

**Muirfield
Association
Inc.**

*It's not just a Home...
it's a Lifestyle!*

Newsletter

www.muirfieldassociation.com

8372 Muirfield Drive, Dublin Ohio 614.889.0922

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Volume 66

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION IN OUR FUTURE

Times are changing and your Muirfield Association is doing its best to keep up with the times!

With the continued advancements in electronic communications becoming more a part of our everyday lives, your Muirfield Association has been working on ways to open up the lines of communication between itself and its members. The Association is making its way into the electronic age by adding an interactive website that will allow our residents to better correspond with the Association as well as one another. Even now, changes are being made to our current website – it's undergoing a major upgrade to become more than just an educational tool.



The Website Committee is finalizing development of a new site that will help visitors learn general information about our community, link to other neighborhood and community websites, as well as offer a 'members-only' area that will allow interactive communication

between office and residents and resident to resident. Members will find a secure site to pay annual assessments online, access design review applications, communicate with staff members, as well as sign up for swim lessons, tennis lessons, list garage sales, offer services among residents and exchange information among neighborhood clubs and activities.

The association's response time to questions is much quicker with the ability to communicate through email, so we are encouraging every resident to open up the lines of communications and provide us with your most up-to-date email address. The website is also a great tool to let the world know about us and the wonderful community we have to offer prospective homeowners.

WiFi communication will be installed at the recreation facilities to help our residents stay 'in touch' even while relaxing at the pool.

Another change will be the way you receive future Association newsletters. This will be our last paper newsletter. Future newsletters will be sent electronically to your email address. During the past year, the association has been collecting residents' email addresses. If you have not yet shared that information with us,

now is the time. You don't want to be left out of the communications loop! Call the office or email sandy@muirfieldassociation.com.

If you are interested in a paper copy, a limited number of printed newsletters will be available at the office.

Once the new website is online, we will be excited to hear from you. Let us know what you think of the modern communications tool, and if there are other ways we can communicate with you more efficiently.



MUIRFIELD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jeff Stucke, Pres.....	798-0293
Mike Grodhaus, V. Pres..	889-2502
Chris Curry.....	798-9674
Diana Evans.....	889-5570
Robert Fathman.....	579-1699
Warren Fishman.....	889-9748
Peggy Pace.....	791-0340
John Reiner.....	889-0739
Scott Streator.....	789-9433



President's Corner...

I hope you and your family enjoyed the Holiday Season. As I get older, it seems to come and go so fastwith all the preparation, parties and activities.

Our last newsletter was sent in August, so you were hopefully enjoying the pools, one of the 12 fully-stock ponds or the golf/putting facility located at the Holbrook Recreation Center. We considered the 2010 summer season another success and enjoyable one. We had 37,085 total visitors to the pools as well as provided swim classes for 221 children.

Walter Zeier, our general manager, and his pool staff continue to provide a better experience and lower costs at the same time. We saved \$10,000 by outsourcing the concessions and will save another \$1,000 on paper towels by installing electronic hand dryers in all restrooms this year. Both pools will offer wireless access for those interested in getting connected and all staff will be given additional customer-service training to enhance your pool experience.

Unfortunately, the warmer temperatures are not just for play, so many of us used this time of year for home improvement projects. Muirfield Village encompasses over 1,650 acres, including 250 acres of common areas, which are the Association's to maintain. We continue our push to keep the common areas as clean and maintained as possible. In addition, we are trying to help residents maintain and enhance their properties as well by offering free home-improvement consulting services. Of the 2,388 total lots in our community, only 13 remain vacant. Thus, most of our neighborhood's beauty is based on individual residences today. Since the inception of our updated architectural services, our architects have met with almost 200 residents. There were roughly 400 requests for home improvements logged through the Design Control Committee in 2010, so it is great to see the plans are being put into motion. Hopefully, you will take advantage of these free services too!

There are more than 170 streets within and around Muirfield. With our mature landscapes, it can be challenging to find certain residences and businesses within our community. We planted over 100 new trees this year, which adds to the beauty ...but tends to hide residences and businesses as well. To help address navigation to some of the high-traffic and more visible locations, we will be installing new and upgrading the existing signs along Muirfield Drive. We will highlight the Golf and Country Clubs for visitors, the Association Office and other amenities. The new Association website will also help residents, potential residents and visitors navigate our community. On the website, you will see a residents-only section along with many other upgrades.

As a reminder, Muirfield Village is a Planned Unit Development with rules and restrictions that govern the standards. Our General Warranty Deed includes rules, restrictions, and design standards for all properties. Under direction of Board of Trustees (consisting of nine voluntary residents who serve 3-year terms), the General Manger is responsible for maintaining the standards and making our community a great place to live. The GM is contracted to oversee the day-to-day operations, expenses, capital expenditures, hiring employees, and actions of the Association and its employees. The Grounds & Facilities Committee, liaisons to the Board of Trustees, is comprised of nine voluntary resident members who serve three-year terms. They provide recommendations concerning pool, tennis, common ground and facilities use and programs to the Board of Trustees for review/implementation. The Design Control Committee reviews all plans for exterior changes and/or additions to the property. Finally, there are several associated community organizations: Civic Association (social and civic-focused events and activities), Civic Action Committee (civic representation of Muirfield), Garden Club, and Muirfins Swim Team. All of these groups are available to our residents. If you are interested in joining our team or one of these associated organizations, please let us know. The annual meeting where Trustees and committee members are elected is held each April, and everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

A quick note of the financials - As we start 2011, our annual assessment is collected. You can pay on-line again. I think it is important to keep you informed on some important financial factors as you make your annual payments. We have focused on cost-cutting and more efficient operations for several reasons, but one of them... our revenue, has remained relatively flat or decreased over the last several years. We are obviously a not-for-profit organization, but the home values have affected our financials negatively. Additionally, our 2010 bad debt expense averaged between \$30,000 - \$35,000 and sheriff sales/foreclosures were approximately 20 in 2010. Our assessment averages to \$780 per resident on a yearly basis. We always try to use our funds responsibly and manage these economic factors proactively.

I would like to conclude with a few congratulations. Several Association team members are celebrating employment anniversaries. Employees with 15 years or more: Dave Wolf (Grounds Foreman) – 25 years, Rick Held (Mechanic) – 20 years, Sandy Moreland (Secretary) – 20 years, Sue Leonard (Bookkeeper) – 18 years, and Jeff Thompson (Grounds Crew) – 15 years. Thanks to all of them!

Jeff

CHOOSING REPLACEMENT WINDOWS IN MUIRFIELD VILLAGE

If you're thinking of replacing windows in your Muirfield Village home, the wide variety of styles, materials, colors, and manufacturers can make it difficult to choose. Make your decision easier with these tips from the Muirfield Design Control Committee.

The number one concern is authenticity. In Muirfield, authenticity means windows that closely resemble the original windows; windows appropriate for the style of the house; windows of high quality, and colors that



work well with an overall color scheme appropriate for the house. Most original Muirfield Village windows are (or were) wood, and ideally, replacement windows should be wood,

too. However, with today's window technology offering numerous choices, other materials can also provide an acceptable option. "Clad" windows are the next best choice. A clad window is a wood frame wrapped on the outside with a thin layer of aluminum, fiberglass, or vinyl. All three types are acceptable, although aluminum is usually preferable. If aluminum-clad windows are your choice *extruded* aluminum is better than *roll-formed*. Clad windows are very similar to wood windows in appearance, with less "frame" and more glass. They also give you more interior design flexibility – the exposed wood can be painted or stained to fit with your décor.

APPROPRIATE WINDOW STYLES.

There are many types of windows but most in Muirfield are one of three styles: double-hung, casement, or awning. Double-hung windows are the kind with two "sashes" that slide up and down, and are common on traditional American-styled homes. Casements are the kind that swing outwards – like a door – and are more typically found on "European-styled" and contemporary-styled homes. Awnings are hinged at the top, and are usually smaller than double-hung

or casement windows. Awning windows are common on homes with contemporary styling. Generally, you shouldn't change the type of windows on your home – it's sometimes tempting, as double-hung windows can be less expensive than casements or awnings, but changing window types can compromise the authenticity of your home. Finally, fixed (non-operable) windows can be combined with any other window type, but don't mix two different operable window types on the same house (casement and double-hung, for example).

WINDOW QUALITY. Every window manufacturer claims their products are high quality, and most are. But, in Muirfield Village, quality goes beyond technical specs. The ability to park a bulldozer on a window frame, for example, is not a guarantee that the window meets your Association's standards. The committee's primary concern is the quality of a window's exterior appearance as that affects everyone in Muirfield. We encourage you to seek quality in other aspects as well; in energy efficiency, weather resistance, warranty, and exterior/interior finish, to name a few. From the outside, a high-quality replacement window maintains the frame size and proportion of the original window – in other words, it doesn't *look like* a replacement window. Additionally, the existing exterior window



trim work should not be altered in appearance. Often times replacement windows (particularly low-cost and all-vinyl products) can change the size and

proportion of the original windows significantly.

These windows are usually custom-built to fit the existing openings, but because the installers leave the existing frame in place, the glass area of the new windows is considerably smaller than the originals. And that's often painfully obvious. Other replacement types (usually wood-clad windows) have a much smaller frame profile and much less of a "replacement window" look. And that's better for your home's look, your home's resale value, and neighborhood pride.

WINDOW COLOR. If you choose to replace your existing windows with wood (we *love* that!) then you'll have no problem painting them to match your trim or whatever color scheme is approved for your house. Clad windows offer a lasting finish, however, you might find the factory-applied color choices limiting. So, be certain the color you select will be compatible with a color scheme appropriate for your home and will not result in an unnecessary repainting



of your entire house. Muirfield recognizes that limited window color

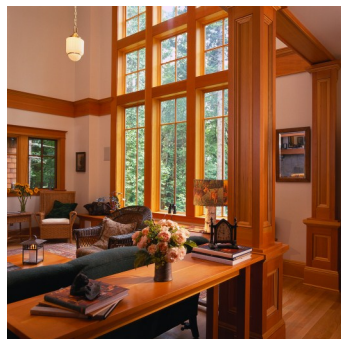
choices can make an overall color coordination more difficult, so we're open to considering different color combinations.

HELP FOR THE *DIY-CHALLENGED!*

No matter what you're planning for the exterior of your house, take advantage of your Association's library of approvable manufacturers, samples, and colors. Call 889-0922 to talk with Sandy, or set a time to meet with staff at the Association office. Or, use our "house call" service and have the Association's Design Review Architect come to your home for a free one-hour consultation.

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES HELPFUL TO OUR RESIDENTS

There is still time to take advantage of the Association's Architectural Services. Last spring, the Board of Trustees introduced a new service to our residents when they hired local architect, Mr. Richard Taylor, and local landscape architect, Mr. John Reiner. Since then, these two men have been busy meeting with residents, listening to ideas, answering questions, and providing guidance and expertise for those anticipated interior and exterior home improvement projects. Rich and John are both familiar with the Association's design standards and Dublin's building requirements so it is time well spent, and they come to you! We've received many favorable responses from residents who've taken the opportunity and found satisfaction with our team.



The men will meet with you on-site, up to one hour, free of charge, to assist you in planning your home improvement goals. They are not responsible for creating renderings or scaled drawings; rather they will offer direction on materials, finishes, colors and site dimensions so you can accomplish your project while meeting Dublin's requirements and following Muirfield's design standards.

Winter is a good time to take a look around and explore ways to increase your home's livability and secure your property values. If you are interested in having Rich or John visit with you to explore ideas for home improvement/property value enhancement projects, contact Sandy at the Association office (889-0922) to arrange a convenient visiting time.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR UPCOMING ELECTION

There is still time to get involved with the activities of the Board of Trustees and Grounds & Facilities Committee. The Nominating Committee will accept applications for these two committees until March 1st.

The Board of Trustees meets every other month at the Association office to set policies, enforce the terms of the warranty deed, approve the yearly operating budget, the capital expenditures budget and plan for long-range improvements to our community.

The Grounds & Facilities Committee meets every other month, February through October, at the Association office to make recommendations to the board pertaining to programs, maintenance, safety, rules and capital projects for the pools, tennis courts and common grounds.

If you are interested in getting involved in either of these groups, please fill out the form and return it to one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Chris Curry, 5984 Macewen Ct., 798-9674, destinationdsgn@aol.com; Diana Evans, 6020 Springburn Dr., 889-5570 dievans2002@yahoo.com; or Michael Grodhaus, 6544 Deeside Dr., 889-2502 michael.grodhaus@gmail.com

Anyone having an outstanding deed violation or delinquent assessment may not be considered for a position on either group.



APPLICATION TO NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Board of Trustees _____

Grounds & Facilities Committee _____

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Lot # _____ Phone _____

On a separate sheet, briefly introduce yourself to the residents of Muirfield Village and describe why you want to serve. Explain what direction you see the Association going concerning amenities, capital improvement projects and fiscal perspectives in the coming years. Deadline for application is March 1st. Selection of nominees is at the discretion of the Nominating Committee. Any resident delinquent in paying their Muirfield annual assessment or having an outstanding deed violation cannot be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees or Grounds & Facilities Committee.

MUIRFIN SEASON-END REPORT



The Muirfin Swim Team had another great season! The 11 & older age group placed first for their age group and the entire team placed Second overall at the Championship Meet.

Year after year the Muirfins team continues to grow. This year 151 swimmers represented close to 100 families. The coaching staff this year focused on improving techniques while still maintaining a fun summer swimming program.

In addition to swim practices and meets, they found time for other social activities that included a Pancake Breakfast, a Family Potluck, and marching in the Dublin Independence Day Parade.

The success of the team also depends on the parent volunteers and the fundraising activities. This year the team hosted its Inaugural Golf outing at Riveria Country Club. This was a successful outing that resulted in the team being able to purchase some much needed equipment.

Look for 2011 swim team registration material next April. For more information about the Team visit www.muirfin.com. Questions can be sent to: president@muirfin.com.

Later this month, the Association's bookkeeping department will be mailing the annual assessment billing to all Muirfield property owners. The assessment is due 30 days from invoice date. Like your real estate taxes, our assessment is billed a year in arrears, so you will be paying for the year 2010. You may choose to pay the assessment online through our website at www.muirfieldassociation.com.

A REAL FISH STORY!

In an earlier issue of the newsletter, we talked about our community lakes and the good fishing available. One of our young residents, Ian Hall, shared a photo from last August when he hooked a large mouth bass from the pond off Muirloch Drive.

Very impressive!

Once spring arrives, we hope other residents will enjoy trying to 'catch the big one' from one of our lakes! Ian, thanks for sharing!

DUBLIN POLICE REPORT

Dublin Police report that just over half of all crimes in the city are thefts from garages and cars, mostly unlocked, or with 'fenceable' items visible through car windows. We can cut the crime rate in half just by common-sense closing and locking of garage doors, and by keeping wallets, purses and portable electronics or other items locked in the car trunks at our homes or while out and about. Bob Fathman, Chairman of the Muirfield Village Civic Action Committee suggests a simple fix for remembering to close our garage doors. For under \$20 we can purchase and easily self-install a wireless garage door monitor. Plug the simple receiver into any visible outlet in your home, simply attach the wireless transmitter to your garage door, and a red light comes on the monitor any time the door is in an open position. If you have multiple garage doors, additional sensors for second or third doors can be purchased for less than \$7 each. The Amazon website offers these and also gives competitors' websites and prices. Be sure to compare shipping costs. Take a look, and as Dublin Police say,

"Like it? Lock it!"

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0002YX7MM/sr=8-1/qid=1291218787/ref=olp_product_details?ie=UTF8&me=&qid=1291218787&sr=8-1&seller=



BRIDGE CLUB LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Interested in a casual night of social bridge play? The Muirfield Bridge Club is a small, fun group of residents who are looking for additional couples to enjoy cards, company, and lots of fun. Lou and Marilyn Burns are co-chairmen for the group that meets monthly, on the second Saturday of the month in each others' homes. Lou and Marilyn say it is strictly fun—no prizes, no dues—just a good evening's entertainment. If you can't commit to a monthly night out, they are also interested in substitute players. If you are interested, give Lou or Marilyn a call at 766-2368, or email them at: lburns533@aol.com.



Our community was beautifully dressed with holiday lighting and decorations over the past month, providing pretty sights for residents and travelers to enjoy. The season passed so quickly! Now it is time to store away the holiday decorations. The Association reminds you that all wreaths, lights and ornamentation should be removed from the outside of your home by the end of the month. Thank you for lighting up our village so beautifully and thanks for removing the decorations so promptly!

May 30 – June 5, 2011

Since its inception in 1976, the Memorial Tournament, presented by Nationwide Insurance, has produced great entertainment, memorable moments and compelling winners. Of the 26 past winners of the Memorial, 16 are major champions, including some of the greatest names in golf. The Memorial boasts one of the truly elite fields in golf with a strong contingent of both national and international players.

Tournament week is Monday, May 30 through Sunday, June 5, 2011. Events of note include Military Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 31. The Opening Ceremonies at 3 p.m. will feature recognition of 2011 Memorial Tournament Honoree, Nancy Lopez. Tuesday will conclude with the Jack Nicklaus Clinic at 4:30 p.m. on the main driving range. Wednesday, June 1 is Junior Golf Day with all kids 18 and under admitted free with a ticketed adult. Wednesday will also feature the return of the Official Tournament Pro-Am beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Memorial Tournament's Junior Golf Clinic, which begins at 5:30 p.m. and is located at Safari Golf Club, will conclude Wednesday's activities.

Something new for the 2011 Memorial Tournament — be among the first to see the exciting and completely re-designed Hole No. 16! It's sure to be an instant fan favorite.

To order tickets or for more information, call 614-889-6700 or visit www.mtbadge.com.

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