



Holiday Calendar

Does A Little Someone Call You "Mom"?

If so, then Madeira Moms is for you! Mothers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers are invited to join this friendly group for weekly playgroups, monthly moms' nights out, monthly kids' activities and the friendship and fun of fellow moms. Contact Pam Kaising at 793-2405 for membership information. New members are welcome year-round!

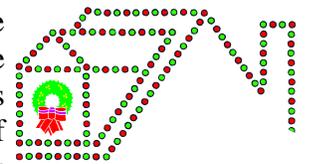


Letters to Santa's. From November 23rd to December 9th boys and girls can drop a letter in the "Santa Mailbox" located in the parking lot of the municipal building. Be sure to tell Santa how good you've been and let him know what you're hoping to find under the tree when you get up on Christmas morning. Santa answers all letters so be sure to include your name and address.

Holiday Walk & Light Up Madeira. The annual Holiday Walk will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. The Madeira Chamber of Commerce sponsors this event and will host a variety of fun events including free horse and carriage rides, free ornament decorating, holiday card making, a barbershop quartet and Santa.

The annual Light Up Madeira ceremony will immediately follow the day's activities at 6:00 p.m. at the Millennium Fountain Plaza. The lighting of the giant Blue Spruce marks the beginning of the holiday season. The evening's ceremony will include a variety of holiday music.

Home Decorating Contest. The Madeira Woman's Club will be judging residential holiday decorations throughout Madeira during the week of December 4th. Categories are *True Holiday Spirit, Holiday Fantasy and Beauty & Elegance of the Season*. Participants should have their decorations up and their lights on in the evening during this time. Winners of the contest will be honored at the city council meeting on January 9th.



St. Nicholas Sleigh Ride. St. Nicholas will be visiting Madeira on Monday, December 5th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Look for posted signs in your neighborhood for the times St. Nicholas will be in your area. (See schedule on page 7.)

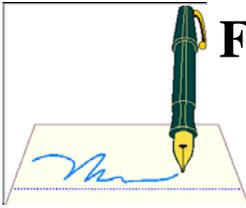


Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the municipal building on Saturday, December 10th from 10-2. Come share your holiday wishes and have your picture taken with Santa. Cost of picture with Santa is \$5.



Madeira Walking Club

Madeira Parks and Recreation Board has started a Walking Club. The club provides an opportunity for young and old to become more active within the community. The walking club will meet on Saturday mornings at the municipal building at 8:30 a.m. and walk different routes around Madeira. Currently we will have routes ranging from 1 mile to 4 miles all led by different individuals. On the second Saturday of each month we will have a guest speaker who will provide information about the importance of exercise. Our first speaker will be Matt Finke DC, a local chiropractor who will speak about proper techniques to gain the most out of walking. He will also discuss using a pedometer to meet your goals. We invite everyone to come out and join was for a fun Saturday walk.



From the Desk of the City Manager

Many thanks to everyone who emailed and called us with comments and suggestions regarding the city's budget issues. I know I speak for all of City Council in saying that it is very gratifying to hear such positive and productive comments from our residents on such important matters. We live in one of the best communities in the Greater Cincinnati area in large part because of your interest and involvement toward the city government and local schools. We will continue to do our best in keeping Madeira a wonderful community in which to live, work and play.

Please join me in welcoming some new (and not so new) faces to City Council this December. Former Mayor (1993-1995) and council member Rick Staubach is returning after leaving council in 2001. Tim Dicke and Rick Brasington will be filling the other two open positions. Many of you know Tim as the current president of the Madeira Youth Soccer Association. Tim formerly served on the City's Recreation and Parks Board. Rick Brasington currently serves on the city's Planning Commission. He served as its chairman from 2001 to 2002. All of our new council members have significant experience with and knowledge of the city. Along with our council incumbents, they will continue the tradition of providing for the needs our community.

On to other matters! Fall is here and winter is soon upon us. Below is some helpful information about what to expect with services this year.

Leaf Collection Program. The annual leaf collection service is in high gear and will continue operation until the end of December. As noted in previous newsletter articles, the Service Department takes great pride in doing a good job with the program because they realize how important this service is to you. But, despite their best efforts, we sometimes fall behind the published schedule because of several factors including weather, the quantity of leaves at the curb and equipment repairs. As we have stated in the past, we will do our best to stay on the published schedule and collect the leaves as quickly as possible. For updated schedule information, please call the municipal building at 561-7228.

Snow Removal Service. For those of you who have followed my articles over the past 16+ years, you know I really do not like when it snows! But, despite my feelings (with apologies to those of you who do like the cold and snow) winter is fast approaching and it's time to start preparing for the white stuff. We recently purchased a used two ton dump truck from Columbia Township to assist us with snow removal. As well, the salt dome is filled and ready to go. *Side Note: We are paying \$15/ton more for salt this year. This translates into an additional cost of \$12,000+ if we use the same amount of salt as we did last year!* Here is some helpful information regarding the city's snow removal service:

- When a snow storm is predicted, please try to remove your parked car from the street as soon as possible. Cars parked on the street present a significant problem for our plow/salt truck drivers for several reasons. First, it takes longer to plow a street when the trucks have to weave through parked vehicles. The longer it takes us to do one street, the longer it will take us to remove the snow from all streets. You can help us tremendously by parking your car in your driveway until the snow removal operation has been finished. As well, parked cars make it impossible to remove all of the snow from the street. This can create dangerous and icy conditions on the pavement later in the day. Finally, cars parked on the street are susceptible to damage from salt thrown from the trucks. The city accepts no responsibility or liability for this kind of damage.
- Different snow storms present different challenges to the road crews. Last year's mini blizzard over the holidays is a perfect example of this. Some snow storms are easier to handle than others, depending on temperature, wind, duration and other weather conditions. A 6" snow fall with temperatures in the upper 20's or low 30's can be removed much easier than a 2" snowfall which

occurs when the temperature is below 15 degrees. Sometimes we see freezing rain, which can present its own problems. A snow storm which occurs during rush hour is much more difficult to treat than one which occurs late in the evening because our trucks are delayed in the same traffic with everyone else.

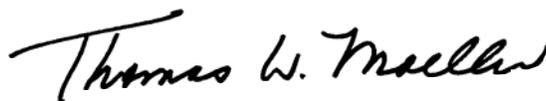
Each storm requires a different strategy depending upon weather, time of day and duration of the storm. We have 6 plow/salt trucks to cover 48 lane miles of road and 6 employees to operate those vehicles. Generally, this is more than sufficient to effectively remove most snowfalls. Some short duration snow events allow us to put all 6 vehicles on the streets at the same time. However, when a storm is predicted to last for an extended period of time, we must divide into 3 employee/12 hour shifts to keep the main roads passable for emergency Fire/EMS equipment. This reduces our ability to get into the secondary and residential streets as quickly as we would like. Again, the Service Department takes great pride in getting the roads cleared as quickly as possible. They understand your desire to receive good service and they get just as frustrated when they cannot make it happen. Our policy continues to be to clear the snow from curb to curb as quickly as possible.

- **Driveways.** This is one of those re-occurring problems for which there is no reasonable solution. During a moderate to heavy snowfall, the plows will push snow in front of driveways creating a large “ridge” of the white stuff. Unfortunately, there is no feasible way we can keep the driveways unblocked. In cul-de-sacs, we will do everything we can to keep as much snow from the driveways by backing into the drives and pushing the snow out toward the center of the street.
- **Snow Routes.** Snow removal strategies include planning the routes for the trucks. Crews concentrate on the main roads first (Kenwood, Miami, Euclid, East Galbraith, Shawnee Run, Camargo and Dawson), with special emphasis given to steep hills and other dangerous areas. When these routes are sufficiently clear, we will then move into the subdivisions and begin clearing the secondary streets. As always, we ask for your patience.

Questions regarding the snow removal service can be addressed to the City Manager’s Office at 561-7228.

Budget News. We received some positive news over the past month with respect to the 2005 Budget. A sizeable estate tax settlement and some additional one-time revenue in the General Fund will help to reduce the amount of the anticipated deficit for this year. As well, we have continued to reduce spending as much as possible without affecting basic services. What does this mean? While we will retain some of the General Fund Reserve which we had predicted would be further reduced by the beginning of 2006, the long term trends still show significant revenue reductions. City Council will need to finalize a strategy to off-set those losses. By the time you receive this edition of the newsletter, council will have decided if any further action will be taken for the 2006 Budget.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT THE CITY OF MADEIRA!



Thomas W. Moeller
City Manager

Ads



2005 Beautify Madeira Awards

Residential Winners

Green Thumb Award

Dominick & Sandra Ciolino, 6889 Dawson Road

Creative Gardener Award

Rick Hemmert & Ann Fogel, 6298 Kaywood Drive

Landscaped Perfection Award

Lawrence & Carol Meyer, 6314 Maplespur

Best Site Improvement Award

Chris & Jill Benintendi, 7034 Dawson Road

Most Innovative Award

Christian & Amy Strand, 7100 Wallace Avenue

Best Architectural Improvement Award

Craig & Sarah McKay, 7045 Euclid Avenue

Commercial Winners

Garden Landscape Award

Kenwood Country Club, 6501 Kenwood Road

Best Site Improvement Award

The Laurel House, 7801 Laurel Avenue

Architectural Excellence Award

The Laurel House, 7801 Laurel Avenue

Other

Community Service Award

Thomas Agran for the McDonald Commons Mural

Best of Madeira Award

Dave & Cheryl Harmes, 7440 S. Mingo Lane

Property Maintenance Award

Bob & Barb Kerns, 8135 Maxfield Lane

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated in the nomination process. The winners were recognized at the September 26th city council meeting. We especially want to thank the judges (Sharon Maiman, Nancy King, Forrest Atkins, Mary Lou DeMar, Sharon Fox and Tammy Schlagbaum) for the time they spent visiting and carefully considering all the nominated properties.

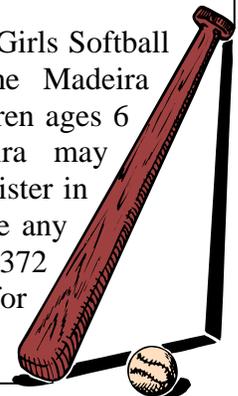
Until next year!



When walking your pet, remember to be considerate of other people and their property. Please be sure to clean up after your animal.

2006 Baseball and Softball Registration

Registration for Knothole Baseball and Girls Softball will take place on December 3rd at the Madeira Municipal Building from 1-4 p.m. All children ages 6 and older that are residents of Madeira may participate. This will be the only time to register in person for the upcoming season. If you have any questions, please call Tom Smith at 791-6372 for baseball or Ken Jones at 561-2456 for softball.



Ads



St. Nicholas Sleigh Ride Route & Times

Mapleridge & Kenwood Hills	5:00
Kenwood & Cherokee	5:15
Navaho & Apache Circle	5:30
Rosecrest	5:45
Pineneedle & Juniperview	6:00
Summit & Laurel	6:15
Mayfield & Southside	6:25
Fowler & Mar Del	6:35
Miami Hills & Timberlanes	6:50
South Mingo & Shewango	7:05
Greenbriar & Mapleleaf	7:25
Madeira Elementary	7:30
Thomas & Dee	8:00
Berwood & Homart	8:15
Sanoma & Iuka	8:30
Maxfield & Longfield	8:45
Municipal Building	9:00



Madeira Kindervelt # 2 Shop 'til You Drop



A Madeira Kindervelt group, which raises funds for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, is hosting a Shop 'til You Drop event on Wednesday, November 9th from 7-10 p.m. at the St. Gertrude parish center lobby. The cost is \$10 per person which includes entrance into drawings which will take place all evening.

Various vendors include Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, 3 Women Knitting, two different purse vendors, Ute's Unique Jewelry, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Discovery Toys just to name a few.

Get some of your holiday shopping finished and have fun while helping to raise funds for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

For more information on this event please call Martha at 527-4760.

For Kindervelt membership information please check out www.kindervelt.org.

Veterans Memorial Bricks



Paver bricks honoring ALL those who served and are currently serving are available for \$50, which includes name, branch of service and service dates/war of the veteran.

3 LINES 14 CHARACTERS PER LINE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS
Each letter, punctuation mark and space between counts as one character.

Veteran's Name _____

Branch of Service _____

Service Dates/War _____

Please make checks payable to Madeira Veterans Memorial and mail with this form to:
 Madeira Veterans Memorial, Madeira Municipal Building, 7141 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Name of contributor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

***Thank you for supporting this community project.
 Personalized certificate for gift giving available (will be mailed to address on the form).***

Volunteers Needed SAVE McDONALD COMMONS!

Is your group looking for a hands-on activity for young people? Would a student in your family like to fulfill a community service requirement in the outdoors? Do your scouts need an activity that can help them meet requirements for merit badges (forestry, plant science, environmental science)? Would you like an activity that has useful roles for both young people and for adults? Do you have an advanced scout who is looking for an Eagle Scout project?

The Madeira Parks and Recreation Board has approved a program to begin immediately to control Amur Honeysuckle, an invasive alien shrub that is taking over wooded land and hillsides throughout Madeira and much of southwest Ohio.

Volunteers are needed this fall to remove some of the bushes. Young people could pull up or dig out small plants. Adults or older teens would be needed to cut down the larger bushes and apply herbicide. The best time to do this is now.

We also plan to protect seedlings and saplings from deer damage by installing protective barriers around them. We hope to have young people collect seeds from local native trees to scatter in the cleared areas to start new growth.

Carol Scott can speak to your group about this project and how you can help. Please call Carol at 561-6792 or Sharon Maiman at 271-2989 for information.

If you are an Indian Hill Water Works customer and you are going on an extended vacation, you can contact the Indian Hill Water Works billing office to have your water service temporarily discontinued. The Water Works will turn off your service at the street and you will not be charged for water service in your absence. This can also prevent a water leak from occurring while you are away. You or a designee must be there when the water is turned back on. There is no charge for reconnection during business hours, however, customers will be charged for any overtime incurred during non-business hours. The billing office can be contacted at 561-6679.

Fireworks... fun, available, illegal, dangerous



With the July 4th holiday long gone and everyone back to school, it may seem an unlikely time to discuss fireworks, but the issue of neighborhood fireworks received more attention than usual this past year. It seems media advertising reminded many that they could buy fireworks and neighborhood displays occurred, irritating neighbors, their pets and exposing the community to the risks posed by casual discharge of fireworks.

Despite the fact the fireworks are enjoyed by most people, citizens should be aware that local and state law tightly regulate the discharge of fireworks in Madeira.

Fireworks were advertised extensively this year. Wholesalers are permitted, for whatever reason, to sell fireworks in Ohio and when purchased, the purchaser indicates he/she will not discharge them in the State of Ohio.

In Madeira, FIREWORKS are defined as rockets, roman candles, bombs, balloons, torpedoes, wheels, fire crackers, blank cartridges, concussion devices, caps or any other substance intended to produce a visible or audible pyrotechnic effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation.

In Madeira, the discharge of such devices must first have the permission of the City Manager and then must have a permit from the Fire Department. A permit requires the duties of a state-licensed pyrotechnician.

Fireworks cause injuries, fires, annoyance and irritation with the enjoyment that they bring. The SPCA reports that more dogs become "lost" over the fourth of July holiday than at any other time of year – scared by fireworks!

Bottom Line – DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS IN MADEIRA WITHOUT A PERMIT IS ILLEGAL.

We thought we'd get the word out early. Enforcement of this law will be more stringent next year. Plan accordingly.

The city-sponsored display is conducted under permit, applying the safety regulations required by law. It is enjoyed by many. Make the city display your neighborhood FIREWORKS event in 2006!

Mayor's Moment

The last 4 months have been particularly busy for the council as we wrestled with our budget issues. We began working on our solution one year ago. The challenge was to balance the needs of all of our residents, as well as the schools and businesses. These issues have been well discussed in newspaper articles and previous editions of the newsletter.

We have had numerous public meetings, additional council meetings, articles and attendance at our regular meetings. We have been fortunate to have volunteers attend our Budget and Finance Committee meetings as well. We have had a lot of positive feedback and good suggestions from our residents. On behalf of the entire City Council, I would like to thank our residents for their input as well as the countless hours put in by our administration on the task. We have been provided with many, many charts and graphs which illustrate our financial position. Their assistance has been invaluable.

Our semi annual election is now behind us and the council will be filling the various committees and positions for the next two years. Our thanks to Rob Steier, Steve Shaw and George Suckarieh, who won't be returning to City Council, for their service to the community.

Our next task is to catch up on the projects which usually occupy our time. The new committees will be getting up to speed. One of our first projects is to define our 2006 Street Program. First we prioritize the streets which need attention, and then budget the repairs. We typically bid the streets in February. An early bid date attracts more competitive bids from the contractors as they scramble to fill up their work schedules for the year.

We were fortunate to receive a grant from the State for a walking trail to be installed at Mc Donald Commons. By us using a small portion of our tax dollars, we were able to leverage our funds into a nice addition to our park. The walking trail will be bid along with the street program. This should allow us to stretch our dollars even further.

The year is going much too quickly, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

David A. Sams
Mayor

Joy to You &
Ours

WANTED... Planning Commission Member

The Madeira City Council is seeking applicants to fill Planning Commission vacancies. The three year terms will begin on January 1, 2006 and end on December 31, 2008. The Planning Commission meets the third Monday of every month. All members of the Planning Commission may also be assigned to committees that pertain to various other development activities (Central Business District, Code Modifications, or Capital Improvements). Qualified applicants, interested in the vacancies, should submit a letter of interest and resume to:

Kimberly Lapensee
Assistant City Manager
City of Madeira
7141 Miami Avenue
Madeira, OH 45243

MEMO

**HOLIDAY
TRASH COLLECTION
SCHEDULE FOR THE
CITY OF MADEIRA**

**Thanksgiving Day
(Thursday)** CSI will run
one day behind. Friday pick
up will remain the same.

**Christmas Day and New
Year's Day** pick up will be
on your normal day.

Community Calendar

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
Santa's Mailbox	November 23rd thru December 9th	Municipal Building Parking Lot
Knothole Baseball Registration Girls Softball Registration	December 3rd 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Community Room (lower level)
Holiday Walk	December 3rd 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Miami Avenue
Light Up Madeira	December 3rd 6:00 p.m.	Millennium Fountain Plaza
Holiday Home Decorating Contest	Judging week of December 4th	See cover for details
St. Nicholas Sleigh Ride	December 5th	See page 7 for schedule
Visit/Pictures with Santa	December 10th 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Municipal Building Lobby
Holiday Tree Recycling	December 26th thru January 22nd	McDonald Commons

