

The MERION VILLAGER



The Merion Village Association Newsletter

Volume 18 No. 1

February/March 2011

Merion Village Association plans for 2011

Bob Leighty

Happy 2011! A new year is such a great time for both reflections and new beginnings. That may sound trite, but I'm experiencing both these days.

What is in store for Merion Village and South Columbus in 2011? 2010 was a tough year with a bad economy impacting a lot of folks. What will 2011 bring? What projects should we pursue?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on future projects. We have a number of things in mind so far:

- Continued work on safety and code enforcement issues, with our Safety Committee, residents and stakeholders working with Columbus Police and Community Crime Patrol on both responding to and preventing crime
- Pursuing social events, helping neighbors to get to know each other better. Check out the article in this newsletter about upcoming social club activities
- Gardening in Moeller Park and the Walker-Bruck Pocket Park along with our Merion Village Garden Club
- Partnering with Southwood Elementary and other schools
- Partnering with local churches, both old friends and new ones

- Organizing and implementing our community events, our pasta dinner, garden tour, crafters and artisans market, holiday lights tour, block party, Southwood Fall Festival, movies in the park, and much more
- Forward movement on neighborhood gateway and public art projects
- Work with local stakeholders to help support redevelopment of our retail areas along High and Parsons and Fourth
- Look at other community needs, both of individuals and the broader community, and figure out how to make forward progress.

What else would you like to see happen in our neighborhood this year? If you have ideas, let me know at rleighty@merionvillage.org.

Also, I would like to share a story about a community icon that just passed away, Fred Holdridge.

People who are familiar with the history of German Village are likely to know about Fred and Howard. Fred and Howard were together as a couple for 50 years (what an amazing accomplishment!) and they contributed much good to our area.

Howard passed away a few years ago, and Fred followed last month. I went to Fred's memorial service, a true celebration of life, and it reminded me of the one and only lengthy conversation that I ever had with Fred. I didn't know him really, other than what I read in the papers, but when I was first starting my community work here in the early 1990s, I met with Fred once to get his advice.

Fred and I had breakfast at a wonderful little neighborhood restaurant, Village Junction, on High Street. Village Junction was later replaced by a Blockbuster Video store, which was more recently replaced by an empty/closed Blockbuster Video store. Not exactly progress on that site, but I digress.

Fred and I shared a nice breakfast. I wanted to ask him about his years of community volunteer work, and get his thoughts about how to improve the lives of community residents and the community itself. We talked about the importance of working the challenging issues of safety and code enforcement, working with the City on delivering City services, and other topics.

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Association Board Members

Bob Leighty, President

Tony Roell, Vice President

Jeff Wise, Secretary

Edwin John Yang, Finances Manager

Mark Ponchak, Member-at-Large

The Merion Village Association conducts monthly meetings involving neighborhood and city issues. For information about the meetings, call 614-444-3144. Meetings are open to the public

MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

Board members and committees can be contacted by visiting www.merionvillage.org. Also visit us on Facebook, and Twitter.

Association Issues and Events

614.444.3144 or info@merionvillage.org

School Issues

Bob Leighty.....rleighty@merionvillage.org

Newsletter

Joe Stefanko.....jstefanko@merionvillage.org

Safety Committee

Martin Cataline.....safety@merionvillage.org

Friends of Moeller Park

Martin Cataline.....safety@merionvillage.org

Garden Club

Ken Fultz and Michelle Gabor..... gardenclub@merionvillage.org

Trash Issues

Bob Leighty.....rleighty@merionvillage.org

Zoning Issues

Ken Fultz and Scott Fulton.....614.444.3144

Social Club

Tony Roell.....socialclub@merionvillage.org

Code Enforcement Issues

Bob Leighty.....rleighty@merionvillage.org

Website and Social Networking

Webmaster@merionvillage.org

City Services 311 or 614-645-3111

Neighborhood Liaison

Jo Anne St. Clair614-645-5220, fax: 614-645-5221
JASStClair@Columbus.gov

MVA 2011

...Continued

One of Fred's main points was the importance of having a wide variety of activities. He talked about how people make more progress on the challenging issues if they can also get to know each other from social activities, and that people needed to have some fun along with their work.

I've never forgotten that discussion with Fred. It was a little moment in time, and nothing overly profound, and I doubt that he would have remembered it years later. But I remembered it... I remembered that Fred was willing to share a little bit of his time with me, and that Fred had a great message about the importance of having a range of community activities. For people to work together, they need to know each other. I think that Fred's advice works today, and that is one of the reasons that we continue to have a variety of activities in our neighborhood.

So, that was my Fred Holdridge community moment. Over the last 19 years since that moment, I've tried to share that philosophy, and I've tried to have community moments with others in our neighborhood. That is how we help improve things; we have a series of small community moments over time that really adds up when you put them together. I encourage you to have your own community moments, to get to know your neighbors, to work together to help each other and make our lives and our neighborhood a little bit better. These moments add up, and they do make a difference. Let's make a difference in 2011.

Website Update

Be sure to check out the Merion Village Association website at www.merionvillage.org. You can keep up to date on all our events, find contact information for Merion Village Board members and information on other local and city organizations.

You can now also renew your membership or make a direct donation to the association online. Our secured site through PayPal allows you to use your credit card and have no worries.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our website please email webmaster@merionvillage.org.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

Renew Your Kroger Community Rewards. It is a great way to easily give to the Merion Village Association. All you need to do is scan your Kroger card and Kroger will donate a percentage of all purchases to the MVA. It's that easy.

Well... you do have to sign up first or renew if you have signed up previously. Have your Kroger card handy and visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com. Then 'enroll'. When it asks for your affiliation (who you want to donate to) just type in Merion Village and the association should show up.

The only catch is that you'll need to re-enroll each year in order for MVA to continue receiving money from Kroger.

So please take a couple of minutes to enroll or re-enroll today!



MERION VILLAGE



**FEBRUARY 12th, 5:00
HAL & AL'S, 1297 PARSONS AVE.**

**COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL
TWO CATEGORIES TRADITIONAL AND VEGAN
PRIZE AND TROPHY FOR WINNERS**



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www.mymvd.com

general dentists: dr. harvey vesha, dr. gregory janikian, dr. james voyles, dr. stephanie lauer and dr. amy taylor



join us on Facebook!

Word on the Street

Sherry Rae

We made it to 2011. The holidays are over thank goodness. This always seems to be a stressful time for everyone. The guy down the street's father passed away the week before Christmas after a brief struggle with cancer. He had already stated that he was ready to see God in Heaven. He was shortly joined by Fred Holdridge, the Mayor of German Village, who also passed that week.

I always admired Fred's work promoting German Village as well as downtown Columbus. Fred created a tour of downtown living which turned into the Columbus Landmark Foundation's City Hop. Fred didn't leave behind seven children like Mr. Brown did, but he did help make German Village and Columbus a "hipper" place to live.

I'm a little confused by the Stewart Elementary plans to expand. It seems the school was just fine until the fire. Now the school needs to expand to High Street and take over the Maennerchor. Huh? What about Pearl Alley? Is that going to be closed off?



Couldn't they just repair the fire damage and get the kids back in there? How did this snowball into an expansion?

And what is going on at the Blue Sky Gallery, that prime piece of real estate at Thurman and Jaeger? They've been hauling stuff out of there and the windows are papered over. Makes ya think something exciting is coming.

Has anyone heard what is happening with the Blockbuster building? They cleaned that place out fast. The Taco Bell next door sure got a facelift. The inside has a new cozy romantic feel. You'd almost expect them to ask what kind of wine you would like with your Nachos Bellgrande and Volcano Taco.

Talk about exciting, the film shooting at the German Village Coffee shop made

Thurman Avenue look like Hollywood. Giant lights, cameras and guys yelling "cut" were enough to give a girl goose bumps. Something you don't see every day on your way home from work.

Coyote Jane's has finally opened. I went there on their "soft opening" and was greeted outside by the server who was on a smoke break. The inside has changed a lot since the old Crater's days. It now has a Southwestern flair. The menu that night was limited due to the soft opening mentioned before. Onion rings, chips and salsa, black bean soup and shrimp tacos. All were delish. If you're into get in/get out restaurants, this ain't your place. So bring a book or magazine or be prepared to talk to

your dining companion because things moved slowly here.

There are new neighbors down the street in the Boso Mansion. Joe B. and Devon H. as well as Libby, Hank and Lola, and their furry kids, have

recently moved in. Both are veterinarians. Joe has a practice on the North Side and Devon has recently joined the German Village Veterinary Hospital. Welcome to the hood.

I caught up with Marge D. recently as she was walking to Video Central to get the movie Inception. She's high energy and always on the go. Maybe it's all that tea she drinks. Anyway, she's making noise again about selling her house on Markison and South Fourth. She says it's just too much keeping up two houses.

I've always had a major crush on the house but even more since they added that awesome room to the back. Marge and her husband Gene also have a wonderful farm house in Warsaw, Ohio. I want to be like Marge when I grow up.

Want to send a "shout out" to my neighbors Artie and Christine's son A.J. Artie felt that A.J. should learn to give back to the community so A.J. held his own can food drive for Stuff the Truck. Way to go A.J. Artie is the head basketball coach for Ohio Dominican University, in case you didn't know.



I finally made it to the highly anticipated Giant Eagle Market District or the "Disneyworld" for foodies. You are immediately greeted as you enter which is always nice. You then realize the staff outnumbers the shoppers by at least four-to-one.

There are plenty of free samples like you find at Sam's Club but without that silly membership fee. After my fourth sushi sample, the guy down the street that was with me gave me a dirty look as if he was in fear that we would be escorted out the door. Bottom line, it is Giant Eagle meets Whole Foods and has a baby. The bonus is that it has one of those Fast Care Clinics. You can now get treated for strep then go paw through all the samples. I'm sure they will expand to vasectomies and gall stone removal while you wait for your crepe to be prepared. It was definitely worth the trip.

The tragedy in Tucson was another sad wake up call for the entire country. There is a lot of finger pointing and no winners in the blame game. Lots of hot topics involved in all of this; politics, gun laws, religion mental health, you name it. The President gave a very moving speech that would have made any minister proud no matter what their religious leanings are. Anyway we can only hope that there were lessons learned and some good will come from this.

If you have any news you want to share be sure to email me at slrsherry@yahoo.com.

HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!

4PM-8PM DAILY

half price drafts & drink specials

- great lineup of rotating hand-crafted brews
- complete selection of domestics
- check the website for full menu & complete listing of events



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1297 PARSONS AVE.
COLUMBUS, OH 43206
(614) 375 - 4812
www.halandals.com

Social Club News

Tony Roell

The Social Club is busy planning the second annual Chili Cook-off to be held on Saturday, February 12th. Hal and Al's has agreed to host and sponsor the event again this year. The tasting will start at 5pm. We have two categories this year: a traditional and a vegan category. After sampling all of the tasty chili's we will be voting and giving away a trophy and prize for the best of each category. As last year's winner I am expecting even more competition this go around.

We are looking forward to our spring and summer events including a pub crawl in March and our Movie Night in Moeller Park series which will include four movies this year. More details to come later on these items.

Most importantly we are looking for a location to have this year's Merion Village Block Party. If you and a few of your neighbors are interested in hosting this year's block party please email me to discuss. At this year's block party we hope to have live music for the duration. So if you are looking for a place to show off your polka, jazz, punk, or Reggie band please let me know and I can try to get time slot reserved for you. As always if you would like to get involved in planning social club events just let us know.

For more information visit our website at www.merionvillage.org or email troell@merionvillage.org

Merion Village information can be found on the web at www.merionvillage.org and on Facebook as the Merion Village Association

Central City Chiropractic



1269 S. High Street
(614) 228-9440



Please join us for a presentation by the
City of Columbus
Neighborhood Pride Office

Wednesday, Feb 2, 7pm
MVA Information Center
1330 S. 4th St

This meeting will allow for answering questions regarding Neighborhood Pride and showing a strong commitment from the Merion Village Association and Hungarian Village Society as our application moves forward through the process.



Interested in advertising in the Merion Villager?

Our newsletter reaches more than 3,500 people at least 3 times a year via our printed version that goes into the bag. Along with the more than 200 people on our email and mailing list. That is a lot of people for just a little bit of money. For more information or to receive and advertising packet please contact Joe at jstefanko@merionvillage.org

	Single Issue	Yearly
Business Card	\$45	\$160
Quarter Page	\$70	\$265
Half Page	\$110	\$420

Ad Sizes

Business Card	3.833" x 2.375"
Quarter Page	3.833" x 4.917"
Half Page	7.833" x 4.917"

All ads must be submitted in jpeg or pdf format.

Columbus South Side Area Commission meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm at South High School in the library.

Next meeting dates:
Tuesday, February 22
Tuesday, March 22

Calendar of Events

MVA Meeting

February 2, Wednesday, 7pm
Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

MVA Social Club Chili Cook Off

February 12, Saturday, 5pm
Hal and Al's 1297 Parsons Ave

MVA Meeting

March 2, Wednesday, 7pm
Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

MVA Safety Committee Meeting

March 16, Wednesday, 5:30pm
Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

Newsletter Ads and Articles Deadline

April 1, Friday, 5pm

MVA Meeting

April 6, Wednesday, 7pm
Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

MV Neighborhood Clean-up and Potluck

April 23, Saturday, 10am-12pm
Clean up your street then join us for a potluck lunch at the Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

MVA Meeting

May 4, Wednesday, 7pm
Information Center 1330 S 4th St.

MV Community Yard Sale

May 7, Saturday, 9am-3pm



MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM JANUARY-DECEMBER 2011

NEW **RENEWAL** (A member since _____)

- INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS - \$15** **HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIPS - \$25** **PATRON MEMBERSHIPS - \$25**
 BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS - \$35 **SENIOR MEMBERSHIPS - \$10** **NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIPS - \$15**

More information about the rights and privileges of membership and the rules of governance of the Association is available at www.merionvillage.org/association/mvaconstitution.html or call 614-444-3144.

NEWSLETTER: **U.S. MAIL** **E-MAIL** **BOTH**

Please print clearly.

Primary Member _____
(Individual/Senior/Household)

Additional Name _____
(Household Memberships only)

Business/Organization or Patron Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail #1 _____ E-mail #2 _____
(Please provide your e-mail address to receive reminders and notices by e-mail.)

Please return form with payment or bring to the next Association meeting. Make checks payable to:

Merion Village Association
ATTN: Membership Committee
1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206

Register your Kroger card at www.krogercommunityrewards.com then choose Merion Village Association and we will receive a donation based on your spending at Kroger.

Membership list will NOT be sold or made available to outside parties.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Rec'd: _____ by _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Check# _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	Amount: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Entered
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Code:



Merion Village Association

1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, Ohio 43206

Uncle Nathaniel (Merion) Wants You!

You can help yourself and your neighbors in making Merion Village an even better place to live. All you have to do is volunteer. Please check any of the events that interest you, and return this form to the Merion Village Information Center, 1330 S. Fourth Street, Columbus, Ohio 43207. If you prefer you can email jstefanko@merionvillage.org for more information. Planning committees are being formed now!

Upcoming events that need volunteers

- Chili Cook Off, February 12th
- Pasta Dinner, Date to be Announced
- Spring Clean-up, April 23rd
- Community Yard Sale, May 7th

Your name: _____

Your phone: _____ Your e-mail: _____

Your skills and interests: _____
