

# *Mantua Matters*

**ISSUE # 50**

**MAY 2012**

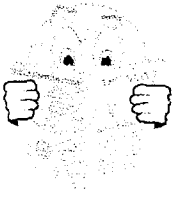
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## *Mantua Village Community News and Information*

**Mantua Matters  
4737 E. High St.  
Mantua, OH 44255**

**Email: [mantuamatters@gmail.com](mailto:mantuamatters@gmail.com)**

# Mantua Matters



## "GREETINGS"

Well, folks, I think that Spring has finally arrived, now that it is almost summer. After a really weird winter, followed by an equally weird spring, who knows what summer will bring. We may have snow in July! This issue covers May, June and July, plus some past events. Please read and enjoy!

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WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO THE AREA OR A LONG-TIME RESIDENT, THESE ARE THE NUMBERS YOU NEED TO KNOW.

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|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <b>EMERGENCY</b> .....   | <b>911</b>     |
| Village Hall.....        | 330-274-8776   |
| Police Department.....   | 330-274-2251   |
| Fire Department.....     | 330-274-3535   |
| Service Department.....  | 330-274-8188   |
| Income Tax.....          | 330-274-8776   |
| Time Warner Cable.....   | 1-800-683-1000 |
| Lodge/Park Rental.....   | 330-274-8776   |
| Water/Sewer Billing..... | 330-274-8188   |
| Mantua Township          |                |
| Marie Stehli.....        | 330-995-2640   |
| Shalersville Township    |                |
| Charles Casalicchio..... | 330-274-3655   |

Zoning

John Vechery.....330-274-8776

Mantua Matters.....330-274-8737

Trash Pickup:J & J Refuse.....800-201-0005 (name has been changed to  
Kimble Companies)

P. C. Recycling.....330-678-8808

Council meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Administration Bldg.

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**"FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK"**

I'm still getting acclimated to being Mayor. I was invited to speak at a breakfast meeting with the Mantua Christian Men's group at the Hilltop Church.

Ben, Michele and I were invited on a tour of the Mantaline plant. It had been years since I was inside. How technology has changed. Mark Trushel, President and Diane Kruis, Director of Operations gave us a business review of what products they produce now. We also talked about some of the changes they will possibly be making in the coming year to make their building more aesthetically pleasing.

Linda Schilling, Ben, Anthony and I have been attending DMRC meetings. There has been much discussion regarding the projects that they want to address next.

We heard from AMATS in February. We've been approved for a TEP grant to put sidewalks south of Compass Packaging in that business district. This has created a lot of enthusiasm within the Village. I think it is great that our community groups are working so well together with Council, especially the DMRC. We will also be looking into a possible grant to tag onto this one to enhance the sidewalks. We have to remember that each of these small projects bring the community together.

I hosted a brunch meeting with AMATS director, Jason Segdey and State Representative Kathleen Clyde along with our Village Administrator Anthony Fiorelli, Rich Iafelice from C.T. Consultants and other citizens who were also present. We

discussed upcoming grant opportunities for the Village.

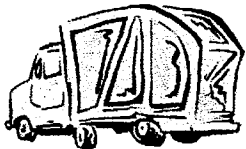
Council approved applying for a DERG grant for a new plow truck. We didn't get it this round. I'll see if Council would entertain trying again in August.

Marty and I met with Atlantic Gardens CEO, Bill Lynne and Jim Mueller who is running for State Senate (District 18). We learned during lunch that Bill thinks the world of Mantua Village and is interested in seeing the Village flourish.

Marty and I also met with Congressman LaTourette and his assistant Dino DiSanto. We talked about getting a priority list in place for grants for projects in the Village. We advised him that we want to continue paving a couple of streets every year and that if we can come up with the matching funds for a grant and get approved, do more than a couple next year. We're still looking for funding for the Mats Road Bridge project.

With this mild weather our Service Department has gotten a head start on grooming the cemetery. It is really shaping up.

One last thing, please remember my door is always open for suggestions and complaints.



## A FOLLOW UP ON RESIDENTIAL SINGLE TRASH HAULER

After June 1<sup>st</sup> the Village will be sending out the first warning letters to the Trash Haulers and Residents that have not yet complied.

Mantua Village voters approved Ordinance 2010-28 on the November 2010 ballot to have a single trash hauler in the Village for residential customers. This ordinance made it mandatory for all residential customers (3units or fewer) to utilize J&J (Kimble Companies) as their trash hauler (if you have rental properties and your renters pay their own trash pickup they must use J&J). The J&J contract went into effect on January 2011.

If you are still using a different carrier, please contact J&J immediately at their toll free number: 1-800-201-0005.

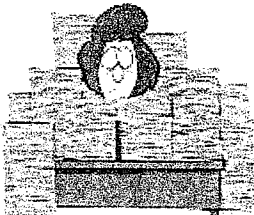
**Residential Rates:**

- Prepaid bag service for low volume users- no monthly fee. Just call J&J for bags purchased in bundles of 10 bags at \$30.00 plus tax. Shipping is free
- Full curbside service without 96 gallon tote- \$41.79 per quarter
- Full side curbside service with 96 gallon tote-\$47.79 per quarter
- Senior full curbside pickup without 96 gallon tote- \$38.55 per quarter
- Senior full curbside pickup with 96 gallon tote-\$44.25 per quarter

Residents that may require a dumpster in a residential area may call J&J for rates.

Our Solicitor reminds us that "All owners and residents of individual residential units, duplexes and triplexes are required to utilize the services of the authorized franchisee for curbside pickup and to make payment to said franchisee under the terms of the contract in effect". Mantua Codified Ordinances section 957.03(b). Any residential customer failing to comply with this section will be subject to a citation and possible fine for a first offense after the warning letters have been sent.

Linda Clark, Mayor  
Village of Mantua



**"A NOTE FROM JENNY"**

I may have jumped the gun when I brewed up some hummingbird food and put our feeder out on April 14<sup>th</sup>, but with the great weather we had, I thought the hummers would come back early. The Village has saved a substantial amount of money on heat this year. I hope you have, too!

Hey! I am heading into my second month of my second term! Thank you voters, for supporting me and giving me another four years to serve my community. I think things are going pretty well. We are very close to being released from Fiscal Watch, and we will continue to keep our spending down as much as possible.

Here are a few financial comparisons that I helped to make happen during my first

term in office from April 2008 through April 2012:

- **Expenses were reduced** - That's great! In 2007 we spent \$2,452,450. In 2011 we spent \$2,043,914.
- -This means we are now spending \$408,536 less each year. That's a lot of fat trimming!
- **The General Fund ended 2007 with a balance of \$-95,726. (Negative!)**  
-In 2011, the General Fund ended with \$32,560.  
-That's not a lot, but at least we are going in the right direction!
- **We trimmed a lot of payroll fat as well.**  
-Payroll in 2007 was \$660,863. This included \$31,112 in overtime.  
-Payroll in 2011 was \$526,436 which included overtime of only \$9,213.  
-We reduced payroll by \$134,427, and in both years had 41 employees. -

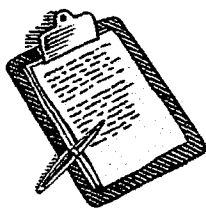
Time management and scheduling can sure make a big difference!

- **Revenues were also reduced.** That's bad! In 2007, our revenues were \$2,365,147. In 2011, we received \$2,088,900 which is \$276,247 less coming in.
- -We have less money to operate now. This is due to a very large business moving to Mexico, and also some residents are still unemployed.

Still awake? Good, I have more exciting news for you. Are you currently renting or paying on a mortgage? If so, I want to tell you that interest rates are incredibly low right now! You can find fixed rates as low as 3.2% with no points or closing costs. Refinancing to an interest rate that is 2- 3% lower can save you over \$100 per month. It is worth the 10 minute telephone application. For renters, there are banks that can get you in a house with less than \$400 down if your credit is good.

Hopefully gas prices will drop so we can take vacations or at least day trips a few times throughout the summer. See you in August!

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## MANTUA POLICE DEPARTMENT YEARLY REPORT - 2011"

The Police Department handled a total of 931 calls during the last year. A few of these are still under investigation, but most have been cleared.

They have dealt with assaults, thefts, phone harassment, criminal damage,

disorderly conduct, accidents, vandalism, drug-related problems, domestic disputes, menacing, and property damage.

There were 56 criminal arrests, 36 accidents, 880 warnings, 459 traffic and parking citations and the cruisers were driven a total of 33,264 miles.

The 36 accidents involved a total of 60 vehicles, 48 vehicles damaged, 9 required towing and there were 3 injuries and no deaths.

Total phone calls handled by the department dispatchers, for police and fire, including 911 calls, for the Village was 6,591. Total calls for Hiram was 2,159. There were 306 mutual aid calls for other departments, plus 47 meetings, training sessions and seminars attended by various officers.

Officer hours worked was 8,1431, Dispatch hours 9,157 . There were 251 motorist and public assists, 75 bar checks, and 1,114 house checks. 90 open doors/windows and 241 suspicious persons/vehicles were investigated. Personnel included 12 full and part-time officers and 10 full and part-time dispatchers. Some part-time officers also work as dispatchers.

Other Department activities include: security for parades, races, Ghost Walk, Art On The Hill, Pumpkin Roll, Soap Box Derby, Potato Festival, Triathlon and Trick Or Treat, patrol of the school zones, foot patrols in the downtown area, checking lift stations, reservoir, water and sewer plants, and Safety Town (for bicycle safety).

The Mantua Shalersville Fire Department reported totals of 1,036 EMS calls, 97 motor vehicle accidents, 255 fire calls, and 60 mutual aid calls.

It is the policy of this Department to provide the best possible assistance to our citizens, to meet your needs with courteous and professional service - To Serve And Protect.

If you would like additional information regarding any of our programs or have any questions or concerns, please call the Police Department at 330-274-2251.

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**"SPRING SPRUCE-UP"**

Please join your neighbors and friends in downtown Mantua, the morning of Saturday, May 12 for Spring Spruce-up, organized by Downtown Mantua Revitalization!

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Grab a bite to eat at Jake's at 8am...or meet in the mini park on the corner of Prospect & Main at 9am... or donate supplies before the event if you can't make it!

Tasks to be completed include: weed removal, edging, clearing storm drains, removing piles of winter debris, picking-up litter, planting bulbs/flowers, scraping gum off sidewalks, washing windows.

Supplies to donate: weed killer, lawn/garden trash bags, paper towels, bottled water for crew

Tools/supplies to bring: shovels, gardening tools, brooms, trash cans, leaf blowers, pump sprayers, wheelbarrow, weed eater, scrapers, buckets, rags, gloves, jacket, sunscreen, friends

Volunteers of all ages and abilities make this a fun and productive annual event. Contact DMRC with questions, suggestions, or a heads-up on how you will help this year:

[DMRCemail@gmail.com](mailto:DMRCemail@gmail.com) or 330-274-4040. See you on the 12th!

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**"NEWS FROM THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT"**

**Cemetery Clean Up**

Christmas and other winter decorations should be removed from Hillside Cemetery by May 8, 2012. All remaining Christmas decorations will be discarded as we begin to clean up the Cemetery for Spring and Memorial Day.



## Thank You

The Village Service Department received many compliments on our snow and ice control this winter. We take great pride in trying to do our best and hope that it is reflected in our service to you. We are very grateful for the courtesies and understanding that have been extended to us by the Village businesses & residents.



### Brush Pick Up

The brush collection program for 2012 will commence in May and continue monthly until and including October. Pick-up will be on the second Monday of the month except Village holidays. If a holiday, then brush pick-up will begin on the next day, Tuesday. Please help us continue this successful program by following the regulations below.

Residents may place brush at the curbside for collection taking care to not block sidewalk areas. Only brush and branches shall be placed with the cut ends at the curb with length not to exceed ten (10) feet and diameter not to exceed three (3) inches. Large diameter branches and trunks will not be taken. Chipping crews will spend a maximum of 20 minutes chipping at each residence.

Piles of brush should be on tree lawn or close to curb with cut side facing the street. This allows the crew to work more efficiently and safe. Avoid stacking brush too high as it may pose a traffic hazard. If brush is too long, it may be placed lengthwise on the tree lawn cut ends facing same direction. Bagged yard waste (i.e. grass clippings, flowers, briars, thorny bushes, and etc.) will not be picked up.



Chipping is intended for brush collection that has been trimmed by homeowners during routine maintenance. The homeowner will be responsible for the disposal of brush/limbs from removal of tree(s), lot clearing; clearing along fence line or property boundaries and it is not to be placed at curb. If a contractor has been hired to perform the work the contractor is responsible for brush/limb removal and it is not to be placed at curb.

If anyone has any questions regarding the brush pickup or would like to obtain free wood chips, please call the Village of Mantua Service Department at 330-274-8188.

Anthony Fiorelli, Village Administrator  
Mantua Village Service Department





## **OPEN BURNING,**

### **Before You Light It - Know Ohio's Open Burning Regulations**

**What does the Ohio EPA consider open burning? Isn't it harmless?** Open burning is any set outdoor fire that does not vent to a chimney or stack. Some studies indicate that even small camp fires burning clean wood can emit harmful chemicals. Burning "unclean" materials can be even more hazardous. For example, when you burn refuse in burn barrels or open piles, the potential cost to your health, your home, your neighbors and your environment far exceeds the price of adequate collection services. Protect yourself, your neighbors and your wallet by knowing what you can burn and where.

**Is there anything I need to do before I burn outdoors?** There are some instances when Ohio EPA does not need to be notified or provide approval of open burning activities. However, you may have an obligation to notify or get permission from Ohio EPA before burning materials outside depending on the materials burned, the location of the burn, and the activity associated with the burn. Ohio EPA has developed a notification form that you can use to help make sure you are in compliance with legal notification requirements. Ohio EPA has also developed a form for requesting permission to conduct open burning when permission is required by law. You will find more information below about open burning, your responsibilities, and helpful contact information if you need guidance or clarifications of what the requirements are in your area.

**Why is open burning a problem?** Open burning can release many kinds of toxic fumes. Leaves and plant materials send aloft millions of spores when they catch fire, causing many people with allergies to have difficulty breathing. The pollutants released by open burning also make it more difficult to meet health-based air quality standards, especially in or near large cities. The gases released by open burning can also corrode metal siding and damage paint on buildings.

**Health Concerns.** Burning household waste produces many toxic chemicals and is one of the largest known sources of dioxin in the nation. Other air pollutants from open burning include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead and mercury. These pollutants have been linked to several health problems, including asthma, respiratory illnesses, nervous system damage, kidney and liver damage, and reproductive or developmental disorders.

**Where is open burning allowed?** To see a general summary of areas where open burning is permitted, see <http://www.epa.ohio.gov/dapc/general/openburning.aspx> or <http://araqmd.org>. For more complete information, including special allowances for firefighter training, disposal of certain ignitable or explosive materials, and recognized horticultural, silvicultural, range, or wildlife management practices please be sure to consult the open burning regulations found in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-19 or contact the appropriate staff member Debbie Wallen, (330)375-2480 ext. 6055. Remember the Mantua Shalersville Fire District can not give permission to burn anything only Ohio EPA can.

**What open burning is never allowed?** Under Ohio law, these materials may not be burned anywhere in the state at any time:

garbage, any wastes created in the process of handling, preparing, cooking or consuming food;  
materials containing rubber, grease and asphalt or made from petroleum, such as tires, cars and auto parts, plastics or plastic-coated wire; and  
dead animals.



Other restrictions:

Open burning is not allowed when air pollution warnings, alerts or emergencies are in effect.

Fires cannot obscure visibility for roadways, railroad tracks or air fields

No wastes generated off the premises may be burned. For example, a tree trimming contractor may not haul branches and limbs to another site to burn.

**What do I need to do to get permission for a Bonfire, Campfire, or Outdoor Fireplace?** As long as the following criteria are met for the use of a bonfire, campfire, or outdoor fireplace it is not necessary to contact your local air quality management district or OhioEPA:

Clean seasoned firewood, natural gas or equivalent, or any clean burning fuel with emissions that are equivalent or lower than those caused by the burning of seasoned firewood.

They are not used to dispose of waste.

They are three feet or less in diameter and two feet or less in height

Failure to meet these guidelines could result in a fine of \$250 per day of violation and no more than \$1,000 per day for each separate violation on residential property, unless your local air quality management district or OhioEPA are notified in which the following criteria must be met:

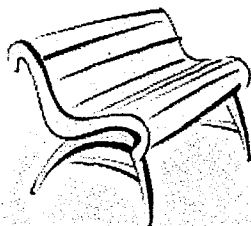
**Does Ohio EPA ever allow exceptions to the rules?** Under certain circumstances, yes. However, to burn a prohibited material or set a fire in a restricted area, you must receive written permission from Ohio EPA before you begin burning. This may take two weeks.

**Can a community regulate open burning?** Yes. However, local ordinances cannot be less strict than the state law. The Village of Mantua does have ordinances under Chapter 1511 of Mantua Codified Ordinance which reflects the Ohio Code.

**What happens if I'm caught illegally open burning?** Ohio EPA has the authority to enforce the state's open burning laws. Violations can result in substantial penalties. Along with Ohio EPA the Village of Mantua can provide penalties up to \$500.00 and/or 60 days in jail, per incident. If you have any questions, or would like to report a suspected open burning incident, contact your Ohio EPA district office or your local air pollution control agency. Ohio EPA is represented by five district offices and nine local air agencies. For the appropriate contact, please contact Debbie Wallen, (330)375-2480 ext. 6055.

Harry Buchert, Chief  
Mantua Police Department

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**"NEWS FROM MANTUA VILLAGE PARKS BOARD"**

The new Parks Board met for the second time this year, on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Present were Marty Hura, Chairman, Linda Schilling, Don Buchert, Resident Advisor Patsi Gast and Mayor Linda Clark.

Parks Board has decided to finish existing projects before initiating any new ones. Existing projects include information kiosk by the footbridge, which DMRC has offered to undertake, repainting of the interior of the Park Lodge, which is being done by a resident volunteer and repairing and repainting of benches to be placed along Main Street and throughout the Park.

Next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of May. Residents are encouraged to attend and bring their ideas or suggestions.

Marty Hura, Chairman  
Parks Board

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### "LAWN MOWING"

It is the time of the year when we get to enjoy the outdoors. While you are out there enjoying the outdoors remember, while mowing your lawn or having your lawn mowed, that you can not send your grass clippings into the roadway. If it does happen, please blow them back into your yard or you will get a visit by the police department. It is everyone's responsibility to keep our roads free and clear from debris.

Grass clippings and leaves cover our storm sewer grates and causes water back-up problems in many of your neighborhoods. They also become very slippery when wet and may cause accidents. Lets all work together to keep our roadways clear.

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### "SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT"

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?



## "SHADE TREE COMMITTEE REPORT"

It is that time of year when all the trees are blooming and the Shade Tree Committee asks the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to write a 50 word essay. The Theme of the essay is "If I Were A Tree, What Would I Be and Why"?

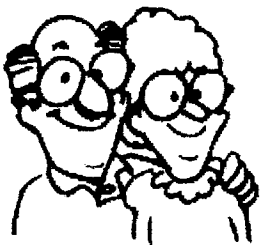
Don Buchert and Linda Schilling read all of the entries and made the difficult decision on a winner. Great Job 3<sup>rd</sup> graders!!

At the presentation, held on April 27<sup>th</sup> (which is National Arbor Day), the winner, Cody Fisher, was announced. The winner received a bank and \$25.00 from Middlefield Bank. All of the entries received a McDonald's coupon. The Committee also presented each of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students with a seedling. Bob Stehli, owner of Evergreen Tree Farm, was the speaker for the presentation. He gave the kids much information on Arbor Day and trees in general.

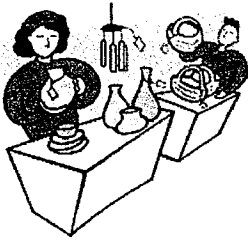
A special thanks goes out to Councilman Marty Hura and to Patsi Gast for their valuable contributions to the Committee.

All entries will be hung in the Mantua Middlefield Bank for everyone to read. If the students would like their essays back, they can be picked up at the bank.

Linda Schilling, Chairman  
Shade Tree Committee



One of the many things no one tells you about aging, Is that it is such a nice change from being young. Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.



## "FOURTH ANNUAL ART ON THE HILL"

The DMRC (Downtown Mantua Revitalization Corporation) will host its 4th Annual Art on the Hill, Saturday July 14 from 10am-5pm. This fun-filled festival of the arts will take place on East Prospect Street in Mantua. Admission and parking is free!

Over 60 artisans set up for the 2011 event and even more are expected this year! Visitors from past years' events were pleased to find such a large variety of artwork at very reasonable prices. Art available to view and buy will be carvings/ woodwork pieces, clay, ceramics, clothing, jewelry, paintings, quilts, soaps, pure Ohio Maple products, glassworks, photography and much, much more!

The road will be closed for the day as artisans line both sides of the street selling and displaying their handmade works of art. The festival will also feature 7 hours of continuous-live entertainment sponsored by Rick Frato, Financial Advisor/Edward Jones. Singing, dancing, instrument playing and other forms of entertainment will take place all day on the stage located in the center of the festival.

A huge Chinese auction and a 50/50 raffle will be held in the Mantua Grain building. Items will range from gift certificates and products donated by local businesses to unique pieces of art donated by the artisans which are taking part in the event. A variety of food vendors will compliment the event.

Additional information or an artisan/food vendor application can be found at [www.mantuashalersvillechamber.com](http://www.mantuashalersvillechamber.com), or by calling event organizer, Christine Pitsinger at 330-414-6486.

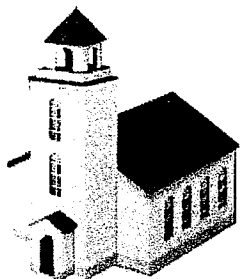
Art on the Hill is proudly sponsored by Rick Frato, Financial Advisor/Edward Jones and the Community Journal.

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Seeking Artisans!

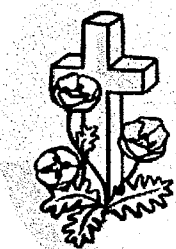
Mantua's Art on the Hill is seeking artisans and food vendors for their 4th annual event which will be held on Saturday, July 14th, 2012 from 10am-5pm in downtown Mantua, Ohio. Each year there are over 60 artisans selling and displaying their handmade work. Booth fee is \$45. Call 330-414-6486 or email [communityjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:communityjournal@yahoo.com) for an application or more information.

Michelle Barnauskas, DMRC



**"COMMUNITY DINNER"**

Christ Lutheran will sponsor a Community Meal on Monday, May 21, June 18 and July 16 from 5-6:30 PM. Please come join us and take the opportunity to visit with your neighbors. See you there.



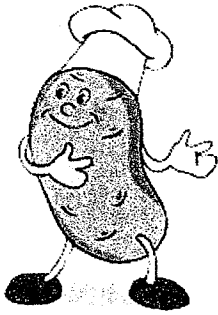
**"NEWS FROM THE CEMETERY"**

The Hillside Cemetery Board would like to welcome resident and former Mayor Claude Hopkins as our new board member. We appreciate his willingness to volunteer his time and look forward to working together in the upcoming months.

The service department and the board will begin clean up and maintenance in the cemetery for the Memorial Day observance. Please help us out by removing any holiday decorations or other unsightly items from the graves. Any decorations left in poor condition will be removed and discarded. Thank you for your co-operation.

The Hillside Cemetery Board  
Kim Block, Claude Hopkins, Cookie Vanek





## "MANTUA POTATO FESTIVAL"

Believe it or not, it is Potato Festival time again! Anybody interested in helping this year, the meetings are held in the Festival building at Buchert Park, the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00 pm. We would love to hear your new ideas and to have your help. If you have any questions, please call 330-274-0770.

Mark your calendar for this year's Festival on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and we hope to see you there!

Linda Schilling, Chairperson

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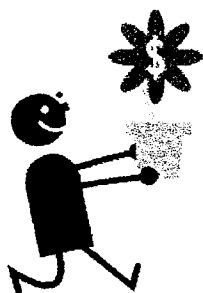
## "NEW LOCAL BUSINESS"

In tough economies of the past, it was standard practice or really, the only practice to buy locally and support small businesses. In today's tough economy, buying locally is almost a thing of the past but has never been more important for the present or to the future. That's why a new flooring business has opened its doors right here in Mantua. Locally owned and operated flooring stores have been a tradition in the Krestan family for over 95 years, hence the name, Tradition Flooring Service. This generation of tradition belongs to Ladd Krestan, owner and operator of Tradition Flooring Service at 10710 Main St. in the heart of Mantua Village.

Ladd was born and raised in Mantua and has been in the flooring industry for 20 years. He sells, installs, and services all types of flooring including carpet, tile, hardwood, laminate, and vinyl. In addition to installing flooring, Ladd is a certified Carpet Cleaning Specialist through Bane-Clene Systems, an industry leader in carpet cleaning. He does carpet and upholstery cleaning for either commercial or residential

Carpet Cleaning Specialist through Bane-Clene Systems, an industry leader in carpet cleaning. He does carpet and upholstery cleaning for either commercial or residential job applications. Now is the time for spring cleaning, so please call the shop and ask about their carpet and upholstery cleaning specials as well as product specials from carpet to hardwood to tile.

We are pleased to welcome Ladd and Tradition Flooring Service to our community and wish them the best of luck!



**"MANTUA GARDEN CLUB"**

Spring is finally here and it is time to start sprucing up the outdoors. The Mantua Garden Club is holding their annual Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am to 1 pm. They will be on Main Street across from Chase Bank parking lot, come rain or shine!

All kinds of plants will be available, so please stop in, check out what they have and get a head start on your garden.

Evelyn Park, Publicity  
Mantua Garden Club



**Uncle Sam is giving back!**

That's right, more of our federal tax dollars will make their way back to Mantua next year...in the form of a \$45,000 grant through the Transportation Enhancement Program

(TEP). Thanks to cooperation and quick turnaround of Village Council and CT Consultants (the Village's engineering firm), we will soon see the downtown streetscape begin to take shape!

If you attended any of the community meetings DMRC hosted over the past five years, you may have seen concept sketches for streetscape improvements. The TEP grant will help those concepts become reality... on a small scale, but it's a start!

Now, on to Q & A...

*Q - How much will this cost The Village?*

A - \$0. Normally this type of project would be funded by the local government, along with federal transportation funds; however, DMRC committed to raise the local "match" required by the grant, so there will be NO cost to The Village.

*Q - What does the project involve?*

A - Primarily sidewalks and curbing along the west side of Main Street, south of the river.

*Q - Why there?*

A - State Route 44, south of Prospect, is already scheduled for Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) roadway improvements in 2013. It makes sense to do it all at one time; we just need ODOT to approve use of the grant at that time.

*Q - Why only sidewalks & curbs?*

A - A new focus of the TEP is on "alternate methods of transportation." Although our grant application was for a full streetscape of the southern "gateway" to The Village (including aesthetic improvements to the bridge, lighting, and landscaping), only the sidewalk portion was approved for funding.

*Q - What about infrastructure improvements?*

A - Fortunately, the infrastructure (water, sewer, storm drains) in the area is in good shape, making any work in this part of town much more affordable. Because of this, burying overhead wires was never part of the plan. (If you have an extra *million* dollars you want to contribute, we can reconsider undergrounding all utilities during the project!)

*Q - Can anything else be done during construction?*

A - We hope so. A \$20,000 Gateway Landscaping Grant through ODOT (provided funds are still available) will pay for trees and shrubs within the State Route right-of-way,

giving the project a finished look. Also, individual property owners may choose to extend improvements to their driveways, parking areas, and even building facades.

*Q - How can I learn more?*

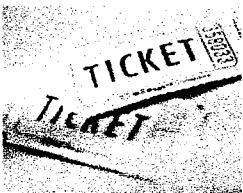
A - Write to [DMRCemail@gmail.com](mailto:DMRCemail@gmail.com) or call 330-274-4040 or join us at...

- **Spring-Spruce Up: Saturday, May 12 8:00 am** at Jake's or find someone working along Main/Prospect Streets anytime before noon. Bring leaf blower, edger, shovels, brooms, gardening tools, window cleaning supplies, weed killer...For more info or to help, contact Edie Benner, [ebenner@roadrunner.com](mailto:ebenner@roadrunner.com), 330-697-0957.
- **Art on the Hill: Saturday, July 14 10am-5pm** (artisans/vendors sign-up now) Look for indoor and outdoor displays, raffles, Chinese Auction, and more. Portage Park District's Headwaters Adventure Race starts at 8am & Country Market 9am-noon on same day. For info or if you can help, contact Christine Pitsinger, [communityjournal@yahoo.com](mailto:communityjournal@yahoo.com), 330-414-6486.
- **Music in the Mini Park: Saturday, July 14 5pm-7pm** immediately following Art on the Hill... **Friday, July 27 6pm-8pm** and... **Friday, August 10 6pm-8pm**. For details, contact Rick Frato, [rick.frato@edwardjones.com](mailto:rick.frato@edwardjones.com), 330-274-8087.

*"Empty pockets never held anyone back. Only empty heads and empty hearts can do that."*

- Norman Vincent Peale

Michelle Barnauskas  
DMRC



**DMRC Reverse Raffle: \$5,000.00 raised to benefit the community!**

What a great event to benefit the Downtown Mantua Revitalization Committee (DMRC) and efforts to revitalize the downtown. On March 24, 2012 approximately 200 people attended the first Reverse Raffle sponsored by DMRC at the Mantua Knights of Columbus Hall. In addition to the Main Board event, there were side boards, various games including "Lucky 7", Bingo and a Silent Auction.

Thank you to all of the Knights who helped contribute to the success of the evening, especially Dan Baumbich, Bob Hartman and the rest of the crew! Eisele catering provided a fantastic meal! Steaks on the Grill, Stuffed Chicken and fabulous salad, vegetables and of course, dessert! We are trying to raise funds to help with matching funds for various grants we are trying to obtain.

A special thank you to all of the DMRC committee members that worked on making this a successful event! Michelle Barnauskas, Missy Lyle, Christine Pitsinger, Keith Barton, Jim and Pat Oster, Ellie Stamm, Rick Frato, Joan Sweet, Aaron Snopek, Carl Zeleznik, Terri Vechery, Linda Ehlert and Edie Benner.

Just a reminder, the DMRC is always open to new members, guests and of course your ideas or monetary contribution. Please do not hesitate to check us out on the web. Just google Downtown Mantua Revitalization or we have a link on the Mantua-Shalersville Area Chamber of Commerce. We look forward to hearing from you or seeing us at upcoming meetings or events.

Edie Benner, DMRC



### Certified Local Government Studied for Mantua Village

Mantua Village mayor, council members, property and business owners met on March 24, 2012 to discuss the merits of the Village becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG).

The meeting was arranged by Aaron Snopek, Linda Ehlert, and Terri Vechery, a sub-committee of the DMRC after months of research to provide information and an overview of the pros and cons of becoming a CLG.

Nathan Bevin from Ohio Historical Preservation Office, Nathan Kaelin from the Ohio Department of Development who deals with tax credits, and Ron Lowe, CLG representative for the City of Aurora attended the meeting to share their experience and answer questions.

A CLG is a layer of government, enforced by an ordinance from council and a Landmark Commission consisting of at least 5 qualified members to review any changes

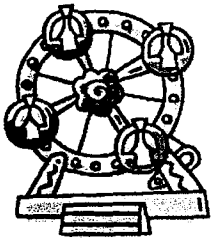
to the historical structures participating in a CLG. Participating is the key word. An ordinance could either create a whole district such as all downtown Mantua Village or individual property owners can organize a CLG. In Mantua Village what would work would be membership by consent of the property owner and this could be accomplished with as few as three or four properties.

By becoming a Certified Local Government, the community would show a commitment for historical preservation, historical education and a unified approach to revitalization, therefore increasing opportunities to apply for grants.

The research by the committee discovered most historical grant applications, as well as those for sidewalks, signs, parking lots, curbs, trees, parks, hike and bike trails, etc., began with the wording 'is your community a CLG?' Grants can vary in dollar amounts from as little as \$500 to \$100,000 or more.

A follow-up meeting on April 14, 2012 was attended by five property owners who decided to commit to following up with more research, signing a letter of intent to Mantua Village Council and contacting nearby communities of Burton and Kent on their success with the CLG process. The date for the next meeting will be May 21, 2012.

Terri Vechery, DMRC



**" 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OX ROAST FAIR"**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the largest, three-day fair in Northern Portage County where you'll enjoy delicious food and find family fun for all ages. St. Joseph's Ox Roast Fair in Mantua begins on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 to 11:30 p.m., Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, from 1:00 to 11:30 p.m., and Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, from Noon to 10:00 p.m.

The 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Ox Roast Fair has plenty of fun to keep the whole family entertained including: a wide variety of Fair food favorites; live entertainment; air-conditioned dining hall; Friday night fireworks; the first "Run of the Ox" 5K run/walk; an assortment of rides, games, contests and giveaways; over \$7,000.00 in main raffle prize drawings and hourly progressive drawings each day plus several specialty raffles,

souvenir T-shirts & hats; tractor, truck and semi pulls; trade booths; indoor casino with instant bingo; security; handicap accessibility; clean grounds and much, much more!

St. Joseph's Ox Roast Fair was organized 49 years ago by the Reverend John Wirtz (Associate Pastor with Francis J. Hughes) to help pay for the parish's school back then. Currently, the fair is an annual fund raiser which directly supports the educational and sacramental ministries of St. Joseph's Parish. Except for the midway's carnival rides and games, part of the tractor pull events, trade booths, and security, all booths and events are operated by St. Joseph volunteer families and friends.

The Parish Community of St. Joseph cordially invites you to be a part of a quality festival where all of our community can gather together to celebrate our common bond. Admission to the Ox Roast Fair is FREE and parking is only \$3.00 per vehicle. On Sunday ONLY parking is just \$2.00 with non-perishable donation for Mantua's 4C'S Food Cupboard (collected at the Fair's entrance). For the safety of your beloved pet and all fair-goers, we ask that you do not bring your pets to the Ox Roast Fair.

St. Joseph's is located at 11045 St. Joseph Blvd. is located in Mantua Twp. off Pioneer Trail. Mantua is located in northern Portage County on St. Rt. 44, 10 miles north of Ravenna, 20 miles northeast of Akron, and 27 miles southeast of Cleveland in northern Portage County. Look for the parish sign at St. Joseph Blvd. approximately 1/4 mi. west of St. Rt. 44, south of St. Rt. 82, just north of Mantua Village (accessible from U.S. Rt. 422 just 7 miles north or Ohio Turnpike Exit 193 just 2 miles south). *You won't want to miss St. Joseph's Ox Roast Fair ~ Not Your Typical Church Festival!* For more information, please check out St. Joseph's website [www.stjosephmantua.com/stjosephox.html](http://www.stjosephmantua.com/stjosephox.html), "Like" us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsOxRoastFair>), or phone the parish office at 330-274-2253.

Kathi Trares, St. Joseph Parish



"PORTAGE COUNTY SOAP BOX DERBY  
SPRING - 2012

The Portage County Soap Box Derby (PCSBD) will be having a spring rally on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of this year, in Akron. Our local race will be June 16<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of June 17<sup>th</sup>. The All-American race is July 21<sup>st</sup>.

The spring rally is a good opportunity for the kids to get some practice and do some tuning up before the local race. Rally racing is one of the ways racers qualify for the All-American Soap Box Derby race, if they collect enough points by racing as many indoor and outdoor rally races in different cities around the country.

Our local race is held on High Street in Mantua. The youngsters race right down past Buchert Park. The winners of the three divisions (Stock, Super Stock, and Masters) will be invited to compete in Akron at the All-American as Portage County Champs.

The PCSBD has been on an ambitious goal to recruit new racers from all 20 townships in Portage County. Over the last six months, our board members have been on speaking engagements, showcases, and pinewood derby races in the far corners of the county. Some of the hard work has paid off. Participation will increase for the second straight year.

Once again in 2012 we will have celebrity racing. Come out derby day and see who will be taking part. A new feature last year was the parent challenge whereby moms and dads could race against their kids in specially altered cars. We will be doing it again this year.

The Aurora Chamber Showcase was a success. We raffled off a Super Stock car donated by Excalibur of Streetsboro. The winner was Scott Carlson of Aurora. We wish Scott good luck when he races in Mantua.



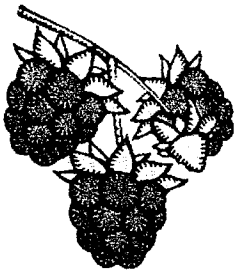
This year, at the local race, there will again be a cruise-in car show at the bottom of the hill, in the park. The show is free and we expect 50 to 100 vehicles to be displayed.



The All-American Soap Box Derby has a corporate sponsor for the first time in a few years, so race week will be better than ever. First Energy will sponsor the Derby for at least, the next three years.

Plan to attend any or all of the derby functions. The local and rally races are free and the All-American costs very little. Any questions, call Dean Olson at 330-351-3035, Kelly Heritage at 330-541-1075 or Barb Corbett at 330-931-0537.

.....Ron Reed, PCSBD



### "BERRY CARE"

Berries are delicious, but they're also kind of delicate. Raspberries in particular seem like they can mold before you even get them home from the market. There's nothing more tragic than paying \$4 for a pint of local raspberries, only to look in the fridge the next day and find that fuzzy mold growing on their insides.

Well, with fresh berries just starting to hit farmers markets, we can tell you how to keep them fresh! Here's a tip I'm sharing on how to prevent them from getting there in the first place: Wash them with vinegar.

When you get your berries home, prepare a mixture of one part vinegar (white or apple cider probably work best) and ten parts water. Dump the berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse if you want (though the mixture is so diluted you can't taste the vinegar,) and pop in the fridge. The vinegar kills any mold spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit, and voila!

Raspberries will last a week or more, and strawberries go almost two weeks without getting moldy and soft. So go forth and stock up on those pricey little gems, knowing they'll stay fresh as long as it takes you to eat them.

**You're so berry welcome!**