

The MERION VILLAGER

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION – 2005

THE MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER • VOL. 12, No. 4 • FOURTH QUARTER 2005

Merion Village Association VILLAGE OF LIGHTS

Sunday, December 11, 2005 • 6 to 8 p.m.

The Merion Village Association will be hosting their fifth Annual Holiday Driving Tour on Sunday, December 11, 2005, from 6 to 8 p.m.

There will be prizes for BEST DECORATED DOOR, BEST HOLIDAY SPIRIT, and THE GRISWOLD AWARD, for the zaniest decorations! In order to be judged, entries must be received by the deadline and all decorations should be in place by 5 p.m. on December 11th. The Merion Village Information Center, located just south of Hanford at 1330 S. Fourth St., will be open the evening of the tour, December 11th, 6-8 p.m. Tour maps and

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 5
AND MAIL TO:**

The Merion Village Information Center,
1330 S. Fourth Street, Columbus, OH 43206
OR E-MAIL your name, address and phone number along
with what categories your home is to be judged on to:
socialclub@merionvillage.org

- *Please indicate on envelope "Holiday Tour"*
- *A mail slot is available for drop-offs.*

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005, 5 P.M.**
No entries for contests will be accepted after the deadline.

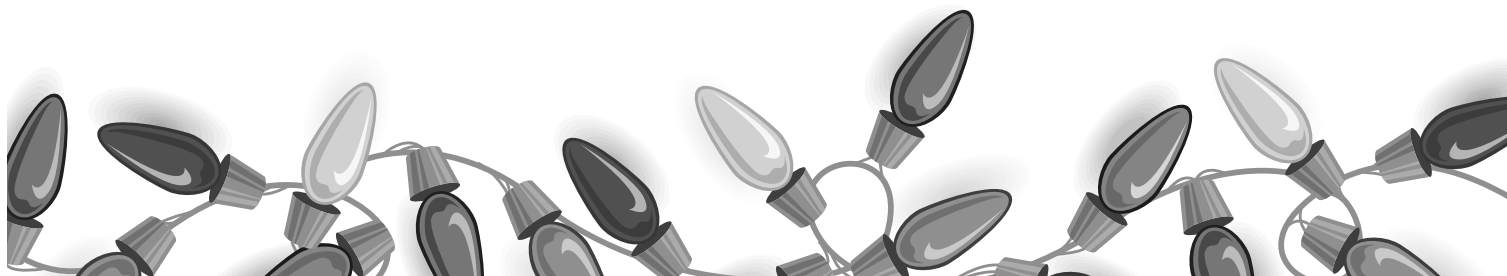
the list of contestants will be available. Please join us for goodies and drinks!

Winners will be announced and prizes presented at the Merion Village Holiday Potluck,

December 14th, 7 p.m., Gates-Fourth United Methodist Church. The Holiday Potluck is open to all Merion Village Association members, their families, and participants in the "Village of Lights" tour.

Whether you choose to enter or not, we are encouraging all Merion Village residents to decorate and light the neighborhood again. Remember, decorations can be as simple as a single candle to the most elaborate! Last year's event was a tremendous success. Thanks to everyone who helped make Merion Village the "Village of Lights."

For more information regarding the tour, please call 614-444-3144.



Have you checked out Merion Village's Web site? Log on to www.merionvillage.org



ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

- Bob Leighty, President
- Michelle Gabor, Vice-President
- Ric Castorano, Treasurer
- Pam Bentley, Secretary
- Tracy Studer, 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

Board members and committees can be contacted through www.merionvillage.org

Association Issues and Events	614-444-3144
School Issues	
Bob Leighty.....	614-444-3144
Membership/Newsletter	
Peggy Kent	614-444-3144
Safety Committee, Friends of Moeller Park	
Martin Cataline.....	614-444-3144
Garden Club	
Ken Fultz	614-443-5365
Dolores Grigsby	614-444-3144
Trash Issues	
Bob Leighty.....	614-443-4184
Zoning Issues	
Ken Fultz	614-444-3144
Neighborhood History	
Kevin Himmelberger.....	614-444-6675
Social Club	
Joe Stefanko	614-444-3144
Code Enforcement Issues	
Bob Leighty.....	614-444-3144
Problems with City Services	
Mayor's Action Line	614-645-2489
Neighborhood Liaison	
Jo Anne St. Clair	614-645-5220
	fax: 614-645-5221
	e-mail: JASclair@Columbus.gov

THE MERION VILLAGER 2005 AD RATES

Business card (1/8 page).....\$30 per issue, \$105 for four issues
 Quarter page ad.....\$55 per issue, \$250 for four issues
 Half page ad.....\$90 per issue, \$340 for four issues

Deadline for advertising for next issue of *The Merion Villager* is **Friday, January 27, 2006, 5 p.m.** To place an ad or for more information, please contact Peggy Kent at 614-444-3144.

A Good Fall Excursion

Mt. Gilead Gourd Festival

DOLORES GRIGSBY

For anyone who hasn't been to the Mt. Gilead Gourd Festival, this is something to see. Betty Contosta and I went on Saturday, October 1st. The finished gourds are beautiful pieces of artwork, from birdhouses to instruments that made beautiful music. It really is a great time. As we walked from barn to barn, we found new and unique pieces. The detail of each piece was just beautiful and inspiring. There were birdhouses of all shapes and sizes—any bird would be proud to live in one of these beautiful gourd houses. There were vendors from all over the country, bringing gourds of every shape and size.

It was a perfect day, with the sun bright and the weather warm and comfortable. We sat outside on wood benches under a large tree and listened to the band. All of the band instruments were constructed of gourds and the sound reminded

me of Creole music. We sat and enjoyed our festival food, and tapped our feet to the music. The Gourd Festival is always the first full weekend in October at the Morrow County Fairgrounds. It was a fantastic time, and I recommend putting it on your calendar for next year.

Just down the road, on St. Rt. 95 at the Mt. Gilead State Park, we stopped for homemade apple butter. We were in luck, as they were just bringing in a new batch from one of the four fire pits. The jars were so hot, we could hardly hold them. Just a tip—you need to get there early and place your order, before they run out. I bought several jars and gave them to friends. Everyone commented on the great taste of the apple butter.

So, if you're looking for something to do that's close to home, it's just a short drive to the Gourd Festival and the Apple Butter Fest. See you next year!

Thank You!

Merion Village Association would like to extend a big "Thank You" to

Dr. Harvey Vesha

of Merion Village Dental
1250 S. High Street • 614-443-4400
merionvillagedental.com

for paying the Merion Village Information Center's expenses for one month.



Social Club News

JOE STEFANKO, COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Social Club was happy to host the Trick or Treat Street at Southwood Elementary's Fall Festival again this year. Merion Village members volunteered their time to dress in costume and pass out candy on the second floor of the school. The hall had been elaborately transformed into a haunted hallway with fun and scary creatures lurking in every corner. The event was a great success and helped Southwood Elementary raise money for needed items for the school.



We now move forward into the planning of our next events. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Wednesday November 9th at the Information Center. This meeting will be to finalize all the details for the remaining events of the year, which include the Holiday Cookie Sale and Holiday Light Tour.

The Holiday Cookie Sale will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 10th and 11th at the Information Center located at 1330 S. Fourth St. Saturday will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Merion Village Association. If you are interested in baking

cookies for the sale please contact the Social Club via the website or call the Information Center at 614-444-3144.

The Holiday Light Tour is one of the favorite events of the holiday season in Merion Village. The registration form is included in this newsletter and the deadline to submit your entry is 5

p.m., Wednesday, December 7th. All entry forms may be dropped off at the Information Center. Prizes will be awarded for the Best Decorated Door, Most Holiday Spirit and the Griswold Award. This years sponsors of the event include: Patty Lamb with Coldwell Banker, Dawn Vosbury with Vutech-Ruff HER, and Tracy Studer and Orlando Martinez. The Awards will be presented at the annual MVA holiday potluck on Wednesday, December 14th at the Gates-Fourth Methodist Church..

We hope that all of you have a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to spending some of the holiday time with you and we are already working on some the events for 2006. Look for more details in future issues and online at www.merionvillage.org.

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The MERION
VILLAGER

Deadline
for submitting
articles for next
issue of *The
Merion Villager* is
**Friday,
Jan. 27, 2006
5 p.m.**

Contact Peggy Kent
at 614-444-3144 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.



Crafters and Artisans Market

This year the event raised
\$2,475!

More photos are available online!
www.merionvillage.org



A special thanks to Pastor Ellen Phillips and Gates-Fourth United Methodist Church and Carol Kruse for her wonderful pies!

And thank you to all our sponsors for their continued support:

Beer Dock • Dr. Deb Hurtt • Jeff Greek • Dorothy French

JoAnne St. Clair • Gates-Fourth Noodle Ladies

German Village Guesthouse • Doug Howard and Ric Castorano

Caskey Drycleaning Co. • CAPA • Funny Bone

Max & Erma's • Hausfrau Haven • Bob Evans • Cold Stone Creamery

St. Leo's Preservation Society • Wiseways Yoga • Fisher Greenhouse
Coldwell-Banker/King Thompson

And last, but not least, thanks to some very special volunteers, who, year after year, are always there to support the event:

Marcie Arnold • Betty Contosta • Ken Fultz

Catherine Goodall • Janice Heinlein • Kevin Himmelberger

Joe Stefanko • Edwin John Yang

Because of all of you, this year's event was the best ever!!

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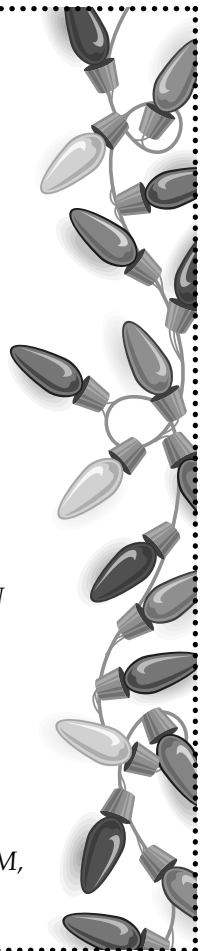
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Drop this form off at the
Information Center or
e-mail this information to:
socialclub@merionvillage.org

Merion Village Association
VILLAGE OF LIGHTS

Sunday, December 5, 2004 • 6 to 8 p.m.



NAME _____

DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____
For notification purposes only.

Please enter me in the following:
You can enter as many categories as you like.

BEST DECORATED DOOR

*Sponsored by PATTY LAMB—Realtor,
COLDWELL BANKER/KING THOMPSON*

GRISWOLD AWARD

*Sponsored by: TRACY STUDER and
ORLANDO MARTINEZ*

BEST HOLIDAY SPIRIT

*Sponsored by THE VUTECH & RUFF TEAM,
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614-228-0808

patty.lamb@kingthompson.com

Visit Merion Village online at
www.merionvillage.org

- up-to-date information
- downloadable forms
- contact the board and/or committees
- up-to-date calendar of events
- photos



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Evening

Appointments Available



Garden Club News

KEN FULTZ and DOLORES GRIGSBY, CHAIRS

The last of the flowers in the garden are fading, including the last blooms on rose bushes before being nipped by frost. Soon snow will again coat the yards giving the landscape that sparkling look. Hopefully we won't have another devastating ice storm this winter like last year's. The late summer and early fall months have been very busy for the garden club, including raising \$160 at the Fall Garden Market of the Crafters and Artisans Market. The garden club is very grateful to Marjorie Ditsler for her generous donation of dried grasses, herbs, gourds, and corn stalks, and to Valerie Smith for the gourds that were so thoughtfully planted in her yard by birds. Other members donat-

ed many perennials from their garden for the sale. We hope this will be an annual fundraiser for the Garden Club.

Elizabeth Boring was a gracious host for our annual Build-A-Bouquet held in August. Each member brought cut flowers from their gardens to create one arrangement, which was won by Betty Contosta. She was then required to make an arrangement for our host. Elizabeth provided some wonderful spreads and specialty pizzas.

For the Association's 20th Anniversary Banquet, the Garden Club created table centerpieces which were then given as door prizes. Thank you to those whose gardens provided the flowers and to the floral designers.

The beautiful arrangements were testament to the very creative ideas of the members. Look on the Association's website—click on Activities and then Garden Club—to view photos of this and other events.

During September the Garden Club had its first Twilight Garden Tour. The tour began with hors d'oeuvres on the patio and woodland garden of Ken Fultz, on to a selection of main courses under the arbor of Valerie Smith's garden, then we were treated to some delightful desserts in the garden of Jerry Shambaugh and Ken Somody. Special thanks to the hosts and to all attendees for the wonderful food. It was a beautiful evening and every garden was so tranquil and beautifully lit. We plan to make this an annual event.

Our October event was the annual Halloween Party, hosted again this year by Jan Heinlein. She is very talented with decorating and with carving—for the highlight this year Jan displayed an okra that she had carved into her interpretation of Van Gough's *The Scream*. Last year Jan had carved a cucumber. We were treated to spiced cider, punch, and a variety of pumpkin and apple desserts and other snacks provided by the host and garden club members. Members in costume included Edwin John Yang as Dracula, with cape and make-up, and Valerie Smith as a witch,

complete with pink and black striped nylon stockings. Our thanks to Jan for a howling good time.

Upcoming Garden Club Events and Meetings:

Monday, November 14, 7 p.m.
2006 Activities Planning Meeting
Hosted by Dolores on Frebis Avenue. *Please note the change of date.*

Friday, November 25
Black Friday Game Night with the Social Club at Joe and Edwin's on South Fourth Street.

Tuesday, December 20, 7 p.m.
Christmas Party and Gift Exchange
Hosted by Pam Bentley on East Mithoff. This is always a great way to wind down the year with everyone bringing their favorite holiday dish to share. Anyone wishing to join in the gift exchange please bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$10. The gift exchange is always one of the highlights of the evening. Please RSVP.

Are you missing a teapot?
Someone left a teapot at Elizabeth's house during the Build-A-Bouquet.

If you have any questions or to RSVP, please call Dolores Grigsby (614-444-9106) or Ken Fultz (614-443-5365); or e-mail gardenclub@merionvillage.org

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All donations are tax deductible, money to benefit the community service projects of Urban Achievers 4-H
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Supply limited to 50 wreaths, order yours today!

*\$2 additional charge for delivery



Word on the Street

SHERRY REA

The last time I wrote *Word on the Street*, I was complaining about the heat—now I'm complaining about the lack of it. Living in a brick house is nice, just ask the three little pigs. Keeping it cool in the summer and warm in the winter can be expensive. My co-worker, Nancy, found a company that, for \$3600, is going to blow insulation in every orifice of her Clintonville brick Cape Cod. They claim it will cut her heating bills in half. They are even able to get to it in November of this year, not 2006. According to a *Dispatch* article, most of these companies are about six months out on work. I'll keep you posted on if this truly helps.

Got a message on my machine from Mrs. Gouch of 388 Mithoff. She wanted to let me know about the eagles in her yard. No, they aren't real.

Apparently, she had some tree stumps that she carved into eagles. They are proudly standing in her front yard. Take a drive by or walk by.

The Merion Village Anniversary party was held at the 4-S Club on Whittier. Everybody was all dolled up. I even got my hair cut and chin waxed for this gala. Joe Stefanko and Edwin John Yang put together quite a night with delicious food, presentations, and a silent auction, with all kinds of goodies. Those women at the 4-S know how to cook and make a good whiskey sour, per Mary Ann Rea. The floral arrangements on the tables were artfully designed that morning by the Merion Village Garden Club at Dolores Grigsby's. The night was not only

fun, but made a chunk of money for the Association.

Speaking of floral arrangements, floral arranger extraordinaire, Jeff Forney, threw a 50th birthday bash for Ken Fultz at his Summit Chase condo. The evening commenced in the party room, with cocktails and finger foods (including caviar!). Then we all traipsed up to Jeff's crib. It was a chest clutcher with refrains of "oh my god" from everyone present. What a view! The living room has a balcony, which has a breathtaking view of downtown. And the place was huge, with rooms after rooms. Jeff has gorgeous antiques, including a brass bed, that belonged to his Italian grandparents, with cherubs on the posts. Don't even let me get started about the million-thread-count linens on the bed that I couldn't

keep my paws off of! Of course, the birthday cake was lovely, with ivy and flowers from Ken's garden. What a place! Thanks, Ken and Jeff, for sharing it.

A new house is springing up on what was once a vacant lot on Gates by the United Church of Christ. Sure, it's nice to see the land, but I guess it is just proof that our neighborhood is so desirable. Patty and Herb Lamb are going to be building on Southwood, close to the florist. You know they'll do a great job.

What happened to the antique shop that was supposed to go in the old Mario's Pizza on South Fourth? Beats me. That place has been sitting empty for quite a while. I remember when it was for sale and I wanted it so badly. I had no idea what I

would with it, but that's beside the point. It would be great if someone with vision got ahold of it and converted it into a home. I'm not naming any names, but there are some folks in Schumacher Place that have converted two garages into cool homes.

Visited Greenleaf Bed and Breakfast on Eastwood by Franklin Park. The Smileys of Mithoff, who live in that cool gothic, are the owners. Pam Bentley, their neighbor, suggested I go to their open house, held on a beautiful fall Sunday. If you're a fan of Arts and Crafts style, you'll enjoy staying here. Tastefully done in period style, the rooms have all the amenities—cable TV, hairdryer, plush towels and robes. Oh, and they had a spread of food that the owner made that was great. Scones, cheeses, cookies, fresh fruit and sandwiches. Several of the rooms were booked that weekend. The prices were quite affordable. Google® 'em—they have a website, of course.

The Merion Village Garden Club has been busy. The annual Build-A-Bouquet at Elizabeth Boring's of City Park was so fun. She has a cute house, with cool stuff, like her refrigerator with all glass doors that probably held pop at a pizza shop. She has a Boston Terrier, who was quite

friendly and excited with his company. The arrangement we made was stunning and Betty Contosta was the lucky winner, who got to take it home. Hey, didn't she win the moss basket at the Garden Tour this year?

We had an evening candle-light garden tour, which I hope will become an annual event. Ken Fultz, Valerie Smith, and Ken and Jerry were our hosts. The gardens all looked wonderful. Ken and Jerry's koi pond is beautiful. It was so relaxing to sit by it and feed the fish.

Jan held the Garden Club Halloween party. She outdid herself with her carving skills. Dolores brought over some okra for Jan to carve. Yes, I said *okra*. Sure enough, Jan was able to carve a ghoulish face and was able to put a birthday candle inside and lit it. Cute as can be.

On the rumor front, I heard Sam's Club was going into the old South High K-mart. I'd much rather see Mecca, I mean, Meijers there. Dan's Drive-In finally reopened. Haven't tried it yet. Curious to see what happens with Parsons Avenue, since there is this big revitalization project in the works. Bring back Schottenstein's!

Any news, let me know at slr-sherry@yahoo.com.

It was a chest clutcher with refrains of "oh my god" from everyone present.

What a view!

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Upcoming Merion Village Meetings and Events

November 9th, 7 p.m.
Social Club Planning Meeting
Merion Village Information Center.
For more info, please see article on page 3,
socialclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Monday, November 14th, 7 p.m.
Garden Club Planning Meeting for 2006
Hosted by Dolores on Frebis Avenue.
For more info, please see article on page 6,
e-mail gardenclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, November 16th, 5:30 p.m.
Merion Village Safety Meeting.
Merion Village Information Center. For more
info, e-mail safety@merionvillage.org
or call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, November 16th, 7 p.m.
Merion Village Board Meeting.
Merion Village Information Center.
For more info, call 614-444-3144.

Friday, November 25, 7 p.m.
Black Friday Game Night
with the Garden Club and Social Club
Joe and Edwin's, 1391 South Fourth Street.
For more info, please see article on page 6,
or call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, December 7, 5 p.m.
Holiday Light Tour Application Deadline.
For more info, please see article on page 1,
socialclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday, December 11, 6-8 p.m.
MVA Cookie Sale.
Merion Village Information Center.
For more info, please see article on page 3,
socialclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Sunday, December 11, 6-8 p.m. Annual
Holiday Light Tour and
MVA Info Center Open House.
Pick up map Merion Village Information
Center. For more info, please see article on
page 1, socialclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, December 14, 7 p.m.
Annual MVA Holiday Potluck
Gates-Fourth Methodist Church, 1234 S.
Fourth St. For more info,
call 614-444-3144.

Tuesday, December 20, 7 p.m.
Garden Club Christmas Party
Hosted by Pam Bentley on East Mithoff.
For more info, please see article on page 6,
e-mail gardenclub@merionvillage.org,
or call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, January 4th, 7 p.m.
Monthly Merion Village Association Meeting.
Merion Village Information Center.
For more info, call 614-444-3144.

Wednesday, January 18th, 5:30 p.m.
Merion Village Safety Meeting.
Merion Village Information Center.
For more info, e-mail safety@merionvillage.org
or call 614-444-3144.

It's
Time!



**Have you renewed
your Merion Village
membership for
2006?**

**Not a member?
What are you
waiting for?**

All events are subject to change. Call 614-444-3144 or visit merionvillage.org to verify information.