

**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 68

TENNIS PRO NAMED FOR 2012 SEASON



our former tennis pro, Rebecca Hancart, who left the central Ohio area due to her husbands' job transfer.

Keith has been a Director of Tennis with the USPTA for over twenty years, winning Tester of the Year in 1996 and collecting the Fay Tooley Award, presented to midwest members who have done the most to promote the USPTA and tennis in general.

Keith comes to Muirfield Association with 25 years coaching experience and is certified by

the United States Professional Tennis Association at the Professional 1 Level. His training has produced 13 nationally ranked players who have all played Division I college tennis. Prior to his teaching career, Keith played and trained at the world famous Nick Bollettieri Tennis Academy and played on the Fisher European Tour.

Details of the Association's tennis program will be sent to all residents in late March. If you have questions for Keith or are interested in taking winter indoor lessons, give him a call at The Player's Tennis Club, (614) 529-0030 or email at khaigh1@hotmail.com.

The Association is pleased to announce that Keith Haigh has been hired as the Association's Tennis Pro for 2012. Keith comes highly recommended by

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF AT MUIRFIELD ASSOCIATION!



Holiday lights are hanging in the trees, around the gazebo and across the bridge at the Holbrook Recreation Complex along Muirfield Drive. The trees at the Brand Road entry are also adorned with holiday sparkle. Association maintenance staff spent several days hanging over 21,500 twinkling, white lights to brighten the season and offer warm holiday greetings to our residents and visitors.

We wish you best wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday season!

Residents are reminded they may decorate the exterior of their homes with tasteful holiday decorations. Inflatable decorations are prohibited. Please remember that decorations and lighting may be installed one month before the holiday and must be removed within two weeks following the holiday.

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 everyone enjoys the Holiday Season and can spend some quality time with family and friends. During the Holidays, the trustees have been enjoying the traditional get-togethers and parties; however we were also forced to address one of the most challenging issues the Association has ever faced.

To digress briefly...I believe parenting resembles career progression. As my wife and I started a family, our young children required a significant amount of work such as feeding them, changing their diapers, and getting them dressed on multiple occasions day to day. Accordingly, I started my first job by doing the entry-level responsibilities that were labor intensive but not extremely complicated nor risky. As my kids have grown, the day-to-day has become less work-intensive, but the decisions my wife and I are making for them gets more important and difficult. I would not consider my job without work-intensive tasks, but the decisions that I now make are much more risky and complicated than earlier in my career. I, like most of you, approach tough decisions by evaluating the pros and cons and asking others for advice.

I have been a Muirfield Association trustee for several years and each year has brought unique challenges, but 2011 has been the most difficult yet. My fellow trustees and I had to make a difficult decision this year after discovering the average home values in Delaware and Franklin County were going to decrease by 10 percent. The Association's revenue is directly tied to our County-appraised values. As a result, we were facing a situation that has never happened in almost 40 years of Muirfield's existence. We had our GM analyze the financial impacts, develop a budget (based on the new numbers) and offer us a menu of options to decrease our expenses again. Due to the decreased home values, the estimated and corresponding decrease in revenue was roughly \$175,000 annually. *"Do we cut services, such as close one pool altogether and cut out flowers, or do we find a way to keep the services we offer now by finding a way to make up for the projected revenue decrease?"*

Another \$175,000 revenue decrease is simply too severe, and we cannot maintain the quality that the Board and our residents expect. Costs continue to rise especially for gasoline and lawn chemicals. Even though our annual revenues are \$1.8 million, our budget has remained flat (due to no increases in revenue) for the last 6-7 years resulting in our focus on cutting expenses. Basically, we needed to find more options to be fiscally responsible without decreasing the quality offered currently.

The Board evaluated the pros and cons and tried to gather feedback through neighbors, friends and local civic organizations. We also sought advice from our legal counsel, so we addressed the processes to adjust the assessment properly. After much deliberation and thought, we decided to raise the annual assessment by \$.25. It was a majority Board vote. The new annual assessment will be \$2.25 instead of \$2.00 per \$1,000 of your home's appraised value. **For those of you whose homes did in fact decrease in appraised value, you may pay less or relatively the same compared to your total assessment previously.** Please note that this adjustment can be changed after 12 months or when the next County appraisal occurs.

We will continue to manage the finances closely and offer continuous improvements. It is the Board's goal to maintain Muirfield's special qualities, which make it one of the most unique planned communities in the country.

Thanks for your support and understanding.

Jeff



What I like about living in Muirfield ...

Twenty years ago when my wife and I decided to build a home, there was no question about where we wanted to live. Muirfield has so many amenities that appealed to us: the two sets of lighted tennis courts, with leagues and a pro; the two heated pools; the 29 miles of recreational pathways through woods, past lakes, skirting the golf courses, tunneled under roads; playsets for children and grandchildren, a nature preserve, basketball court, and even a six-hole walk-on golf course park anyone can use, “Smuirfield.” We and our kids (three of the four were still at home when we moved here] used these then or use them now with our grandchildren. The garden-like beauty of the trees, median strip, flowers, stone signs, many ponds, the gazebos – all of the esthetics of the place complimented the amenities, and told us it was well planned, well maintained, kept a high standard, and our house would be a solid investment.



Article by: Bob Fathman

Board of Trustee Member

We quickly found that an even more important part of enjoying our life here are the people, the many Muirfield folks we have met who have become our friends. We are immersed in a community of people who care about each other and their city, who are intelligent, respectful of differing beliefs, and just plain fun to hang with, drink a beer and watch an OSU game. We belong to the Muirfield Village Civic Association, and participate now in many of the “Empty Nester” organized social activities. Residents of Muirfield have helped each other find jobs or furnish kid apartments with used furniture. Neighbors mow lawns and bring in papers for folks away or unable. We buy candy to support school fundraisers, take food to the homes of new moms and dads or those coming out of the hospital. We divide our flowers to share with others and help them get planted.

Someone once asked me, “Bob, where will you move when you retire?” I replied, after a stunned moment, “Do I have to move? Is that written down somewhere? Why would we move – we feel like we live in a resort, a resort full of friendly people.” Muirfield is an amazing place. We have lived in other states and localities, but this is far and away the best!





COWBOYS AND ARCHITECTS

Article By: Rich Taylor, Association's Architect



I read an interesting article yesterday, written by a builder. It was about how you must hire your builder *before* you hire your Architect, 'cause Architects don't know nothin' about building. Whoa, cowboy. Hold on there, pardner. That ain't the way the West was won.

Nothin' against builders, mind you. Lotta good ones out there. But let's be clear as a spring-time morning in the Rockies: Architects *design*, builders *build*. Now if this builder's just a bit confused about the roles we all play in the design and building process, I understand. The picture has gotten a little muddy lately and frankly, Architects are partly to blame.

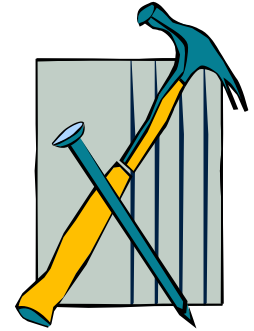
Yessir, us Architects used to wear the chaps and spurs when it came to wrasslin' with pencil and paper. But then we started forgettin' our trail manners. Got out there ahead of the herd a little. Left the barn door open. And before we knew it, the builders had lassoed some of the Architect's clients and ridden off into the sunset. Good for the builder; bad for the Architect! **And bad for the client.** The writer of the article I mentioned above was used to working with Architects who did little more for the client than "draw plans". Not surprisingly, those plans probably didn't come close to addressing all the needs of the client, leaving the builder to fill in the gaps.

And that's no one's fault but the Architect's, since his job is to find out about all those needs and then design a project that satisfies them in creative ways. Architectural services are supposed to start way before the drawing begins, with detailed discussions about the project and detailed study of the building site. A lot of back-and-forth at this early stage helps make sure the client and Architect understand each other before any design work is committed to paper. It takes time, but it's time extremely well spent – something much harder to do when you're focused solely on getting to the construction stage.

Great projects begin and end with unique creation; whether that's unique Architecture, unique problem-solving, or the requirements of a unique client (aren't they all?). And unique creation is what Architects do best. Yep, we want to see the project built – after all, that's why we're all in this business. And yep, we want to see it built on time and on budget – that's as much a part of "unique creation" as the Architectural design. But it's in our client's best interest to work out all the possibilities and problems on paper before we commit to bricks and mortar. That's tough, I know, for a guy who wants to build first and ask questions later. So holster that nail gun, pardner, and sit tight...your turn is coming.

I reckon you've figured out by now that I got me a dog in this fight. I run a Residential Architecture firm and our clients hire us for much more than just "plans". We do what an Architectural firm is supposed to do: manage the entire project for the client including site selection, Architectural design, Interior design, and budgeting. We help our clients choose quality contractors to bid on the project, then thoroughly analyze the bids when they're submitted. We recommend the bid with the best value to our clients. We help them scrutinize the builder's contract and proposed schedule. And then, when every option's been explored, when every decision's been made - we let the builder build.

I'll give credit to the builder who wrote that article – he's trying to turn a problem into a business opportunity for himself – he'd prefer not to have to wait on the often time-consuming and sometimes expensive design process before he can get his hands on the project. If you ask him, he'll tell you he can design it for you. But that shortcuts a well-understood and well-regarded process that recognizes the appropriate roles of the Architect and builder, a process that recognizes the strengths of each, and more importantly, allows both to work together to accomplish the client's goals: getting a well-designed project, built by skilled craftsmen, for a reasonable price. So what's all this talkin' mean, out there on the range?



Builders, find better Architects. Find Architects that understand and respect your role, and make sure you understand and respect theirs. Realize that properly delivered Architectural services are much more than “drawing plans”; can save you time and effort; and will let you focus on what you do best.



Architects – offer and deliver all the services you're trained to. Recognize that designing a home or remodeling is an intensely personal experience for your clients, and that they deserve your full attention throughout the project. Help your clients find the best builders available, and give them great projects to build.

And Homeowners – don't be tempted by what sounds like a shortcut to get your project done faster and cheaper; get the right professional to design your project, and he'll help you get the right professional to build it.

'Cause you can put yer boots in the oven, pardner, but that don't make 'em biscuits!

EMAIL ADDRESSES BEING COLLECTED

The Association office is collecting email addresses of our residents. Whenever you submit a request or send a communication to the office, please include your email address. If you want separate emails for other family members, please indicate primary and secondary email address. At this time, we have the capability of storing two email addresses per family. You can use the association's website to get your email

address to us. Just go to www.muirfieldassociation.com use the 'Contact Us' drop-down box and insert your email information. This is voluntary; we encourage you to participate, but it is your decision whether to be included in the alert system.

Getting timely information to you will take a step forward as email addresses and secondary phone numbers are gathered. The trustees hope this added service benefits our residents; they are committed to finding practical ways

we can improve service to our residents and provide quality care to our community.

REMINDER

The association pathways will not be cleared of snow or ice during the winter months. They are designated as private, recreational, good-weather paths.

Parents are advised to dress children appropriately when using the paths for travel to and from school in inclement weather.





2012 MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT HONOREE

May 28 through June 3, 2012 has been selected as the dates for the 2012 Memorial Tournament. The Honoree this year will be Tom Watson.

Watson is tied for ninth all-time on the PGA Tour with 39 victories. Watson won the Memorial Tournament in 1979 and 1996, joining Tournament founder and host Jack Nicklaus as a two-time winner.

In 2009, nearing his 60th birthday, the five-time Open Champion almost rewrote the record books when he tied for first after 72 holes in the Open Championship at Turnberry. Although he lost in a four-hole playoff to

Stewart Cink, Watson mesmerized a worldwide audience with his stunning heroics and his gracious sportsmanship.

Watson's respect of the game and its traditions began when he was introduced to the game by his father at age six. Watson joined the PGA Tour in 1971 and won his first tournament, the Western Open, in 1974. Watson captured the first of his eight majors at the '75 British Open at Carnoustie in a playoff win over Jack Newton.

Throughout his career, Watson has been a respected sportsman and ambassador for the sport. He was elected to the PGA World Golf Hall of Fame in 1988 and later

selected to the Memorial Tournament's Captains Club in 2009.

This year's Journalism honoree is Bob Verdi. The Journalism Award will be presented to Bob during the 3:00 pm Memorial Honoree Ceremony, Tuesday May 29th.

The Memorial Golf Journalism Award was created to honor and pay tribute to golf journalists who have served their profession with conspicuous honor and made a major contribution and impact on golf journalism. Each year's recipient is chosen by a highly esteemed panel of American and British golf journalists.



Closer than You Think: The 2013 Presidents Cup

Muirfield Village Golf Club has partnered with the PGA TOUR and other participating World Golf Tours to host The 2013 Presidents Cup. Scheduled for September 30 – October 6, the event will cast an international spotlight on central Ohio, reaching 200 countries and 600 million television viewers, not to mention the thousands anticipated in attendance from all corners of the globe.

The Presidents Cup golf competition showcases 24 of the world's best golfers through two teams comprised of 12 members from the United States and 12 International members from all countries except Europe.

Since its inception the event has been staged eight times. Dublin, Ohio, is the third U.S. host location, after Washington D.C. and San Francisco.

With such an incredible foundation and exciting history, The 2013 Presidents Cup will

attract a sell-out crowd. Tickets will be available to the public beginning Summer 2012.

However, as Muirfield Village Golf Club is also home to Jack Nicklaus' annual Memorial Tournament, patrons of the 2012 Memorial Tournament will have the first opportunity for tickets to the 2013 Presidents Cup. Contact the Muirfield Village Golf Club, 889-6700 or check their website at: www.thememorialtournament.com for more information.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED?

The Nominating Committee is accepting names in consideration for nomination to the Board of Trustees and Grounds & Facilities Committee.

Members of the Board of Trustees are responsible for setting policies pertaining to the Muirfield Warranty Deed and Articles of Incorporation. They approve the annual operating budget and capital expenditures. The Board of Trustees meets at 4:30 p.m., at the Association office, on the second Wednesday of every other month. This year, three members will be elected to serve three-year terms.

The Grounds & Facilities Committee, made up of nine members, serve as liaisons to the Board of Trustees. This committee was developed to gather recommendations and make suggestions to the Board of Trustees pertaining to the maintenance of pathways, landscaping, lakes and capital projects for the common areas as well as making recommendations pertaining to the rules, maintenance, safety, programs and capital projects for the pool and tennis facilities. Committee members meet with the General Manager at the Association office on the last Monday of every other month at 5:30 p.m. The Chairman of the committee will present a report at the Board of Trustee meetings. This year, three members will be elected to serve three-year terms.

Deadline for returning the application is March 1st. If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please fill out the form below and mail (or email) it to a member of the Nominating Committee.

Nominating Committee members are:

Diana Evans, 6020 Springburn Dr., Dublin, OH 43017 dievans2002@yahoo.com

John Reiner, 8977 Turin Hill Ct. N., Dublin, OH 43017 jreiner859@aol.com

Warren Fishman, 8577 Turnberry Ct., Dublin, OH 43017 wfishman@columbus.rr.com

To: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I am interested in serving on the _____ Board of Trustees

_____ Grounds & Facilities Committee

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____ LOT # _____

On a separate sheet of paper, briefly introduce yourself to the residents of Muirfield Village and describe why you want to serve. Explain briefly what direction you see the Association going concerning amenities, capital improvement projects and fiscal perspectives in the coming years.

(Selection of nominees is at the discretion of the Nominating Committee. Any resident delinquent in paying their Muirfield assessment or having an outstanding deed violation cannot be considered for a position on the Board of Trustees or Grounds & Facilities Committee).