

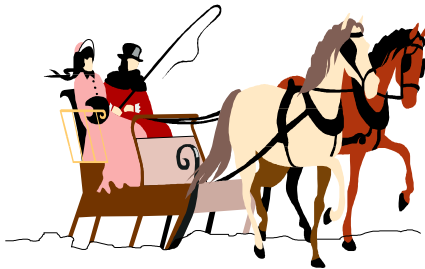
# the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## 4th Annual Christmas Carriage Rides

**FREE** for **Minerva Park Residents** and limited guests



# HEATED CARRIAGES

Again this year, in an effort to recreate an "Olde Fashioned Village Christmas," the Minerva Park Community Association has arranged for horse-drawn carriage rides through the village. This is **FREE** to all residents and their guests, but **WRITTEN** reservations are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Community Building for hot chocolate, a light supper, a bonfire, and Christmas caroling.

Written reservations are required—phone reservations cannot be accepted.

The MPCA has a new vendor this year ... with **HEATED carriages with wind protection** and an **English-style carriage**. Your Community Association dues help underwrite this event!

**Written Reservations Required**

**DEADLINE Dec. 14, 9:00p.** Mail or deliver **WRITTEN** reservations to:  
Lynn Eisentrout (882-5743)  
**2829 Minerva Lake Road**

**Sunday, December 18**  
**5:30p - 8:30p**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS COPS FOR KIDS**

Please support our **Police Dept.** by donating ...

- New & gently used toys for children of all ages.

All toys will go to needy families in the Columbus area.

Donations accepted  
Mon - Fri • 9:00a to noon  
Community Building  
Deadline - December 16

If you have any questions, contact Lt. Rex Waldenmyer at 882-1408. Thank you for supporting this endeavor.

## Special Voters' Issue



Tuesday  
November 8  
6:30a - 7:30p

MP's Ballot - pages 8-12

### NOVEMBER DATES

- 1 (5:15p) ..... Mayor's Court
- 3 (7:30p) ..... Planning & Zoning
- 5 (9a) ..... Village Clean-Up
- 5 (9:30a-4:00p) ..... CPR Class
- 10 (6:30p-9p) ..... First Aid Class
- 14 (7p) ..... Council Meeting
- 15 (5:15p) ..... Mayor's Court
- 16 (7:30p) ..... MPCA Meeting
- 16 (5p) ..... Villager Deadline
- 29 (5:15p) ..... Mayor's Court

Names & Ages of Participants

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Preferred Times (not guaranteed)

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Phone #

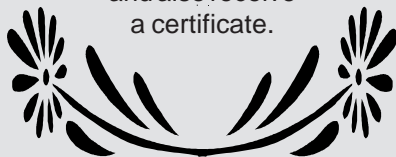


# MPCA News



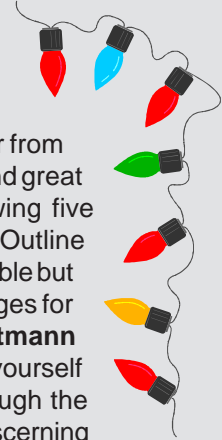
## Four Season Garden Award Winner

The mid-autumn MPCA Four Season Garden Award winners this year are **Ken and Debbie Howard**, 2621 Woodley Road. Judges thought the design accentuated the house and that there were lots of different plants with various different colors with nice curb appeal. Runners up were **Fred and Denise Braun**, 2660 Lakewood Drive. One judge commented that the entire landscape was soothing. Thanks to all the judges who made their rounds on the weekend of October 15-16. The winner will have their names engraved on a plaque at the Community Building and also receive a certificate.



### Annual

## Festival of Lights



The annual Festival of Lights event will be held this year from December 11 - 28. Twenty-five dollar gift certificates (and great prestige) will be awarded to the winners in the following five categories: Best Religious, Whimsical, Entranceway, Outline Effect, and Outdoor Tree. Last year's winners are not eligible but are invited to join the team of judges. Any interested judges for this year's contest should contact **Natalie or Greg Wittmann** at **523-2178**. Qualifications include a willingness to take yourself (and family members) on a few evening car rides through the Village with a flashlight, notebook, hot chocolate, and a discerning eye for exemplary holiday decorating.

## Northland Community Council Rep Needed

The Northland Community Council is a consortium of 23 neighborhood civic associations and 2 service organizations that represent the interests of more than 100,000 residents in the Northland area ... to various government officials, councils, and boards. It:

- Coordinates the efforts and activities of member associations in support of their stated interests.
- Promotes and fosters development and improvement of the infrastructure in the NCC service area (the Morse Road improvement is a good example).
- Promotes the general welfare, proper growth, and desirable

development of the NCC service area.

- Promotes and fosters good will and mutual understanding among residents and member organizations.

The MPCA needs a representative to attend the NCC monthly meetings and report back to the MPCA. The NCC meets at Friendship Village (5675 Ponderosa Dr.) on the first Tuesday of each month, starting at 7:00p.

If you would give of your time to support Minerva Park, please call **Bob Gale** at **882-8622**.

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Vince Robinson

202-7056



RESIDENT



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MP Special  
Lawn Aerating - \$35 most lawns

Aerate this fall for a healthier, greener lawn in 2006

**890-5316**

# MAYOR'S REPORT

*Lynn Eisentrout*



As printed in last month's newsletter, there will be a **1.9 Mill Replacement Levy** on November's ballot. This is, as the title suggests, a replacement of a tax that has been in effect since 1980, amounting to \$0.19 for each \$100 of valuation, with a duration of 5 years. Revenue generated from this tax is for "current expenses," such as trash hauling (\$74,000/year), leaf pick-up (\$19,750/year), Police (\$396,000/year), Fire/EMS (\$17,000/year), etc. We appreciate your past and continued support of this tax issue.

Some of you may have noticed the **white cruiser** in the Community Building parking lot. This is our "newest used cruiser." When purchased, these used cruisers are almost always white

and are in good condition. It costs between \$1,200 and \$1,400 to have them painted gray. After careful consideration, the Council has decided to keep this cruiser white but add our usual stripes, emblems, and lettering. Gradually, as we replace the remaining two cruisers, we will phase out the gray. This is a wise move for two reasons—it is more economical and it is safer. The Ohio State Patrol has also phased out their darker colored vehicles, replacing them with white, thereby reducing their accident rate. Initially, this may be a little confusing, but we'll get there.

We are beginning to turn our attention to the **earthen dam rehab project**. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources made some recommendations to the Village several years ago about repairing our 100-year-old dam, and several engineering companies and experts in the field were consulted. We will keep you posted as we move along on this project.

Weather-wise, this certainly has been a rocky autumn. Despite it all, it's nice to be able to look

forward to the holiday festivities with family and friends. As noted on page 1, the Minerva Park Community Association is once again sponsoring the **Olde Fashioned Christmas Carriage Rides** on Sunday, December 18, from 5:30p to 8:30p. This will be the fourth year this is offered and continues to be enthusiastically supported by the residents. We have a new vendor this year. There will be two heated "wagons" and an English-style carriage to better accommodate everyone, even if it's very cold like it was last year. I hope everyone will join their friends and neighbors for a bonfire, hot chocolate, caroling, and a light supper.

All Council Members were present for the Regular Council Meeting held October 10, 2005, and the following departmental reports were made:

**Police** - Briefly discussed the new cruiser.

**EMS-Fire** - Chief Hoechstetter reported that he had met with the Grant Medic Program Director about students continuing their training at this station.

**Planning & Zoning** - Dick Busick reviewed his report. To date, 55 code violations have been resolved in 2005. The gas station has been cited into Mayor's Court for a variety of violations, primarily parking.

**Minerva Park Swim Club** - Nothing at this time. We are still waiting for the year-end financial report.

**Minerva Park Community Association** - There will not

## MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

M, W, F – 8a-1p and 4p-6p

Tu – 8a-1p

Th – 8a-1p and 6p-8p

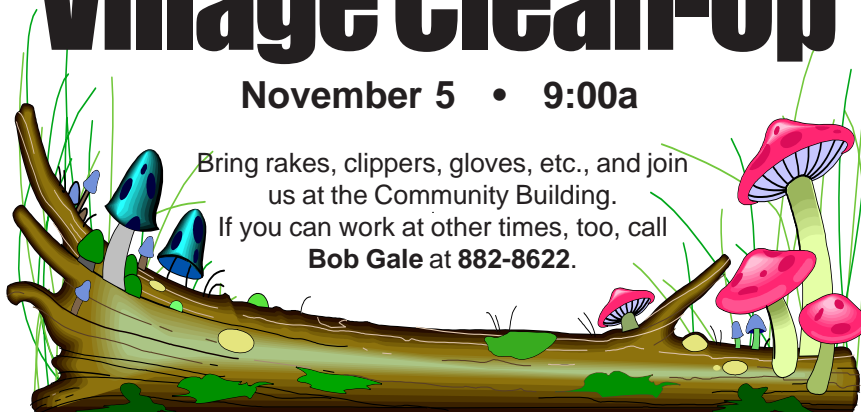
November 12 – 10:00a-noon

## Village Clean-Up

November 5 • 9:00a

Bring rakes, clippers, gloves, etc., and join us at the Community Building.

If you can work at other times, too, call **Bob Gale at 882-8622**.



be a Candidates' Night this year. The Fourth Annual Christmas Carriage Rides will be held Sunday, December 18, from 5:30p to 8:30p.

**Engineer** - Mike Flickinger had nothing at this time.

**Legal** - Gene Hollins discussed the concept of a residential TIF, how the current legislation will affect school funding, areas on our current service map to be included in the TIF, and the steps the Village may want to take to prepare for a December deadline. There is more under New Business.

The following committee reports were made:

**Community** - Councilwoman Sharon Bierman made her report under "MPCA" above.

**Finance** - Councilman Don Champney asked for and received approval for the warrants paid in September, totaling \$66,981.07. He also recommended an auto repair

shop to the Police Department that is closer to the Village and that he believes is reputable.

**Legislative** - Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to consider the following legislation:

**Resolution 2005-18** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with Lisa Pride, for the auditing services of the BMV records for 2006. Third reading accepted, passage accepted, passed.

**Resolution 2005-22** - To make appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Minerva Park during 2006. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-23** - Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer to enter into an agreement with Blendon Township for the continued provision of emergency medical aid service to the residents of Blendon Township

by the Minerva Park Volunteer Fire Department. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-24** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with the City of Columbus to provide prosecution of certain cases before the Franklin County Municipal Court for Minerva Park during 2006. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-25** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with Richard Busick for the services of the Village Code Enforcement Officer for 2006. First reading accepted.

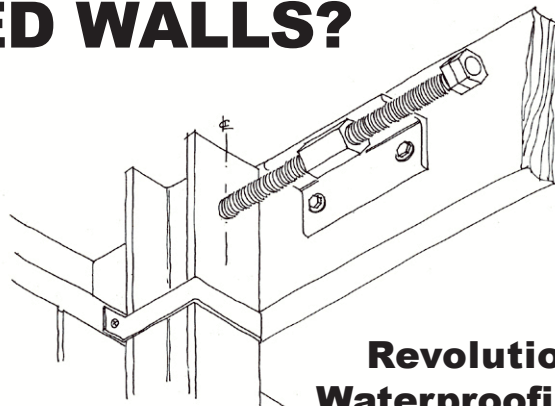
**Resolution 2005-26** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with the Franklin County Public Defenders Commission for legal services. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-27** - Providing for the employment of a Director of

## CRACKED or BOWED WALLS? WET BASEMENT?

Why is NOW the time to act?

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- Dry soil = less pressure on the walls.
- Beat the damage-causing freeze-thaw cycle.



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UP TO  
**\$500  
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FREE estimate!

Hydra Basement Waterproofing • 262-4100  
Not valid with any other offers.  
Expires 12-31-05.

Law for Minerva Park. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-28 -**

Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract for professional services for a Mayor's Court Magistrate. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-29 -**

Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into contract with the District Advisory Council of the Franklin County General Health District to provide for plumbing inspections for Minerva Park. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-30 -** To adopt the Rules of Council for 2006. First reading accepted.

**Resolution 2005-31 -**

Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into an agreement for the employment of the Village Engineer. First reading accepted.

**Safety** - Councilman Chuck Gibson moved to formally approve the color white for the police cruisers. Motion approved.

**Service** - Councilman Dave Stahr had nothing at this time.

**Streets** - Councilman Ron Yarano reported that Strawser Paving has been addressing items on the punch list from the 2005 project. Gravel had not yet been poured in the resident's driveway affected by the new waterline installed at the Hawthorne Elementary School entrance. The survey of the alley behind the Anderson strip mall is completed. The owner is addressing code violations in his building(s).

**Old Business** - Nothing.

**New Business** - A motion was made and approved, save one dissenting vote, that the Village take the necessary steps, including possible legislation for the November meeting, to enact a residential TIF before the December 31, 2005 deadline. •

<http://www.minervapark.org>

Call 899-3755 to join the emailing list to be advised of updates to the website.



MP Police Officers made 1 felony arrest and 5 misdemeanor arrests. All individuals were transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 9-3 .... 6:02p, Minerva Park Nursing & Rehab Center, 5460 Cleveland Ave., domestic violence & menacing threats
- 9-6 .... 8:20a, 2600 blk Lakewood Dr., identity theft reported
- 9-8 .... 12:34p, Kumasi Central Market, 5258 Cleveland Ave., passing bad check(s) reported
- 9-9 .... 2:39p, Ledean Fashion, 5244 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
- 9-12 .. 6:51p, Accra Int'l Market, 5266 Cleveland Ave., property damage
- 9-17 .. 11:15a, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., theft reported
- 9-17 .. 5:24p, Faith Life Family Church, 2580 Jordan Rd., false alarm
- 9-18 .. 3:15p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., criminal mischief
- 9-19 .. 8:45a, 5100 blk Lakeland Ct., theft
- 9-20 .. 12:08p, 5200 blk Cardinal Ct., theft reported
- 9-24 .. 10:36p, Accra Int'l Market, false alarm
- 9-26 .. 1:17p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., theft
- 9-26 .. 9:00a, Westerville Auto Group, 5309 Westerville Rd., auto theft
- 9-29 .. 3:00p, Cake Craft Co., 5436 Cleveland Ave., theft
- 9-30 .. 4:36p, 2800 blk Wildwood Rd., false alarm •

**TIM the HANDYMAN**

**481-2800**

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Handy, top to bottom, inside or outside




**Medic 119 ...**

Where are you?

**September 2005**

In September, Medic 119 made 33 runs - 3 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 3 into Minerva Park; 22 patients were transported to hospitals. 24 members volunteered a total of 498 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 5,924. Leading volunteers for the month were **Tina Quinn** (80 hours), **Tim Lockard** (47 hours), and **Aubrey Duda** (42 hours).

**MP Runs**

- 9-10 .... Chest pains
- 9-11 .... Laceration
- 9-29 .... Ill person



## Leaf Pick-up

Minerva Park has been divided into five areas that determine the order of leaf pick-up. Please keep in mind that it takes approximately 6 days to sweep the entire Village, as long as the weather cooperates. So, regardless of where your home is located, you can expect a leaf pick-up every 6 days (weather permitting) or even sooner as the volume of leaves begins to taper off. The pick-up will occur in the following order:

Area 1 - Minerva Lake Rd., Valley Rd., Farview.

Area 2 - Lakewood, Maplewood, Alder Vista, Lakeland Ct.

Area 3 - Wildwood, Elmhurst, Westbridge, Woodley, Cardinal Ct., North Bay.

Area 4 - Jordan, Park Lane Dr., Park Lane Ct.

Area 5 - Ponderosa, Carlton Ct., Kerrwood, East Shore Dr., North Lake Ct., East Shore Ct., Berry Lane Ct.

Leaf pick-up begins the first week of October, and have your last leaves raked to the street no later than December 5. Pick-up usually is from 8:00a to 7:00p, M-F, with limited hours starting at 8:00a on Saturday. There is no leaf collection on Sunday because the dump site is closed.

### Leaf Collection Tips

- No foreign materials, please, such as brush, twigs, or grass clippings. Objects such as stones, bricks, or large rocks can cause severe damage to the vacuum collection equipment. Please be a

responsible neighbor and keep your curb and street area free of this debris.

- Rake leaves to the curb area only – not into the street. Leaves left on the grass may cause discoloration, but yellowing is not long-term and grass recovers quickly. Leaves placed in the street become wet and may block storm sewers.
- Refrain from on-street parking during scheduled collection weeks. Collecting leaves from behind parked vehicles significantly inhibits our ability to provide timely pick-up.
- If you live on a cul-de-sac or circle, please park in your driveways, so the leaf collection machinery can navigate the tight turns on the street.

We hope you all enjoy the wonderful changing of the seasons!

*Dave Stahr, Service Chair*

*Tim Rannebarger,  
Leaf Collection*



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- No Settling
- Easy Credit Terms to Fit your Budget!
- BRICK HOUSES are our specialty.
- Call us for FREE estimates & consultation.



We're known  
by the money  
you keep!

## CPR Class

... for both adult and child CPR  
 Saturday, November 5  
 9:30a - 4:00p

## First Aid Class

Thursday, November 10  
 6:30p - 9:00p

At the Community Building. \$22 for both classes or for just 1 class (to cover the processing fee). To sign up, call Jennifer Thurmond at 890-6269.

### Advertise in the Villager

Ads start at \$15 monthly, or \$75 for a 6-month contract (get 1 month FREE). Contact Sharon Bierman at 899-3755.



### Clerk-Treasurer's Report

If you have questions about the information provided here, please call Suzanne Coulter at 882-5743 (Community Building) or at 891-7346 (h).

#### August 2005

Beg balance general fund .....	\$60,551.41
Revenue collected .....	193,410.90
Expenses .....	(63,906.86)
Ending balance .....	\$190,055.45

#### September 2005

Beg balance general fund .....	\$190,055.45
Revenue collected .....	60,773.58
Expenses .....	(66,981.07)
Ending balance .....	\$183,847.96



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2580 Jordan Road

Sunday 10:30a  
 Wednesday 7:00p

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**898-7688**

Pastor Dan & Kim Cascioli

Faith Life Family Church

We want to welcome you to FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH. We are a church where God is training His people to live successfully in Him. FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH is a place where you can come, no matter your situation, and meet a God who will elevate you to a higher level of living. You will hear the word of God taught with an opportunity for practical application in your everyday life. You will meet a God who says nothing is impossible for them that believe!

# Minerva Park's Ballot

Below is a representation of the ballot you'll see at the polls this election.  
You may make your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls.

## Judge - Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Isabella Thomas - R
- Andrea C. Peeples - D

## Judge - Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Jay G. Perez - D
- Dwayne Maynard - R

## Judge - Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Jeffrey D. Porter - D
- Michael T. Brandt - R

## Judge Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Amy Salerno - R
- Michael R. Rankin - D

## Judge Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Carrie E. Glaeden - R

## Clerk - Franklin Co Municipal Court

- Lori M. Tyack - D
- Mike Pirik - R

## Minerva Park Council

(vote for no more than 4)

- Sharon Bierman
- Pamela Park Curry
- Chuck Gibson

## Blendon Township Trustee

(vote for no more than 2)

- Bill Bates - D
- Alexander C. Stallings - D
- Kevin Bacon - R

## Member Board of Ed

(vote for no more than 3)

- Angie Simms - R
- Michael L. Collins - D
- Kevin Hoffman - I
- Kristi Robbins - D

## Replacement Tax - Franklin Co. Alcohol, Drug, & Mental Health

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of Franklin County for the purpose of the operation of mental health, alcohol, and drug addiction programs for children, adults and families, including residential and outpatient treatment programs, school and community based prevention programs, and patient housing, at a rate not exceeding 2.2 mills for each \$1 of valuation, which amounts to \$0.22 for each \$100 of valuation for 10 years, commencing in 2006, and first due in calendar year 2007.

- for the tax levy
- against the tax levy

## Replacement Tax - Village of Minerva Park

A replacement of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Minerva Park for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1.9 mills for each \$1 of valuation, which amounts to

\$0.19 for each \$100 of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2006, and first due in calendar year 2006.

- for the tax levy
- against the tax levy

## Additional Tax - Westerville City Schools

An additional tax for the benefit of the Westerville City School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 6.5 mills for each \$1 of valuation, which amounts to \$0.65 for each \$100 of valuation, for a period of 3 years, commencing in 2005, first due in calendar year 2006.

- for the tax levy
- against the tax levy

## #1 Constitutional Amend

to create & preserve jobs & stimulate economic growth by improving local gov't public infrastructure, including roads & bridges, expanding Ohio's research & development capabilities ... declare that local public infrastructure & financial assistance for R&D & development of sites & facilities in Ohio for and in support of industry, commerce & distribution are public purposes ... authorize state to issue bonds to finance public infrastructure capital improvements ... limit total principal amount of general obligation bonds to no more than \$1.35 billion for local gov't public infrastructure ... require bonds to mature no later than 30 years or 20 years (for R&D) after issuance ... authorize General Assembly to pass laws providing for its implementation ... if passed, will be effective immediately.

Shall the amendment be adopted?

Caveat Emptor - This recap is provided here so you can become familiar with our own particular ballot before you arrive at the polls.  
MPCA is not responsible for any errors! Study the issues. Make up your own mind. And then GO VOTE!

\*FOR and AGAINST are reprinted from the Secretary of State's website, <http://www.sos.state.oh.us>.

## Minerva Park's Ballot

Yes

No

**Argument FOR\*** ... will help create and keep more good jobs without raising taxes .. allows for investment in research and development to create well-paying jobs and industry in all regions of Ohio ... benefits all Ohioans through research for alternative fuels reducing our foreign oil dependence, through medical research that cures diseases such as heart ailments and cancer, and through greater biotech research that helps our state's agriculture. ...encourages partnerships between our state's research universities and the private sector to create new products and jobs to replace those lost offshore ... provide grants to local governments to build public improvements for immediate expansion of new business facilities ... two-thirds of the Issue 1 funds will be used by local governments for building and renovating infrastructure like roads, bridges, and water and sewer lines ... renews a local government program first approved by Ohio voters in 1987 and again in 1995 ... bonds authorized by Issue 1 will not require a tax increase now or in the future. Repayment of these bonds is already built into Ohio's long-range budget plans. This package will generate new revenues for state and local governments by expanding our job base.

**Argument AGAINST\*** ... Issue 1 is not about jobs; it's about long-term debt. Passage of this amendment will eliminate four taxpayer protections in the Ohio Constitution, including prohibitions against government: (1) Spending tax revenue for uses other than the originally levied purpose; (2) Incurring or renewing bond indebtedness in the absence of a legislative plan to collect enough tax revenue to pay the annual interest and to provide a fund for the redemption of bonds; (3) Engaging in joint ventures with, or lending aid and credit, to private entities; and (4) Entering into debt for an internal improvement.

Issue 1 combines three issues with the expressed purpose of securing statewide support for Governor Taft's failed Third Frontier Initiative for research and development. Voters

will not have the opportunity to vote separately on the following debt proposals:

**Research & Development - Third Frontier:** On the recommendation of out-of-state reviewers, a three-member governor-appointed committee will create unfair competitive advantage by doling out \$500 million in corporate subsidies.

**Public Infrastructure:** The issuance of \$1.35 billion in bonds is premature since \$240 million from the previous infrastructure initiative hasn't been exhausted and new bonds are not expected to be issued until December 2009. Voting NO will not jeopardize local projects for roads, bridges, or water treatment facilities.

**Site/Facility Development:** Taxpayers will pay \$150 million for the development of private industrial and business sites. In light of the recent Supreme Court eminent domain ruling, it is important to know that Issue 1 does NOT override the home rule authority that permits municipalities to take private property for economic development. Issue 1 is a bold attempt to bypass the constitutional cap on debt service. Today's newborn will be paying off these bonds, plus interest and debt service, 30 years from now.

### #2 Constitutional Amend

to expand to all electors the choice to vote by absentee ballot in all elections, this amendment would provide that any person qualified to vote in an election is entitled during the 35 days prior to the election to receive and to cast a ballot by mail or in person at the county board of elections or additional location designated by the board. No reason for casting such a ballot shall be required. When a ballot is mailed to an elector, the county board of elections shall also provide a pre-addressed, postage pre-paid envelope for returning the ballot to that county board of elections. An elector to whom a ballot has been mailed but which has not been received by the issuing county board of elections prior to the election, may cast a provisional ballot on election day. If the elector's first ballot is received by the 10th day following the election, the provisional ballot shall not be counted. A ballot which is received by the issuing board by mail no later

than the 10th day following the election shall be treated as timely cast if it contains a postmark not later than the day of the election.

Shall the proposed amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

**Argument FOR\*** ... expand to all Ohio registered voters the option to vote up to 35 days prior to Election Day by mail or in person at the appropriate local board of elections. Long lines at voting booths in recent years, inclement weather and work demands of Ohioans have discouraged some citizens from voting on Election Day ... make voting more convenient and easier for all Ohioans. Currently, only a few categories of persons are permitted to vote early by absentee ballot ... allow all Ohioans to vote by mail ... allow all Ohioans to vote in person at their local board of elections ... allow Ohioans to vote up to 35 days prior to Election Day ... make voting more convenient and increase the opportunity to vote ... will increase voter participation by Ohioans in elections. Increased participation in elections will make government more accountable to the people of Ohio and combat undue influence by a few and the corruption that currently pervades state government.

**Argument AGAINST\*** ... the adoption of this amendment is likely to lead to a significant increase in cases of fraudulent voting in Ohio, as experienced in other states that have adopted similar proposals. The proposed amendment does not contain a reliable method to protect the integrity of votes cast early, nor does it provide adequate safeguards to ensure that only eligible and qualified voters would be able to use these procedures. Second, this amendment is not necessary because Ohio law already contains generous absentee voting provisions. Currently, any Ohio voter with a legitimate reason for being absent on Election Day can obtain an absentee ballot. In fact, there are 16 reasons that allow absentee voting under current Ohio law, including: military service; health and physical disability issues; work related issues; being age 62 or older; or, simply that the voter expects to be absent from the county on

## Minerva Park's Ballot

Election Day for personal reasons. Third, the proposed amendment does not ensure that every Ohioan will have the same opportunity to vote early. The amendment does not establish a statewide standard that must be followed for designation of times and locations for early voting. The rules governing early voting could vary widely from county to county, because the amendment gives each county Board of Elections the discretion to designate the times and locations for early voting.

### #3 Constitutional Amend

to establish revised limits on political contributions, establish prohibitions regarding political contributions and provide for revised public disclosure requirements of campaign contributions and expenditures ... establishes annual limits on contributions by individuals, contributions from individuals, contributions from political action committees, from multi-candidate PACs, from small donor PACs, from candidates' committees, and from affiliated national, state, county, and local political parties combined ... defines small donor action committee, multi-candidate political committee, independent expenditure ... prohibits statewide and general assembly candidates & office holders from (1) soliciting contributions to more than 1 PAC, small donor action committee, or multi-candidate political committee in a calendar year, (2) soliciting contributions to a committee supporting or opposing a state ballot issue, (3) appearing in ads in connection with a state ballot issue, unless the candidate or the candidate's campaign committee pays the entire cost ... provides no limits on a candidate's capacity to spend his or her own money in connection with his or her own campaign ... permits labor unions and other nonprofit unincorporated membership organizations to contribute funds from regular membership dues paid by the organization's individual members to small donor action committee, which is not required to report the names of individuals who contribute in this fashion ...

Shall the proposed amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

**Argument FOR\*** ... restore confidence, level the playing field and reduce the influence of big money contributors in politics by significantly limiting campaign contributions to statewide and state legislative candidates and political parties. Ohio's state government has become mired in scandal. A "pay-to-play" culture - reflected in "Coingate," undisclosed golf outings, and ongoing federal and state investigations - permeates state government. The endless drive to raise campaign money has tempted too many to cross ethical lines. Rather than limiting the influence of big money, the General Assembly made the problem worse last year by raising individual contribution limits from \$2,500 to \$10,000! The legislature also lifted a ban on corporate contributions to political parties. ... restore reasonable contribution limits and reduce the influence of big money in government. Under this amendment, individual contributions will be limited to \$2,000 per election for statewide candidates and \$1,000 per election for state legislative candidates. The ban on corporate contributions to political parties will be restored. The current influence of big money contributors in state government has corrupted government. Ohio's sky high contribution limits only widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" making it increasingly difficult for average citizens to compete in the public arena. Government stops listening to the average citizen and only hears the big money contributor. Big money allows special interests to shape policy and exercise greater influence over legislators than the voters who elect them. One need only look to the scandals that now plague Ohio.

**Argument AGAINST\*** ... The proposed amendment would change how Ohio political campaigns are funded to benefit the wealthy and labor unions, to the disadvantage of all other Ohioans. The proposed amendment allows labor unions to funnel unlimited amounts of money into the political process through a new type of political organization that is deceptively labeled a "small donor" action

committee. In addition, there would be no obligation placed on labor unions to provide full disclosure regarding the source of this money, which could even be given people outside Ohio. The proposed amendment would give an unfair advantage to wealthy candidates because they would be permitted to use unlimited amounts of personal money in their campaigns. However, unlike Ohio's current law, the proposed amendment would not permit an individual running against a wealthy opponent to raise additional campaign dollars to make the election fair and competitive.

The proposed amendment would also place drastic restrictions on the ability of all other Ohioans to raise money to combat the undue influence of the wealthy and labor unions in Ohio elections. These restrictions are designed to silence the voices of ordinary Ohioans in the elections process.

### #4 Constitutional Amend

to provide for a state redistricting commission with responsibility for creating legislative districts ... replace the two existing separate processes for creating legislative districts and for electing reps to Congress and reps & senators to the Ohio general assembly with a new state commission ... new commission would be composed of 5 members, 2 of whom would be chosen by sitting judges and the remaining appointed by the first two or chosen by lot ... provides for a mathematical formula to determine districts ... commission may consider whether to alter a plan to preserve communities of interest based on geography, economics, or race, so long as the reconfiguration does not result in a competitiveness number that is more than 2 points lower for a congressional plan and 4 points lower for a general assembly plan ... legislative district boundaries shall change in 2007 and thereafter every year ending in one following a federal decennial census ... general assembly must appropriate sufficient funds for commission to perform its duties, at its discretion. Shall the amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

## Minerva Park's Ballot

**Argument FOR\*** ... restore competitiveness to Congressional and State legislative races in Ohio ... help make politicians more accountable and responsive to constituents ... combat corruption in state government by making politicians listen more to constituents and less to big donors and special interests ... designates an independent, non-partisan commission to draw legislative districts with a goal of making the districts competitive, while preserving communities and minority rights. The independent commission will replace the current system, which allows politicians to draw the districts to serve their own partisan interests. Currently, using sophisticated computer models, the political party in power manipulates the districts to maximize the number of seats it is likely to win and minimize the number likely to be won by the opposing party. The result is "safe seats" where incumbents almost never lose. Consider these shocking statistics, which reflect the problem nationally and in Ohio: (1) In 435 U.S. House races last year, only 13 seats changed party; (2) In Ohio, every Congressman and State Senator up for election was re-elected and only a handful of State House incumbents lost; (3) In Ohio, the average margins of victory were 44 points in Congressional races, 35 points in State Senate races, and 38 points in State House races.

As one commentator states, "Competitive elections for the state legislature and Congress, with a handful of exceptions, no longer exist in Ohio." Issue 4 will restore accountability by making elections meaningful again and in so doing make corruption less likely. Applying strict criteria in the amendment and considering proposals from the public the independent commission will maximize the number of competitive districts in Ohio and enhance the influence of all voters in the electoral process.

**Argument AGAINST\*** ... First, Ohio voters lose the ability to hold public officials accountable in the process to create districts for the Ohio General Assembly and the U.S. Congress. Instead, the proposed amendment would place this power in the hands of a new commission that is made up of 5 political appointees. Two of

the commission members would be selected by judges and the others may be chosen by lot. The members of the commission would not be required to meet any minimum level of qualifications. Once appointed, the commissioners would serve for an indefinite period of time, and would never be accountable to Ohio voters.

Second, the proposed amendment would grant the commission virtually unlimited power to spend Ohio tax dollars with essentially no control by Ohio voters or other state leaders. No other state commission has this extraordinary spending power.

Third, although today the Ohio Constitution protects your right to vote for someone who represents your community or neighborhood, the proposed amendment would require the commission to focus on political parties. The proposal expressly allows districts to be gerrymandered to ensure that one party or the other wins, rather than ensure that all Ohioans have a fair chance to have a representative who shares their point of view.

Finally, the proposed amendment would remove from the Ohio Constitution the authority of Ohio's courts to review the commission's activities. Therefore, unlike all other Ohio public officials, political subdivisions, boards, commissions, and agencies, Ohio citizens would have virtually no ability to challenge the actions of this unelected commission in Ohio's courts. The commission should not be uniquely unaccountable and placed above the law.

### #5 Constitutional Amend

to create a newly appointed board to administer elections, eliminating responsibility of the elected Ohio Secretary of State to oversee elections ... appointed board of 9 members to administer statewide elections and oversee existing county boards of elections ... members appointed as follows - 4 by governor, 4 by members of the general assembly affiliated with the political party that is not the same as that of the governor, 1 by a unanimous vote of the chief justice and justices of the Ohio Supreme Court ... must be equal numbers of men and women and take into

consideration the geographic regions and racial diversity of the state ... require state board of elections supervisors to hire an administrative director to prescribe uniform procedures, to appoint & remove members of the county board of elections, to certify petitions of candidates and for statewide ballot issues, to certify all equipment & systems used for voting & counting votes, to approve ballot language, to maintain a statewide voter registration file ... require the general assembly to set a reasonable level of compensation for the members and appropriate sufficient funds for it to fully perform its dues, to acquire such equipment, supplies, and office space as necessary for such performance.

Shall the amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

**Argument FOR\*** ... create a bi-partisan and independent state board of elections supervisors to administer elections similar to the county boards of elections. In recent elections, public confidence in the fairness of the election process has been undermined by actions of the Secretary of State. Citizens need to have trust and confidence restored in their electoral system. Issue 5 will restore public confidence by replacing the Secretary of State as the state's chief elections officer with a bi-partisan board of elections supervisors similar to the local county boards of elections. If a bi-partisan system is good enough for all 88 counties, it should be good enough for Ohio as a whole ... will lessen partisanship in the administration of elections in Ohio at the state level ... will prevent those who are involved in administering elections at the state level from mixing personal political agendas with their public duties ... will create a bi-partisan board with 9 appointed members—4 appointed by the Governor, 4 appointed by Members of the General Assembly of the opposite party and one member appointed by the Ohio Supreme Court ... will not create another layer of bureaucracy in State government. Money now used for this service could be transferred to the state board of elections ... will not replace the bi-partisan county boards of elections that currently administer and will continue to administer

## Minerva Park's Ballot

elections at the local level.

**Argument AGAINST\*** ... First, the proposed amendment would effectively end the local control over Ohio elections that is currently exercised by our bipartisan county elections boards.

Second, would create a new statewide elections board that would consist of members who are politically appointed for 9-year terms, and would never be accountable to Ohio voters.

Third, would eliminate the role of Ohio's Secretary of State in Ohio's election system. The new statewide board of political appointees would replace our elected Secretary of State.

The proponents of this amendment clearly distrust the ability of Ohio voters to choose a public official to be in charge of Ohio's election system.

Fourth, would essentially give the appointed elections board a "blank check" to spend any and all tax dollars that it desires even if taxes would need to be raised to pay for it. The proposed amendment does not explain why it is necessary to give this group of political appointees the power to spend unlimited amounts of tax dollars, without being accountable to Ohio voters or elected Ohio public officials. •



## Villagers

*Welcome  
Our New Neighbors!*

**Byron & Beth Weaver & Alex,**  
2694 Alder Vista Dr. (from the Hilltop) - 891-4985

**Jon Riederer & Caitlyn Ball,**  
2586 Minerva Lake Rd. (from north Columbus) - 378-9559

**Christopher McCray & Courtney Oberst,** 2840  
Maplewood Dr. (from Reynoldsburg) - 882-3801

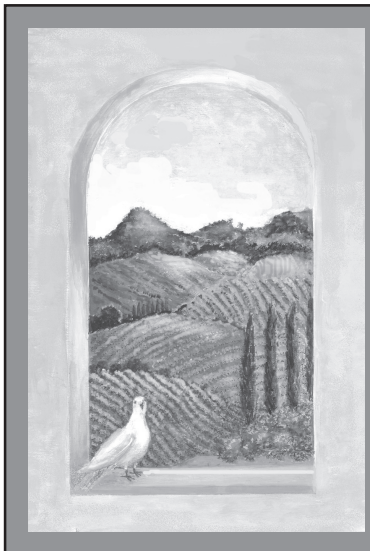
**Kent & Jenine Stanley,** 5244  
E. Shore Dr., unpublished

**Theresa & James Campbell & Maryonay, Jassmine, TC Cobb,** 2601 Wildwood Rd. (from SW Columbus) - 212-2234

**Hollis & Rita Lanning,** 2729  
Maplewood Dr. (from Gahanna) - 523-1862

If you learn of any new residents, please advise the

**Newcomers Committee**  
Steve & Lisa Thithoff - 891-2166  
Amy Szlapak - 890-4113



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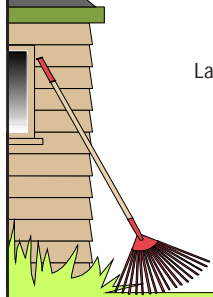
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RESIDENT



*Mayor's  
Court*

Mayor's Court is open to the public — our next sessions are November 1, 15, 29 - 6:00p.

If you have any questions, please call Charline Garrabrant, Clerk of Courts, at 882-5743 (Community Building).

September 2005

Complete payments - 16	
Village Computer Fund .....	\$ 80
Village General Fund .....	2,451
Remitted to the State .....	320
Total Court Receipts .....	\$2,851

# Minerva Park the Villager

Minerva Park Community Association  
2829 Minerva Lake Road  
Columbus OH 43231

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## Special Voters' Issue



Tuesday  
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6:30a to 7:30p

MP's Ballot - pages 8-12

Advertise in *the Villager* ... **899-3755**  
Ads start at \$15 - discount on 6-month contracts

## *the Villager* Staff

Editor ..... Dianne Poncinie, 882-0012  
[bizeefam@columbus.rr.com](mailto:bizeefam@columbus.rr.com)

Layout & Design ..... Sharon Bierman, 899-3755  
[sbierman@columbus.rr.com](mailto:sbierman@columbus.rr.com) ... 899-7731 fax

The *Villager* is mailed to all MP homes for delivery by the 1st Monday of each month. Residents are invited to submit articles & other items of interest. Use the drop box inside the front door at the Community Building. The *Villager* reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor's signature and phone number. The *Villager* is online at:  
<http://www.minervapark.org/villager>

Next deadline:  
**Wednesday, November 16, 5:00p**

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