

**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

September 2012

Volume 70

PRESIDENT'S CUP UPDATE

The prestigious President's Cup is coming to Muirfield Village Golf Club September 30 through October 7, 2013! Muirfield Village Golf Club will be the only course in the world to have hosted the Ryder, Solheim and President's Cup Tournaments. Over 600 media from around the world will attend; it will be viewed worldwide by over 600 million households in 200 countries, with 26 hours of live televised coverage. More than 150,000 spectators will attend, about 30-35,000 each day. This event pits the top 12 golfers from the U.S. versus the top 12 from outside the U.S., excluding Europe. The event is biennial, having been hosted in Sydney, Australia last year, and plans for Korea in 2015. It is expected to have an impact of \$50 million on the local economy.



The event is owned by the PGA, hosted by the Muirfield Village Golf Club and managed by H & S Sports Group. Teams will be selected about this time next year. A player has to earn his way onto a team by becoming one of the top 12 players. No one making the top 12 has ever turned down the invitation to appear. There is no prize money or payment to the golfers, but there are many charitable contributions, some selected by the golfers themselves.

Nick Price of Zimbabwe will captain the non-U.S. team. Fred Couples is captain for the U.S. team. The Golf Club will have 25 big-screen TVs around the course and will erect bleachers at each hole to hold the crowds, since only 6 holes will have teams on them at a time. The Tournament will only need half the normal number of volunteers, 1,500 compared to 3,000 for the Memorial Tournament. Regular volunteers of the Memorial will have first option to volunteer. There may be a need for additional volunteers who are multi-lingual, definitely in Korean and some of the other languages. A better estimate will be known next summer depending on the numbers purchasing tickets from out of country.

The President of the United States will serve as honorary chair, which is the custom in each country where the event is held. Citi and Rolex are prime sponsors, but the event is really "commercially clean." The course will be closed to the general public on Monday and Tuesday of Tournament week, a difference from the Memorial. The State Tourism Department and various Columbus offices are all involved in coordinating this event.

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MUIRFIELD ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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
Paula Linehan.....	395-0423
Peggy Pace.....	791-0340
John Reiner.....	889-0739

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster and will be offered to regular purchasers of Memorial tickets beginning in mid-September of this year as part of a package deal with tickets to the Memorial. The PGA takes over ticket sales beginning October 2nd. At that time, prices go to retail price which is \$30 above the current discounted price.

The event will be a sellout! Over 9,000 tickets have already been sold. More information regarding the President's Cup is available at the PGA website: www.pgatour.com/tournaments/presidentscup/2013.

It was through the efforts of Jack Nicklaus and his partnership with the President's Cup that Muirfield Village was selected as the site of the President's Cup competition. His effort is confirmation of what the golf club and the sport means to him. Jack has said that he considers Muirfield Village Golf Club a showcase for his love and respect for the game of golf. Like Jack, we want to showcase our community and homes during this event. We are very anxious to put the very best of Muirfield Village on display and we need your help. It will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show the world what a beautiful, prestigious, carefully thought-out community that Muirfield Village has become as a result of Jack's vision. We are especially aware that our neighborhoods may be televised to millions of viewers world-wide.

We are very anxious to put the very best of Muirfield Village on display and we need your help.

Two years ago, the Board of Directors hired professional architects to assist our residents with their property enhancement plans. The goal of the directors was to find helpful, affordable ways to encourage residents to update, refresh and revitalize Muirfield properties to support property values and community pride. Now is the perfect time to take advantage of this free service to find ways to present your home in the best possible light for next year's President's Cup. Mr. Richard Taylor, Architect, has visited with more than 70 Muirfield families already this year, offering his expertise in many areas of residential architecture covering everything from roof material and paint selections, room additions and remodeling, kitchen, bath, bedroom and garage updates. He is anxious to help you find reasonable approaches in enhancing your home.

Likewise, Mr. John Reiner, Landscape Architect, has visited with more than 80 Muirfield families this year, offering positive suggestions and options for homeowners who want to refresh tired, mature and over-grown landscaping. His free service can include ideas for tree removal and replacement, patios, decks, attractive screening and overall good health for your home's exterior presentation.

What a great time to take advantage of these professionals' expertise! Working with them this fall and winter will give you plenty of time to do the fix-up, remodels, re-painting and landscaping needed before the world views our community next fall. The Association will be doing extra work before this world-wide event, focusing on fall color, and we want to help you do the same. If you are interested in having Mr. Taylor or Mr. Reiner visit with you, contact Sandy at the Association office (614) 889-0922, to schedule a visit.

Once you've decided on a project to enhance the property, please remember that these plans must be approved by the Muirfield Design Control Committee before any work begins.

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The Muirfield Warranty Deed gives the Committee thirty days to respond to design review requests, but they try very hard to get a response returned within a week or two.

Design review guidelines and applications are available for viewing and printing online at our website: www.muirfieldassociation.com. On the home page, scroll over to 'Media Room and Newsletters'; at the drop-down box click on 'Design Review'. You can download and print the necessary information to provide to the Design Control Committee. Contact the office with any questions.

We are happy to guide you through the design review process. The committee's goal is to assist you in making your project the best thought-out design to enhance your home and property!

TENNIS WRAP-UP



In his first year as Tennis Pro for Muirfield Village, Mr. Keith Haigh, said he was very pleased with the number of Muirfield participants and the overall interest in the sport of tennis. He said the Junior Clinics were extremely well attended and the Adult Team Clinics had between 12 to 21 players attending weekly. The Ladies Beginners Team included 12 ladies completing a 12-week program. Each class was progressive based upon the previous weeks' clinic. Several members are going to continue to play tennis at The Players Club this fall and winter. The Cardio Classes were well attended all season long; the Sunday class was so enthusiastic that they will continue at The Players Club starting Sept. 23rd from 10 to 11:00am.

On a personal note, Keith said, "I want to personally thank all Muirfield residents who participated in the new 2012 tennis program." He added, "I have been asked by numerous residents if I am coming back next year. YES! I will be back for another great summer! Please feel free to contact me if you want to continue your success on the court!"

Submitted by Keith Haigh, Director of Tennis, Muirfield Association, MuirfieldTennisPro@yahoo.com

PROPERTY HANDBOOK COMING

Over the next few months, you will notice some changes in terminology, policies and procedures from the Association. At the direction of our Legal Counsel, Kaman and Cusimano, LLC, the office staff has undertaken the major task of compiling a booklet of rules, restrictions, design standards, landscape and property policies, enforcement information, and design review topics. Once the booklet is finalized and approved by our board members, copies will be disbursed to all property owners.



A couple terms you will begin seeing with this newsletter is changing the words "Board of Trustees" to the correct term, "Board of Directors". Another term you might notice is changing "common ground" to the correct term, "common elements". Additional clarification of terms and policies will be made over the next months. The office will keep you informed of the updates.

TENNIS INVITATIONAL AT THE COUNTRY CLUB

The Country Club at Muirfield Village and The Ohio State University are hosting the 2nd Annual Muirfield Collegiate Tennis Invitational on September 14 through September 16 at The Country Club at Muirfield Village, 8715 Muirfield Drive, Dublin, OH. This free admission, NCAA Women's Event features college teams from Ohio State, Cincinnati, Kentucky, Akron, Eastern Kentucky, Bowling Green and Louisville.

You are invited to participate in all of the weekend activities; the order of play follows:

Friday, September 14

Doubles – 9 am

Singles 1st Round
Not before 11 am

Saturday, September 15

Doubles – 9 am

Singles – Not before 11 am
Main Draw Rd of 16
Quarters/Consolation

Doubles – Not before 8 pm
Main Draw Semis
(under the lights)

Sunday, September 16

Doubles – 8:30 am
7 courts of doubles

Doubles Finals – 10 am

Singles Semifinals–11:30 am

Singles Finals – 2 pm

Any questions may be directed to Tournament Director, Melissa Schaub, 323-6819 or Managing Director, Carrie Smith, 264-9661.

HOME SALES IN MUIRFIELD UP 34% OVER LAST YEAR!

Yes, home sales are way up, with 75 Muirfield homes sold since the first of the year in 2012. This is in comparison to 56 homes sold in the same period last year, a jump of 34%. As of August 31, the inventory of homes for sale here in Muirfield is down to 36 single-family and 7 attached/condo homes. The average sale price is \$383,000, down 3% from last year. However, with inventory low and demand up, prices should soon follow.

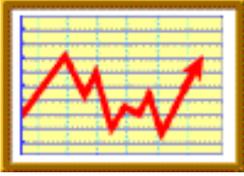
Muirfield Village is doing better than the rest of the area. According to the Columbus Board of Realtors®, the number of homes sold this year in central Ohio hit its highest point since 2007, with home sales between January and July about 11% ahead of last year. In Dublin as a whole, sales are up nearly 27%. All of this is good news for those selling or considering doing so and good news for the rest of us as we consider the large investments we have in our homes.

According to Paula Linehan, a Muirfield resident and Realtor who also is a member of the Muirfield Association Board of Directors, "We are at the beginning of a Golden Age of Real Estate." Paula stated, "Mortgage rates are hovering around 3.5% to 3.75% allowing many to enter the housing market for the first time. People selling entry level homes move up. This benefits Muirfield homes, that are often the second or third tier home purchased. In recent months a few Muirfield homes have sold before the sign went up in the yard, and a couple went for above the listing price as a bidding war developed." According to Paula and other Realtors selling in this area, Muirfield Village is the premier community in Central Ohio. It has name recognition, pools, 29 miles of pathways, playgrounds, solid design control standards & great community landscaping.

Read more on page 5...



According to Paula, the best way to ensure that our Muirfield home values increase is for each of us to make the needed updates and improvements to our homes. “Don’t wait until you are ready to sell to make these changes, make your updates and enjoy them for a time!” She says. “Look at your landscape and curb appeal, consider the updates buyers want, do them now and get personal benefit from them.”



Local realtors also report that 25% of all sales today are made by investors. The astute have recognized that prices are lower than they have ever been and, more importantly, interest rates are the lowest in 50 years. Some parents and grandparents, disappointed by their current investments, have begun buying a rental property for each of their children or grandchildren to pay for their college education. “What other investment can you buy for just 20% of its total value (the down payment) and have someone else (the renter) pay the remaining 80% for you?” she asks. The consensus among the realtors interviewed for this article: the real estate market has bottomed and is moving in the right direction, especially for Muirfield homes!

WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH THE BUCKNER FARM?

The Buckner Farm is the 11+ acre property in the center of Muirfield, off of Drake Road, north of Carnoustie Drive. It has a dilapidated house and outbuilding on it, fenced with barbed wire and visible from Muirfield paths. Everett Buckner, now deceased, was approached to sell his land when Muirfield Village was first being developed, but he wanted to stay where he was, so Muirfield Village was built around him. In his later years and again following his death, the property has been on the market. The Civic Action Committee (CAC) of the Muirfield Village Civic Association had long urged the Dublin Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to identify this in the Dublin Community Plan as desirable for parkland, and the CAC strongly advocated with City Council and the City Manager that this acreage be turned into a passive park “We pointed out that finding a 12 acre parcel with a creek and mature trees up for sale in the middle of a residential area was a rare find,” said Bob Fathman, a member or the Muirfield Board of Directors and Chair of the CAC. “We lobbied for the past few years to have this made into a Dublin City Park, but that was not accepted.” At one point it was considered as a site for the new Dublin Water Tower under construction behind the Bogey Inn.

As the price gradually fell, several developers became interested, with one backing away earlier this year when confronted with the restrictions imposed by city planning and zoning requirements. Currently, developer Bill Adams has it under option and he has already presented a concept plan at an informal hearing with Dublin’s Planning and Zoning Committee. Over 80 residents attended as he presented a plan to build 24 single-family homes with a greenbelt of common ground insulating it from surrounding Muirfield homes. Adams has said he wants it to become part of Muirfield Village, with homes built consistent with Muirfield’s design control standards. Residents and P & Z members expressed concerns about water runoff management, density of houses, garage sizes and appearance. Staff expressed concern about cul-de-sac turning radii needed for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Adams has re-worked his plan to address those concerns, and has requested to meet with the Muirfield Design Control Committee and Board of Directors, prior to returning to Dublin’s Planning and Zoning Committee for a more formal hearing. *Read more on page 6...*

Any plan would also require approval of City Council. The revised plan has only 19 lots instead of 24, with two “detention” areas to handle rain runoff from roads, drives and roofs, designed to slow movement of water into the stream. There is a 50 foot wide preservation buffer on the north edge of the parcel, a 50 foot wide preservation buffer to the east, and a 30 foot wide preservation buffer on the south edge, plus reserve areas within the development. The plan will be reviewed by the Board of Directors at their next meeting. We will keep residents apprised of public input opportunities before the Planning & Zoning meeting when the plans are submitted for their review. *Submitted by Bob Fathman, Muirfield Board of Director & CAC Chair*

MUIRFIELD VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB REPORT

The year of 2012 has been a most rewarding year for the Muirfield Garden Club! They spent their year learning new things associated with gardening, helping those in need and socializing with each other. This year they received an award in Horticultural/Environmental Education from the Garden Clubs of Ohio for their last 5 years of assistance to the Marysville Reformatory for Women. They contributed money to the program to buy seeds, plants, containers, soil and more. The group taught classes on flower arranging as well as giving ongoing support to the program to promote the knowledge and love of gardening. The reward received from helping with this program has been very fulfilling.



The Garden Club year started off in March with a wonderful pot luck luncheon at President, Kathi Siegel's home. The food brought by the members was better than you could ever get elsewhere. April brought a garden lesson in color and sequencing of perennials at the home of Peggy Pace. In May, they took a tour of the MJ Landscape Design Center in Plain City. Their hospitality was much appreciated as they gave the visitors garden gloves and great refreshments. Their designs and garden are amazing! In June, a group went to the Schnormeier Garden in Gambier Ohio for a rewarding visit and tour. Also in June, the author of "Trees", Scott Zanon, spoke to the group and answered questions. July took them to the home of Bill and Gail Johannes of Marble Cliff to explore and learn about their specialized Day Lily gardens. They have over 500 catalogued varieties which amazed everyone on the trip. In August, they had a fabulous luncheon at Gina Fathman's beautifully renovated home, which had been devastated by lightning in 2011. Along with the luncheon and a talk about the updates of the Women's Reformatory, the group also toured members' gardens. September will bring a special tour of the Wilds in Cumberland Ohio, and in October, the topic will be "Good Nature Organic Lawn Care" with Matt Cellura. In November, the group will make holiday decorations with Lynn Fronk of the *Creative Arrangers* at the Dublin Library. A Holiday Luncheon at Mary Kelley's Restaurant in Dublin will round out their year.

Membership in the garden club is limited, but due to a few relocations, there are a handful of openings. If interested, contact Membership Chair, Gina Fathman at 798-0031, or email her at ginafathman@yahoo.com. All you need to join is an interest in garden-related topics, fun field trips and an interest in meeting new people!

Submitted by Gayle Scrase, Muirfield Village Garden Club member.

SURVEY RESULTS

The Board of Directors is very pleased to present the results of the summer 2012 survey that was sent to all residents who've provided email addresses to the Association. Of the 2,100+ surveys emailed, over 766 residents responded, commenting on areas from quality of life, landscape enhancements, pool operations to pathway conditions and tree replacement. All areas of the survey showed *GOOD* ratings with at least 3 stars out of a possible 4. The Board of Directors thanks those residents who took time to answer the questions and sharing their ideas and suggestions to make Muirfield Village even better!

2012 Summer Survey Summary

Showing Categories and Scores with possibility of 4 Stars as Excellent:

Quality of Life 3.74 stars out of 4	Common Grounds Appearance 3.50 stars out of 4	Neighborhood Appearance 3.35 stars out of 4
Website Appearance 3.13 stars out of 4	Condition of Glick Pool 3.34 stars out of 4	Condition of Holbrook Pool 3.37 stars out of 4
Landscape Enhancement at Entrances	Condition of Glick Playground 3.40 stars out of 4	Condition of Holbrook Playground 3.46 stars out of 4
Condition of Glick Tennis Courts 3.14 stars out of 4		Condition of Holbrook Tennis Courts 3.2 stars out of 4
Overall Funds Prioritization Rating: 1st Pools 29.9% 2nd Pathways 26.2% 3rd Tree Replacement 24.6%		
<p>Overall View of Association Amenities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76.3% agree that adequate funds are allocated for path maintenance • 55.8% agree that adequate funds are allocated for tree replacement • 40.8% agree that Glick Pool should open at 10 am • 34.7% agree that Glick Pool should open at 11 am • 24.5% agree that Glick Pool should open at 12 pm • 41.5% agree that Holbrook Pool should open at 10 am • 33.8% agree that Holbrook Pool should open at 11 am • 24.7% agree that Holbrook Pool should open at 12 pm • 64.8% agree there is not enough shade at the Pools • 53.3% agree that music should not be played over loud speaker at Pools • 71.9% agree they did not know the Holbrook Sprayground is open daily through the summer from 9 am to 9 pm 		

Thanks again to all who participated in the survey! The Board of Directors and the Grounds & Facilities Committee are reviewing all comments returned with the surveys. The comments are being prioritized and improvements will be made wherever possible. The Board is working toward the best quality of life for Muirfield residents, and your valued input makes that possible. They are always open to your thoughts, suggestions and comments throughout the year. Please feel free to contact them at the Association office by phone, mail or through the website.