

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



ROB DOWDY/STAFF

Jeff Cline owns Fastsigns in Columbia Township. He opened the location approximately 11 years ago and continues to have success offering a variety of signs and displays for businesses, schools and individuals.

Local business gets graphics

Jeff Cline said his sign business makes it difficult to predict future success, but he's showing no signs of slowing down as business has improved despite a shaky economy.

Fastsigns
3272 Highland Ave. in
Columbia Township
396-7446
Jeff Cline, owner
www.fastsigns.com/352

Cline's Fastsigns location in Columbia Township handles a variety of local business and individual needs, from signage at Hyde Park Tavern to banners honoring seniors on Xavier University's soccer team.

"We're really a full-service sign company," he said.

Despite a location in the township, Cline, an Anderson Township resident, said the majority of his business comes in via e-mail.

He's made banners, signs, vehicle graphics and displays for businesses throughout the Greater Cincinnati area and as far as Columbus.

Cline said he loves his location in Columbia Township because of the easy access to Interstate 71.

With Cline's Fastsigns

THINGS TO DO

Benefit

Terrace Park Kindervelt No. 76 is hosting "Party On Ice" from 7 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 27, at Indian Hill Winter Club, 10005 Fletcher Road, Camp Dennison. The event includes dinner-by-the-bite, music, drinks, broomball and paddle tennis. Auction will be held at 9:15 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Division of Asthma Research at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Cost is \$50. Registration is required. Call 307-9418 or visit www.partyonice.net.

Martial arts

Cincinnati Tae Kwon Do Center is hosting "Beginning Healing Martial Arts Class" 9-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, at Cincinnati Tae Kwon Do Center, 4325 Red Bank Road, Madisonville.

It is an eight-week course that introduces basic principles and movements of healing art of Kimoodo, Korean practice similar to yoga.

Learn stretching, breathing and meditation techniques. It is open to ages 18 and up. The cost is \$130. Registration is required. Call 271-6900.

Book club

Joseph-Beth Booksellers is hosting the Parent and Child Bookclub at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28, at Joseph-Beth Booksellers, 2692 Madison Road, Norwood.

The family friendly event, for grades two and up, includes book discussion, treats and activities. This month's title is "Half Magic" by Edward Eager. Call 396-8960 or visit www.josephbeth.com.

Art opening

Miller Gallery is hosting the opening reception for the exhibit "50 Years, 50 Artists, 50 Paintings" 6-8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, at Miller Gallery, 2715 Erie Ave., Hyde Park.

It is the 50th Anniversary celebration of artistic diversity. Each artist created one new work.

The exhibit includes landscapes, still life, figurative, contemporary realism and surrealism, abstracts and more, and new pieces by sculptors. Exhibit continues through March 12.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Call 871-4420 or visit www.millergallery.com.

Irish Heritage Center opens with 'Moll'

By Lisa Wakeland
lwakeland@communitypress.com

Moll is a woman who knows how to accomplish her agenda.

After coming to the presbytery as a housekeeper, Moll, the title character in a comedic play by Irish author John B. Keane, sets out to reform the way the parish is run.

The play is the inaugural event at the new Irish Heritage Center in Columbia Tusculum and runs from Friday, Feb. 26, to Sunday, Feb. 28.

Director Maureen Kennedy said the play is set in 1970s rural Ireland where the natural perception of parish order prevails.

"It's very funny with Irish humor and nuances," Kennedy said.

"(Keane) has the ability to capture the characteristics of everyone in Ireland."

Barb Kennedy Kenny, who plays Moll, said her character favors Canon Pratt, head of the parish, she thinks the other curates "should be fasting and abstaining like the saints and martyrs."

Kent Covey, who plays Pratt, said his character doesn't realize he is being manipulated by Moll and lacks any ambition to fix the deteriorating church.

Though she gets others to do her bidding, Kenny said Moll has a good heart and eventually raises enough money to build a new school and repair the church.

The Irish American Theater Co., founded by Kennedy, spent years practicing in garages, basements or dining rooms.

Now they have a home at the Irish



LISA WAKELAND/STAFF

Barb Kennedy Kenny, who plays the title character, and Kent Covey, who plays Canon Pratt, rehearse a scene for "Moll" by John B. Keane.

Heritage Center, in the former McKinley School on Eastern Avenue.

"It's so fantastic," Kennedy said of the Center.

"We've never really had our own space."

In the center, the theater company has room to build sets, and store props or costumes.

The Irish Heritage Center will eventually become a comprehensive com-

munity and arts center with plans for a library, radio station, museum and art gallery.

"I think it's a place that can really offer a lot," said Mick McEvilley, who plays Father Brest in the play.

"It will be a great place for entertainment and education."

McEvilley said he is also looking forward to the camaraderie at the center. To learn more about the center visit www.theirishheritagecenter.org.

If you go

- What: "Moll" a comic play by John B. Keane
- When: 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb. 27; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28.
- Where: The Irish Heritage Center, 3905 Eastern Ave. in Columbia Tusculum.
- Tickets: \$17 general admission; \$14 for those 62 years old and up, active military members and students under 21 years old with identification.
- Call 225-6915 or e-mail irishamericantheaterco@fuse.net for tickets.



LISA WAKELAND/STAFF

Director Maureen Kennedy and Mick McEvilley, who plays Father Brest, review lines from a scene in "Moll." The play will be the inaugural performance at the Irish Heritage Center in Columbia Tusculum.

Mariemont recognized for traffic safety

By Lisa Wakeland
lwakeland@communitypress.com

The Mariemont Police Department has implemented a number of traffic safety programs and recently received an award for its efforts.

Mariemont was one of 12 local communities to receive a traffic safety award from AAA.

"I'm really proud of the award," Police Chief Rick Hines said.

"There are a lot of things we do to keep our streets safe."

Liz Van de Ryt, safety coordinator for the AAA Greater Cincinnati area, said Mariemont received the gold level of the award, the association's second highest.

programs in place for education, enforcement and engineering.

Lt. Tom Ostendarp said many of the programs required for the award, such as seat belt checkpoints and crossing guards for the schools, were already in place.

Ostendarp said the department was also recognized for its selective traffic enforcement program, operating a vehicle under the influence enforcement, use of speed trailers and community education programs as part of the AAA award.

The Mariemont Police Department participates in state-sponsored traffic safety programs such as "Over the limit, under arrest" and "Click it or ticket," which Hines said tie in to the award's requirements.

He added that reducing the number of accident-



PROVIDED

Mariemont Police Chief Rick Hines, right, accepts a traffic safety award from Tom Wiedemann, president of the AAA Allied Group's Midwest Region.

related injuries contributed to Mariemont receiving the high level award.

"It's a very important part of the job," Hines said.

Mariemont was one of 12 local communities to receive a traffic safety award from AAA.

Van de Ryt said this was the first time Mariemont has been involved in the AAA traffic safety award program.

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