November Calendar

7th - Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 pm
11th - Village Council, 8 pm
13th - Minerva Park Community Association, 7:30 pm
18th - Villager deadline, none
23rd - Indoor-tailgate party, Community Building, noon

MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS - CONTEST RULES

The judging will the second week of December (8-14). Winners will be selected in the following categories:
1) Best outdoor tree
2) Best entranceway
3) Best whimsical display
4) Best religious theme
5) Best picture window
6) Best outline effect

Winners will receive garden store certificates. Winners and runners-up will be written up in the January Villager. Judges will include adults and teenagers from different areas of the Park. Persons interested in being judges please call Tim Curry 890-5809. Households may not win consecutive years in any given category.

The following high school students from Minerva Park were recognized October 9th at Westerville South Scholar's Night for outstanding academic performance: Sarah Eisentrout, Marna Laudon, Mandy McIntyre, Jeffrey Rose, Veronika Rowe, Jennifer Stebleton, Sandy Stuart, Jessica Takacs, Rachel Tayse, Adam Waite and Eric Waite.

Congratulations for a job well done!

Lynn Eisentrout

Come to an indoor-tailgate party on Saturday, November 23rd for the OSU vs. Michigan game. Bring a covered dish or dessert. The community association will provide tableware and soft drinks. Festivities begin at noon at the Community Building. Go Bucks! Call Pam Park-Curry 890-5809 or Betty Beatrice 899-9246 for more information.
Mayor's Corner
By Mayor Jack Murray

We have submitted another request for funding to replace the waterlines on Minerva Lake Road. If the money is awarded, I do not anticipate the actual construction will begin until late 1997 or early 1998. To verify our urgent need, we asked for and received a number of letters from residents along Minerva Lake Road reciting the problems created by the constant breaks in the water supply lines. I want to thank those people who took the time to write to express their concerns. Copies of your letters were made a part of our proposal.

I trust you are going to vote on November 5th, and I urge you to vote for our renewal levy (#15 on the ballot) which is a renewal, and not a new tax. This money provides the necessary funds for a number of services provided to the Village.

Now that the Cleveland Avenue project is completed or nearly so, I anticipate more traffic moving at a rapid rate of speed. The city traffic people have told me that the posted speed limit will remain at 35 mph. We will continue to monitor the vehicle movement as our resources allow in an effort to discourage speed violations.

I met with the Deputy Director of the Columbus Department of Public Utilities to discuss the storm water flow from the properties to the west of us and was assured that their department is developing a plan to better control the flow of water toward Minerva Park.

On September 28, 1996, Police Chief Bobbie Hillard was honored for 20 years service to the Village at a dinner held at Damon's attended by police officers, family, friends and Village officials. Chief Hillard received a plaque commemorating his many years of service. Congratulations, Chief.

I've heard it said: "You're a senior citizen when you look forward to a dull evening!"

Minerva! "We Have a Problem"

It has been brought to council's attention that our beloved ducks and geese are causing two problems which must be addressed.

First and foremost is the increasing over-population of waterfowl in the north and south lakes. With the onset of declining wetland areas, these waterfowl are becoming more abundant in our area as the years pass. Naturally our first inclination is to assist the wildlife in anyway possible. Well-meaning people often do this by depositing huge amounts of bread and corn in various areas around the lakes.

One example of over population can be seen at the soccer fields in Kettering, Ohio. These fields became virtually unusable as a result of excessive amounts of duck and geese excrement. This material can be extremely hazardous to the health and safety of humans.

The second problem to be confronted is the excessive amount of erosion being caused by wildlife as they clamber over the shore lines of the lakes. Several residents have experienced the loss of shoreline which is a direct result of over population. Ron Blandy, Ohio Department of Natural Resources/Division of Wildlife, advised that is extremely difficult to thin out this population. His only recommendation was - don't feed the ducks! You must at least limit the amount of food being distributed and restrict the feeding area.

Council will be reviewing the options available; however, the situation needs to be addressed in some immediate fashion. For the time being limit the amount of feed to 2-3 handfuls and feed the wildfowl only in the areas currently designated for fishing. Please direct any comments or questions to council or Mayor Murray.

submitted by Dave Stahr
VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
October 14, 1996

The regular monthly meeting of council was called to order by Mayor Murray. All council members were present.

Pat Mangan reported for the Planning & Zoning Commission. A room addition was approved for 2869 North Lake Ct. They also discussed the problems with a multiple-use violation going on in the Village.

Karl Garrabrandt, Fire Chief, showed two new pieces of equipment, an automatic external defibrillation (AED) and intubation equipment.

Narcus Tsiliacos, Village Law Director, advised that the MORPC is coordinating a communications commission to deal with rapidly changing telecommunications. He and Mayor Murray have talked with Warner Cable and Ameritech concerning cable permits. Length of permit and franchise fees still need to be determined.

Mayor’s report
* the waterline application to replace lines on Minerva Lake Road has been submitted. It may be late 1997 before any decision will be made.
* Dick Paugh asked council to lower the lake in order to install a stone wall. Council will advise Mr. Paugh that the lake will be lowered in the spring and ask him to consider doing the project then.
* the mayor has talked with the City of Columbus about the water problem in Kilbourne Run. The City of Columbus Utilities Director, Jim James, will look at the retention of the water on the other side of Cleveland Avenue and shoring up of our banks to deter erosion. Pat Tiberi, who was attending the meeting, said he will talk with Jim Joyce also.
* Halloween will be on October 30th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm.
* feeding of the ducks has become a problem because of the numbers of ducks taking up residence by the lakes. Residents are urged to feed the ducks smaller quantities and down by the lake shore of the south lake.

Council Committee Reports
Community – Jeanne Blair advised that the lamp will be installed by the community building. The trees that were recently cut or trimmed on Village property were cut or trimmed because they were dead and in danger of falling. The fall clean-up has been re-scheduled for October 19th.

Streets – Bob Landy advised that the Cleveland Avenue project will be done by December 1st, and the county knows that the street signs must be put back up. The list of trouble spots on Village streets is not forgotten, but we still need to line up a contractor to do the work.

Service – Dave Stahr reported that leaf pick-up will begin on Oct. 21st and conclude on Nov. 28th. He is continuing to work on the lake dredging project.

Finance – the bills were approved for payment.

Safety – Lynn Eisentrout addressed a letter received from a resident about an on-going problem she is experiencing at her home. The mayor and the police chief advised that the problem has/is being worked on.

Legislation – council passed a resolution authorizing the Village to enter into an agreement with Blendon Township to provide EMS service to the township. Council approved an expenditure to give $2000 to Blendon Township from the sale of the old EMS vehicle in 1992.

Council reviewed information about the cost of the waterline replacement. How is the Village going to raise the $114,000 needed for our share of the project? Jon Self will look into options available.

Lynn Eisentrout advised that the bid specifications for pool renovations will be re-done and re-submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Narcus Tsiliacos advised that he is working with that dept. on how long the Village has obligated itself, by accepting grant money, to keep the pool open (what is a reasonable time?) and for what recreational purposes.
MINERVA PARK POLICE

9-9-96 telephone harassment - in the 2600 block of Maplewood a resident received an annoying phone call from a known person.

9-10-96 burglary in progress - 2700 block of Lakewood, false alarm.

9-11-96 theft - person(s) unknown removed a drill and hammer from a truck while parked at 2999 E. Dublin Granville Rd.

9-15-96 burglary in progress - 2700 block of Parklane Ct., false alarm.

9-19-96 menacing - a known person made threats to a resident in the 2500 block of Maplewood.

9-15-96 menacing - a known suspect made a threatening phone call to a resident in the 2500 block of Maplewood.

9-20-96 vandalism - between midnight and 8:40 am person(s) unknown damaged a vehicle while parked in the 5300 block of Ponderosa.

9-23-96 burglary in progress - 2600 block of Jordan Rd., false alarm.

9-28-96 vandalism - 2800 block of Maplewood person(s) unknown did engrave letters in fresh concrete.

9-27-96 theft - between 9-20 and 9-25 person(s) unknown removed a license plate from a vehicle while parked in the 2500 block of Lakewood.

9-28-96 burglary in progress - 2700 block of Lakewood, false alarm.
The last weekend of September I went to Inniswood to attend a lecture by Fred Hower on "Four-season trees and shrubs" thinking I'd hear about a select few that would be outstanding all year round. Instead, I came away with lists of those great in each of the four seasons; however, I wish to share with you some from his list of "those that should be used more often."

Spring - Witchhazel, Cornelian cherry dogwood, Crusader hawthorn, White fringe tree, Red bud, Smoke tree (Smoke bush)
Fall - Witchhazel, Stewarta, Franklinia, Paw paw, Katsura tree, Sweet gum (fruitless), Service berries, Dawn redwood, Ginkgo, Bald cypress, Sour gum.

I decided to share this list because of his statement that if your neighbor has something, you should plant something different. Not only does this make for a more interesting looking neighborhood, but it also keeps an area from losing lots of trees when a disease strikes a species. This is what happened to the elms. Broad Street and other major thoroughfares used to be lined with them, and suddenly they were all gone. Look at what the gypsy moth has done to the oak trees of Pennsylvania. It has already been detected in Ohio. We already have lots of oaks in Minerva Park. Currently there is a blight killing many dogwoods; so it is advisable to use the Cornelian or Kousa dogwoods or enjoy more common ones during their short lives.

Once you have decided not to plant another maple or oak or ash or crab, you may want to learn more about some of those on the above lists. They vary in height, width, color of foliage and fruits. The location on your lot and the size of your house often dictates your choice. For instance, if it has berries, you don't want it by your patio or entry door. If it grows 100 feet tall, it will look queer in front of a one-story house. Eventual width is very important when planting in the vicinity of the driveway or house. Some like sun; some want a protected area; some want acid soil and so it goes. The search can be half the fun.

At presentations such as this the speakers stay around to answer questions. Don't hesitate to ask them and as you do with choosing a surgeon, get a second opinion. Flora is always eager to help and is around most of the time mid-March to December. Annuals you change each year easily, but planting a tree or shrub is a long time commitment for you and probably several other generations of home owners.

Fall

When looking for Halloween decorations I noticed a beautiful red and white fuchsia hanging basket at 2685 Alder Vista. It looked as though it had just been put out and these are hard to raise.

Earlier in the season I mentioned a complete front renovation at 2801 Alder Vista. The sod is now in and the leaves of the new trees are in color. The stone wall matching the stone of the house front retains the raised beds and looks great.

If you are thinking of planting a fire bush; and they tell you it's a dwarf, take a look at the Vance's (2761 Lakewood). It is huge and beautiful, but if you don't want to spend all your life pruning it, give it room.

I also admired the colorful trees at the apartments at the end of Minerva Lake Road. They are in Columbus but we certainly are lucky to get neighbors who keep their property so attractive. Let's be hopeful about all the new developments on Cleveland Avenue.
My family members were "gatherers". Mostly, they did not sow, only reap. So it was last week when I picked a bucket of elderberries along the North Lake banks. My first wife baked a fine pie with them. The first I had tasted in about 50 years. You don't find elderberries in the marketplace, nor the pies they make possible. A simple but astonishingly good treat.

My Dad wouldn't eat elderberries in any form, said they were poison. I don't know about that, but they were sure a bit of heaven.

A more pressing matter: One day last week, I counted 200 ducks on and near the roadway. The size of the flock has grown way out of proportion. Like too many of anything, it is wrong. When humans enter into the picture, animals will change their habits and become dependent. This is not healthy for either the ducks or the people. If you wish to watch the wildfowl, there is a great viewing place at Blendon Woods. Just don't try to feed them. The rangers won't let you.

In talking to wildlife officials, they tell us there's only two ways to get rid of such a flock. Either drive them to Seattle (any place closer and they will return) or have them for dinner. If we cut off their lazy ways, the flock will dwindle down to the few the environment can support. The others will go where there is more open water, and they can live more naturally. They need open water where they can safely evade wildlife and dogs. When the ducks are this numerous, they are subject to disease much more than their systems can handle. It might be fun to feed the ducks, but like feeding the bears, it will catch up with us.
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT?

IS IT JUST A TURKEY DINNER WITH TRIMMINGS?

OR IS THERE A MORE MEANINGFUL REASON FOR THIS NATIONAL HOLIDAY?

HEARING THAT SOME FOLKS PREFER HAM RATHER THAN TURKEY AT THIS TIME OF YEAR, Dlusky's Pig After A Year of Territorizing the Neighborhood, Hides by Camouflaging Itself in Piles of Leaves, If You Look Closely You Can See Its Evil Snout Watching Your Every Move.

THE HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THANKSGIVING IS NOT TAUGHT IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. A CONDENSED VERSION OF THE EVENT IS AS FOLLOWS: IN THE LATE 1600s A GROUP OF DEVOUT FOLLOWERS OF PREACHER JOHN CALVIN, DISAGREEING WITH THE DOGMA OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND WHICH DEMANDS TOTAL OBEDIENCE, FOR THEIR RESISTANCE THEY WERE CALLED PURITANS AND WERE SEVERELY PERSECUTED. IN SMALL BANDS THEY MANAGED TO ESCAPE TO HOLLAND WHERE THEY LIVED 10 YEARS, SEEING THAT THEIR CHILDREN WERE BEING AFFlicted BY THE SECULAR DUTCH, THEY FELT THEY MUST MOVE AGAIN, JOINING A COMPANY WHICH HAD BEEN GRANTED LAND IN VIRGINIA THEY SET OUT IN SEPTEMBER 1620 ON A ROUGH VOYAGE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC. ON CHRISTMAS DAY THEY LANDED AT PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS, NOT THEIR ORIGINAL DESTINATION. BEFORE DEPARTING THEY DRAFTED A CODE OF CONDUCT CALLED THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT WHICH LATER GREATLY INFLUENCED MAKERS OF OUR CONSTITUTION. THE FIRST YEAR AT PLYMOUTH WAS VERY DIFFICULT THEY BUILT SHELTERS AND WITH THE HELP OF FRIENDLY INDIANS, PLANTED CROPS, AT HARVEST TIME THEY HELD A FEAST OF THANKS TO THE GOD WHO HAD BEEN WITH THEM THROUGH ALL THEIR HARDSHIPS. THIS IS HOW THANKSGIVING DAY, A NATIONAL HOLIDAY CAME ABOUT. DOES THIS FESTIVAL HAVE ANY MORE SIGNIFICANCE FOR US TODAY THAN TURKEY AND FOOTBALL?

LEAVES

THE PENALTY WE MUST PAY FOR LIVING IN A COMMUNITY OF BEAUTIFUL TREES

IF YOU EVER CLEANED OUT YOUR GUTTERS YOURSELF I KNOW YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED THIS STRANGE PHENOMENA. LEAVES WILL NOT BLOW OVER A GUTTER! IF THE WIND IS BLOWING THEY FLY UP AND RETURN TO SAME GUTTER EVEN THO IT IS PILED HIGH AND OVERFLOWING BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF YOU LEAVE YOUR GARAGE DOOR OPEN AND YOUR DRIVEWAY IS CLEAR OF THEM THEY SOON APPEAR AND BLOW INTO THE INTERIOR AND ALL OVER YOUR CLEAN FLOOR, IT'S ALMOST AS IF THEY HAD AN INTELLIGENCE OF THEIR OWN
Congratulations to Phil and Velma Graves who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on November 29th. Phil and Velma have lived in the Park for 45 years. The Villager remembers publishing their 50th wedding anniversary - how time moves along!

Squad 119 ... Where are you?

In September, Squad 119 made 36 runs, 22 runs into Blendon Township and 6 into Minerva Park.

Members volunteered a total of 982 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 10,264.5. Leading volunteers for the month were Frank Meredith (121.5 hours), Lee Eckert (67 hours), and Harold Shaw (53.5 hours). Frank Meredith leads year-to-date with 822.5 hours.

The subject of the October training meeting was on electrical safety and conducted by a representative of AEP.

As of October 7th, Automatic External Defibrillation (AED) and Intubation equipment have been added to the EMS.

9/10 Maplewood - ill person
9/10 Maplewood - medical alarm
9/13 Westbridge - open insinist
9/14 Cleveland Ave. - injury/fight
9/23 Far View - injured child
9/25 Maplewood - poss. CVA

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* Member of the Columbus Board of Realtors
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Minerva Park CLASSIFIED

Responsible fun-loving, 14 year old Minerva Park girl will babysit weekends (some evenings). CPR/Babysitting courses completed. Many references. 895-1739

We will provide lots of TLC for your pets while you are away - your home preferred. Please call 895-1739. References provided.

Editor: Betty Beatrice
3201 Minerva Lake Road
899-9246
Contributors: Mary Yost
Ray Beougher

Articles on community news must be submitted by the deadline. There is a drop box at the editor's address and at the Community Building. A business-card size advertisement costs $10 and must be prepaid. The Villager reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor's name and phone number.