish a process and set a timeline. We finished phase 1, the recording of the existing land use, the first week of March. The Planning Office will use the month of March to analyze the data and develop a Village wide rezoning. The timeline calls for a community open house to be held before the April Association meeting. If approved by the neighborhood, the re-zoning will then be voted on by the Council of Southside Organizations, the Development Commission, and finally by Columbus City Council.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 614-444-3144.

# Merion Village Garden Club A "Growing" Year

**JANICE HEINLEIN**

- **Tuesday, March 16, 7 p.m. Merion Village Information Center.** Hosted by: Pam Bentley (the planter police) and Kitty Stackpoole. Topic: All individuals who have planters, or those who would like to adopt one, are requested to attend this meeting. Spring plantings and any needed repairs to planters will be discussed. Please bring your "adoption" form to the meeting. For further information call Pam 614-444-6675. Rumor has it that Fisher's is whipping-up a "Planter Contest"
- **Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m. Fisher's Greenhouse, 4290 Parsons Ave.** Topic: Spring plantings for containers, window boxes, and more. For further information, call Janice Heinlein, Garden Club Chairperson at 614-444-6420. There will also be time for shopping for great bedding plants and gifts!
- **Saturday, May 22, 8:30 a.m. Field trip to Baker's Acres in Alexandria.** Hosted by Michelle Gabor. Must RSVP by May 15, 614-444-9641. We will meet at the Merion Village Information Center at 8:30 a.m., and depart at 9 a.m. sharp. Please plan to bring a picnic lunch, beverages and a folding chair, but make sure to leave room for shopping! This will be a fun day.
- **Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m.** Hosts: Ken and Jerry, 389 East Gates. Topic: Please bring a plant for exchange, with informational card. This can be an annual or perennial from your yard in a nursery pot. Jerry will also discuss his fence shadow painting technique displayed in his garden from a previous garden tour. Please RSVP 614-444-4057. (They always have great snacks!)
- **Sunday, July 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MERION VILLAGE GARDEN TOUR!** Entry form is on page 5. Only eight gardens will be selected, which will include one in-progress. For further information, please call Jan Heinlein at 614-444-6420. Fisher's Greenhouse will also be donating another *fabulous* moss basket for our drawing during the garden tour.

Hosts are needed for future meetings. Have a great topic or idea, please share it with us! Meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

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# The Gardens of Merion Village Tour



Sunday, July 11, 2004 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**YES**, I would like to participate in the Merion Village Garden Tour this year. I understand my garden will be open to the public during the above date and times. The tour will be held rain or shine. I also agree to have a host/hostess present in my garden throughout the duration of the tour.

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ *Required, but will not be published.*

Signature and Date: \_\_\_\_\_ *Mandatory.*

Please include a brief description of your garden for Tour Information Program.

*Subject to editing.* \_\_\_\_\_

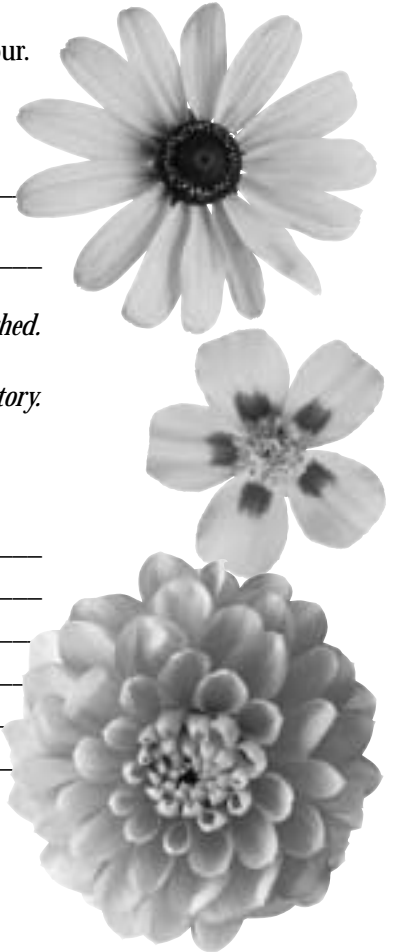
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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Applications must be postmarked/received at the Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth Street, Columbus, OH 43206, **by Saturday, May 1, 2004, 5:30 p.m.** Envelopes must be marked "Garden Tour." Applications can be dropped off at the information center through the mail slot. You will be notified by phone if your garden has been selected.



Deadline for submitting articles for next issue of *The Merion Villager* is **Friday, May 7, 5 p.m.**

Contact Allen Price at 614-214-7548 for more information.

*The Merion Villager* welcomes letters/articles, but they do *not* necessarily reflect the views of The Merion Village Association officers, members and residents as a whole. *The Merion Villager* reserves the right to reject, cancel or edit any submission. Each submission should include a name, address and an evening phone number.



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# Word on the Street

SHERRY REA

I've had the pleasure of meeting Merion Village's youngest new members, babies Wasniewski, Biehm and Stickland (sounds like the name of a law firm). All are beautiful, have gorgeous eyes and great, toothless grins. None are afraid of strangers yet and are shameless flirts.

Speaking of babes, have you seen Dawn Vosbury? She looks *great!* She and Tim had an after-holiday party. Tres chic as usual. Dawn's dad is quite the mixologist and demonstrated the art of a fine martini. Dawn's mom explained to me what was meant by a "dirty" martini. I had no idea that it involved olive juice!

Joe and Edwin served margaritas and munchies at their house before the Social Club slipped off to Los Camperos. It truly was a slippery night, due to the ice. But neither

rain, ice or snow keeps the Social Club from their appointed duties. The food and service were great! The surly waiter I mentioned in a previous article hasn't been seen since.

I missed the Social Club's chili cook-off at Bob and Dee's, since I was under the weather and doing some couch time (Did you see *Seabiscuit*, which is good if you haven't seen it yet.). I did get a full report of the night's activities from my buddy, Michelle, on Moler. Heard Edwin's shrimp chili was quite tasty and there were some new faces there, too. The Social Club has lots more in store coming up, including the Pub Crawl and my favorite, the Meet & Eat.

Voted at Southwood School on March 2nd and saw my neighbor, Jaime, who claims she voted for some guy down the street, running

for some sort of office. This was one of those elections where my mom warns me "remember, you have to declare your party," meaning vote straight Democrat or straight Republican (no, I don't mean they can't be gay!). You can't mix and match this time. It seems that this was not made clear to a friend of mine, who was shocked that declaring Independent would mean only voting on the issues. Not being the most political savvy person, I don't know why it is done this way. It's just something you accept, like the sky being blue, grass being green and always choosing the wrong check-out line at Kroger's.

Donna and Mark on Gates have adopted Rufus, a 2-year-old black Labrador that Mark found wandering on Parsons Avenue. They placed

an ad in *The Columbus Dispatch* Lost and Found—but no luck. He is a very sweet and calm dog, who likes to be petted constantly. His bedtime is 9 p.m. sharp and that is when he strolls upstairs to bed. If Donna and Mark don't come up to join him, he goes back downstairs to "retrieve" them, according to Donna.

They had some neighbors over for dinner and they got to discussing neighborhood crime. A streetlight on Pearl Alley had been out and they felt the darkness played a role in the increase of crime, i.e., breaking into cars and garages, etc. With the weather getting nicer, crimes seem to increase. If you have questions, Martin Cataline, chair of the Safety Committee, is a great resource.

That's all for now. Any news, e-mail me at [slrsherry@yahoo.com](mailto:slrsherry@yahoo.com).

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# Social Club News

DAWN VOSBURY

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 • LOS CAMPEROS

What's all the buzz about this Mexican place? Well, it's pretty darn good! To start off the night, we began our fiesta at Joe and Edwin's to warm up on some of Joe's special Margaritas and salsa. Then, people headed on down to Los Camperos for some fine Mexican hospitality. The wait staff is so accommodating and cheerful. They do a great job making sure everyone has what they need. Some of the house specialties we tried were: Arroz Con Mariscos (grilled shrimp and scallops over Mexican rice topped with cheese and special sauce), several combination dinners (the old stand-bys) with really good shredded chicken, beef or carnitas burritos, all your vegetarian favorites including that awesome creamy cheese dip and really good smokin' fajitas just like you see on TV.

This place will give a couple of places a run the money. The price range at lunch is \$3.50 (did you say speedy) to \$6 and dinner is \$6.99 up to \$18.95 (but this feeds two!). They offer great drink specials through out the week. Big pitchers of margaritas for \$15.50 and live entertainment on many Saturdays. I forgot to mention they have an excellent import beer list from south of the border too! Really put this one on your "to do" list. The Social Club of Merion Village recommends it!

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 • CHILI NIGHT

Bob and Dedee Leighty of Fourth Street hosted chili night. With nearly 30 people, you might say it was just about a "full house!" In addition to her terrific chili with beef and corn, Deedee (and her son Josh) baked off some delicious brownies. Dee's brother, Scott, prepared his future famous chicken wings. They were gone within an hour! Some people really got into the southern flare with corn bread and biscuits. The chili bar included: Edwin's Shrimp Chili, Veggie Chili, Isley Deli's White Chicken Chili (b.f. Starbuck's) and Black Bean Chili, too! It's a good thing their house didn't blow up (Haha)!

Thanks to Dee and Bob! Your home is so warm and wonderful. The gourmet kitchen was fabulous! Don't think we seen double ovens in Merion Village or slate floors yet! You know how everyone loves seeing everyone's progress! Keep up the good work!

## SATURDAY, MARCH 27 • SECOND ANNUAL PUB CRAWL

*Hear Ye! Hear Ye!* Join the fun at the Merion Village Pub Crawl. Reserve your space now! Tell your friends! Tell your neighbors! Check out all the local establishments you wondered about? Crater's on High Street has agreed to open their doors for us. However, you must RSVP with the attached coupon and your \$5 per person reservation. All reservations are returned in cash at the restaurant. Since Crater's are not normally open Saturday evenings, we will need to guarantee that there will be at least 30 people. And, I know we will! If you have any questions give Dawn a call 614-273-6210. So, here's the tour:

- **Crater's**, South High/Morrill. Arrive between 6 and 7 p.m., Depart 8:15 p.m.
- **South Bend**, South Fourth and Moler, a colorful hang out with mirrors and dance floor. Arrive 8:30, depart 9:00 or proceed directly to...
- **Red Brick Inn**, Gates and Bruck, fun cozy atmosphere good for talking, pool and such. Arrive 8:30, Depart 9:30 or proceed directly to...
- **Fast Car**, Parsons and Siebert, great DJ last year! Arrive 9:45, depart 11:15 or proceed directly to...
- **Somewhere Else**, South High and Moler. Arrive 11:30. Surprise! It's a drag show.

### PUB CRAWL RESERVATION

To reserve your spot by returning this form and \$5 per person to  
Merion Village Information Center,  
1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206 by March 23, 2004.

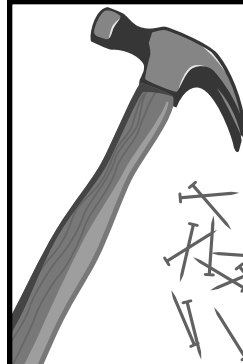
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending \_\_\_\_\_

*All checks will be cashed and made payable to: Merion Village Association.*



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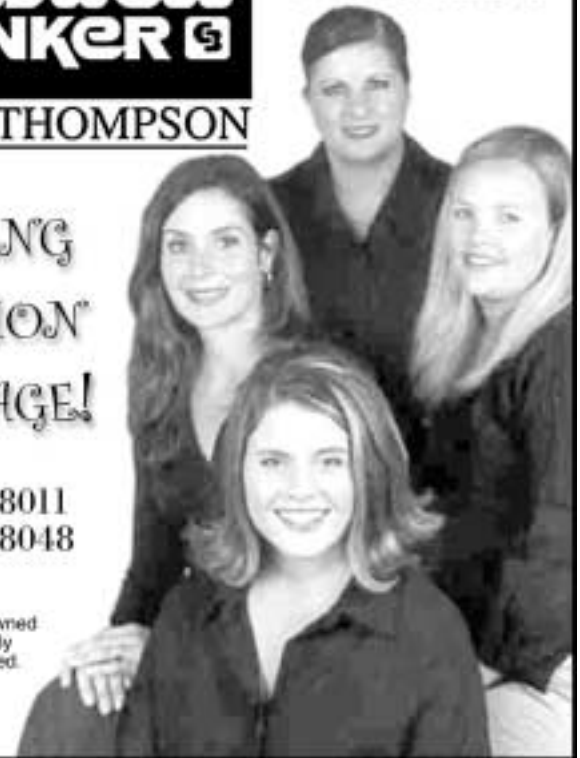
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