

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

From the Editor ...

As you will notice, we've made a few changes in this month's *Villager*. Most notably, we have resurrected the **opinion-editorial section**, which we call **Village Views**. Our intention is to create a forum where residents can discuss whatever is on their minds – the community association, village government, schools, or the world in general. When it's appropriate, we'll try to get an answer to your questions by the next issue.

This issue also includes a new **people section** called **Villagers**. Please send us information about births, special birthdays and anniversaries, weddings, academic and professional honors, and

serious illnesses. We've discontinued publishing the monthly birthday list because it didn't include most of our residents. But please feel free to submit announcements of special birthdays for publication.

We aspire to make *The Villager* so interesting and valuable that you run to get your door hanger on the first Monday of each month. But to make this newsletter the best it can be, **we need your help**. We need additional reporters, columnists, and just regular folks to submit information or at least provide tips about area goings-on. We also could use an enterprising individual to sell advertising for the newsletter so we can afford to expand the

publication even further.

If you have something you'd like to submit, have some suggestions, or you would like to volunteer to help make *The Villager* more informative, please contact me at **794-3862** or call **Sharon Bierman** at **523-1905**. As always, we reserve the right to print only those items that are appropriate for publication, submitted by the deadline, and have your name. We hope to hear from you!

Felicia Busick, Editor

MPCA Notes

Fourth of July

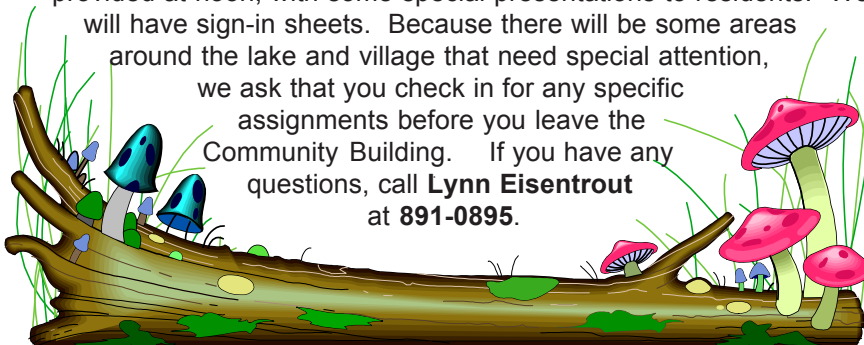
There will be an organizational meeting on **Wednesday, April 22**, at 7:00p at the Community Building for all of those interested in helping with the Fourth of July Parade and festivities. If you cannot attend but would like to help, please call **Lynn Eisentrout** at **891-0895**.

Lake Clean-Up

Saturday, April 25

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine

Donuts, juice, and coffee will be served, and it's off to work we go. Please bring rakes, saws, etc. Gloves will be available. Lunch will be provided at noon, with some special presentations to residents. We will have sign-in sheets. Because there will be some areas around the lake and village that need special attention, we ask that you check in for any specific assignments before you leave the Community Building. If you have any questions, call **Lynn Eisentrout** at **891-0895**.



APRIL CALENDAR

- 13 (8:00p)..... Council Meeting
- 15 (7:30p)..... Block Watch
- 15 MPCA Meeting
- 17 (5:00p)..... Villager Deadline
- 22 (7:00p).... 4th of July Planning
- 25 (8a-4p) Lake Clean-Up Day

MPCA Notes

MPCA Community Gift & 1997 Duck Award

After the luncheon for Lake Clean-Up Day participants, the MPCA will present its gift to the community and the 1997 Duck Award, given to an outstanding citizen on an annual basis.

The 1996 award was bestowed on **Nancy Fry**, involved in several community activities, including heading the children's activities and the Newcomer's Committee. She is now MPCA President. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Fischer Scholarships

The MPCA is pleased to again award two \$250 scholarships to graduating seniors. Details: **Beth Birckbichler** at **882-2935**.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteerism makes it possible to publish this newsletter, maintain village gardens, and hold children's events, the Fourth of July festivities, and the garage sale. There are always opportunities for involvement. Some require very little time, and many offices can be shared by more than one person.

Please help us continue to make Minerva Park a special place to live by contacting **Nancy Fry** at **890-6845** to volunteer.

Claim Club Treasures

We will be cleaning out the storage closet at the Community Building this month and would like members of the former Women's Club to help. This will be your only chance to claim any items that might be valuable. Otherwise, they're headed for the dumpster! Call **Nancy Fry** for details, **890-6845**. **MP**

POOL NEWS

by Jeri Wunderle

The MP Swim Club held its annual spaghetti dinner on March 21, with profits going toward paint and supplies to ready the pool for another great swim season.

We thank **Bonnie Limes, Scott Bast, GFS, Villa Milano**, and the many volunteers who make it possible to keep this tradition alive.

We invite everybody to join the pool and enjoy the renovations that will be completed for the season. The pool is an important asset to our community. Please help support it!

BLOCK WATCH

The third and last training session will be on **Wednesday, April 15**, at **7:30p** at the **Community Building**, focusing on personal and fire safety. Our Police Officers, Columbus Police Dept. Liaison Dan Douglas, and members of our EMS squad will provide helpful tips & video covering street crimes, home security, etc. Any outstanding organizational matters will be addressed.

Even if you were unable to attend the first two meetings, you are more than welcome to come to this one!

Questions? Contact **Chief Bob Hillard** at **882-1408** or **Lynn Eisentrout** at **891-0895**.

Scoop Ordinance Passed in December

For those of you who haven't heard, it is now a misdemeanor in Minerva Park not to clean up after your dog if it makes a deposit anywhere but in your own yard. According to a village ordinance passed in December, noncompliant dog owners face fines up to \$50 and \$35 in court costs if cited. Dog owners seen by the police or turned in by their neighbors will be given one warning, but will be taken to court



for repeat violations, according to Mayor Jack Murray. If you observe someone repeatedly violating this ordinance, please contact our Police Dept. They'll want some evidence (in addition to the obvious!). Dog owners, please observe common courtesy & bring a scoop 'n baggie on walks. Keep our public areas clean for the children (and adults) who use them.

Council Members Given Committee Assignments

Update page 3 of your Village Directory ...

In January, the six members of Village council were assigned committee responsibilities by Mayor Jack Murray. Each council member serves as the chairperson for one committee and serves on two other committees.

Council president **Lynn Eisentrout (891-0895)** chairs the **Community Committee**, which oversees the care of village recreational areas and public land, the lakes, and holiday celebrations.

Lou Busick (794-3862) chairs the **Finance Committee**, monitoring revenues, expenditures, tax budget, appropriations, and the quarterly financial status, and recommends methods for raising revenues.

Pam Park-Curry (890-5809)

will again serve as chair for the **Legislative Committee**, which researches, drafts, finalizes, and reviews village ordinances and resolutions.

The **Safety Committee** is chaired by **Bill Moore (898-9480)**, overseeing matters related to police and EMS, traffic, village lighting, and general village hazards.

Dave Stahr (890-8819) continues as the chairman of the **Service Committee**, which supervises matters related to sanitation, including refuse collection, mosquito control, leaf removal, and water line breaks.

The **Streets Committee** is chaired by **Marty Grosh (899-1815)**. It monitors the construction and maintenance of streets, signs, and storm sewers and oversees snow removal.

Council Prepares for First Meeting about Lake Project

In anticipation of the first community meeting about the **proposed south lake restoration project**, Council's Service Committee furnished the facts and figures to other council members at a special meeting March 9.

Representatives of the dredging firm and the bond attorneys made presentations and answered questions.

These same firms will make presentations at a community meeting **Sunday, May 17 at 4:00p** in the **Community Building**.

"Village residents are encouraged to attend and ask questions regarding the mechanics, logistics, and financing of the project," **Dave Stahr**, project coordinator, said.

If voters pass the November bond issue, the lake project will be overseen by **Chris Thobe**, a project engineer with Metropolitan Environmental Services, Inc. His firm was chosen from the three bids submitted after a solicitation in the Dodge Report.

The sludge removed from the lake will be deposited at the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio's closed model landfill at 3922 Jackson Pike, which may be the future site of a new golf course for the city of Columbus. Stahr received permission from the authority in March.

Watch for more details about the lake dredging project in next month's *Villager*.

G O V E R N -

M E Clerk-Treasurer

Suzanne Coulter was appointed Minerva Park Clerk-Treasurer in March. Coulter has more than 10 years of accounting experience, most recently as controller of an environmental firm in Indianapolis. She lives on Minerva Lake Road with her husband, **Todd**, and children, **Kelsey, Shane, and Jerrod**.

Council Authorizes Pay Raises

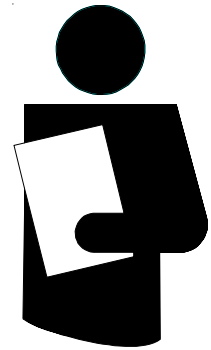
In January, council passed a resolution increasing some salaries. The Chief of Police went from \$26,500 to \$28,000 annually. Patrolmen went from \$9 to \$11 per hour, and part-time officers received a \$1-per-hour raise to \$8. The village secretary's salary was increased from \$8/hour to a range of \$8 - \$12 hourly, determined by periodic performance reviews and council approval.

All raises were made retroactive to January 1, 1998.

Editor's note: Beginning this month, in addition to offering insights into government activities, Mayor Jack Murray will provide an executive summary of the last council meeting. This first Mayor's Report covers the council meeting held March 9.

MAYOR'S REPORT

By Jack Murray



We are going forward with our **Minerva Lake Road water line project**. The plans have been submitted to Columbus for its review, and, unless there are major changes, our bid package should be ready by the middle of April.

We now have **new corporation signs** so you will know where you live. We will also have a large stone sign across Kilbourne Run at Cleveland Ave. Most of the cost of this sign has been met with donations from Kroger and the cable companies.

Are you **feeding the DUCKS and GEESE?** It seems this activity is creating problems both for the neighbors and the lake banks. Even though many of us enjoy watching the beautiful birds, they are becoming a nuisance in that our "fine feathered friends" are making a mess on the walkway by the lake and in some people's yards. The Ohio Division of Wildlife tells us that the only way to discourage these birds from taking over the lake areas is not to feed them. Otherwise their numbers will continue to grow.

Our safety committee has suggested that a **pay phone** be installed outside the community building for use when the offices are closed. The installation cost of \$300 and the monthly fee of \$50 will be paid by Ameritech for a period of one year. In exchange, Ameritech was granted

a permit to allow their salespeople to solicit new cable business to the residents of the village. These people will be wearing red jackets and will display picture identification.

At the March 9 council meeting, a new contract was reviewed for services of the **city attorney's office**.

The Planning and Zoning Commission reported approval of plans for a temporary and some new permanent building structures for the **Minerva Park Nursing Home**.

The service station at the corner of Woodley Road and Cleveland Avenue has apparently added **used cars** to its offerings. Our current ordinances do not regulate this activity. This matter will be discussed at future meetings.

The civic association reported that the Fourth of July committee has begun meetings and the lake clean-up is scheduled for April 25.

Chris Thobe, who is with Metropolitan Environmental Services, Inc., gave a presentation to council on the proposal for **dredging of the south lake**. This proposal will be presented to the community on **May 17 at 4:00p**. Two more meetings will be held before the November elections, so that the residents will have an opportunity to get all the information on the logistics and the financing of the

lake-dredging project.

It was brought to the council's attention by **Jeanne Blair**, the need for the village to have a **tax-exempt fund** for people and/or businesses to give money to the village for certain projects. Because the village council cannot be tax exempt, this would have to be set up possibly by the community association. **Suzanne Coulter** offered to call the auditor's office to see how a tax-exempt fund could be set up.

A citizen of the village asked to have a detailed explanation of exactly how and where the **five-mil levy** was to be spent. Because there has been a change in the Clerk-Treasurers Office, this report will be compiled as soon as possible and presented in the near future. Both the 1997 budget and the proposed 1998 final budget were presented.

Marty Grosh proposed that the council restructure its meeting to have a **designated time period** to allow citizens of the community to express their opinions and/or grievances and to also designate time for the council to respond to their concerns.

The other day I heard about a man who, when his wife asked what he wanted for dessert, said, "I want an apology for this dinner you served me." I thought this was kind of humorous, so I tried it at home. Now all I get for dinner is dry cereal! (No milk). **MP**

Minerva Park extends its thanks to Ameritech for its donation of equipment, installation fees, and a year's free service for a **pay phone** outside the Community Building. The phone is being added so that residents can

Ameritech Donates Services

make emergency and convenience calls when the Building is closed. Ameritech also will dig the footings for the foundations of the **two stone entrance pillars**, saving the village approximately \$500. Thank you, Ameritech!



It's time to clean out your closets and start digging through your basement and garage in preparation for the annual Minerva Park Community Association Garage Sale on Saturday, May 16. This event always attracts a large number of buyers, so don't miss out!

As in the past, the **registration fee** covers the cost of prominent advertising in local newspapers as well as balloons to mark your mailbox, 15 maps, and a return envelope so you

can return 10% of your profits. There is a **\$5 late registration fee**, so please be prompt.

This is one of the MPCA's biggest annual fund-raisers, so please do not cheat your community of improvements and event money by having an unregistered sale the same day. The Community Association is attempting to fund several projects to enhance the village, and we need your help. We will be watching for unregistered sales and will ask you for a contribution. Those folks who have unregistered sales and do not pay their 10% contribution will not be eligible to participate in the 1999 garage sale.

To register, send the attached form and a check for \$3 to "Minerva Park Community

MPCA Garage Sale

Saturday, May 16

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration deadline: May 11

Cost: \$3 plus 10% of your proceeds

\$5 Late Registration Fee by May 13 (you will not be on the map)

Contact: Nancy Fry, 2776 Minerva Lake Rd., 890-6845

Association" at the Community Building, 2829 Minerva Lake Road, or to the event coordinator, Nancy Fry, 2776 Minerva Lake Road, 890-6845.

Registration packets need to be picked up this year on **Wednesday, May 13 from 7p until 9p** at the **Community Building**. Late registrations can be made that evening, but *you will not be on the map*.

Proceeds can be mailed to the same addresses (do not mail cash!). Please remember to send your 10% promptly.

As always, we need volunteers to help make this sale a success. Please contact **Nancy Fry at 890-6845** if you can help with packet creation and distribution, advertising, or collecting money.

Registration

MPCA Garage Sale - May 16, 1998

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$3, payable to "Minerva Park Community Association," for participation in the MPCA 1998 annual garage sale. I will submit a check for 10% of my proceeds by Saturday, May 23, 1998.

A reinforced mulch pit will be first of several upgrades made to improve the safety of the playground at the end of Maplewood Drive, according to council president **Lynn Eisentrout, 891-0895**. Eisentrout, who recently took over as chair of the council's Community Committee, has been getting estimates for the timbered mulch pit and hopes to have it completed by

Playground Improvements

May. Eisentrout also plans to have an equipment expert inspect the playground. She will present the inspector's report and any suggested improvements at the April council meeting.

The project was instigated

nearly a year ago by a group of residents who expressed concerns about the playground's safety, citing exposed concrete footings, sharp edges, and a lack of equipment that was appropriate for the preschool children who play there. They requested that, at a minimum, council authorize a mulch bed below the existing equipment and look into the addition of a toddler-friendly climbing and sliding structure.



Letter to the Editor, 3-16-98

This is an open letter to all citizens of Minerva Park. Different people have come to me about their concerns in the village. I advised them to contact the Mayor and Council, but they think their concerns will fall on deaf ears. They think I am not afraid to "make waves," and they're right! But frankly, I am tired of being the only one. This village is unique. It is small enough that all of our voices can be heard. But to be heard, one has to say something. It reminds me of the saying, "Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to die."

In November 1997, the Mayor and Council asked for a 5-year, 5-mil levy, totaling \$665,000. Within a week of its passage, they were talking about an additional \$250,000 bond issue (\$342,000 including 17 years of interest). These figures total more than a MILLION DOLLARS in new tax money. A few short years ago, a million dollars would have more than covered all

the village expenses for two years! I realize nothing is free, and expenses go up. But I take offense that certain council members are upset when I ask for an accounting on how they specifically plan on spending the money. The Mayor and Council President (also Finance Chairperson at the time) did not respond to questions on the levy at the October 1997 Community Association meeting ... a meeting the Mayor was invited to specifically for a discussion on the levy. It is now April 1998, and I still cannot get answers although I've asked repeatedly. Now they are asking for a bond issue.

Another concern is the posting of meeting notices ... for example, posting on the bulletin board on Saturday (3-7) a notice for the Monday (3-9) meeting about lake dredging, when the building is locked all weekend. If this is not in violation of the Sunshine Laws, it is at the very least in violation of the "intent." Citizens have access to the building only 15 hours a week as it is, and those hours are when most people are working. A simple solution would be to post all meetings on the outside bulletin board. Of course, I'm assuming we want informed citizens.

All I'm asking is that our elected officials:

1. Keep us informed of what they are doing before they do it.
2. Let us know how much it will cost before they spend it.
3. Be responsive to voters'

questions without hedging. If the programs are worthwhile, they should stand on their merit.

To the people who voiced their concerns to me, I again say: (1) go to the Council meetings, and (2) let your thoughts be known to our elected officials. If you agree with them, then support them. If not, let them know what you stand for. I have mixed emotions in criticizing any Council member. All are really volunteers, some put a lot of time and effort into their positions, and we should all appreciate this. But volunteering for a job that no one else wants does not exempt that person from doing it properly.

Tony Beatrice

3201 Minerva Lake Rd.

Former Editor Thanked for Service ...

I am certain that all of the residents of our community will join me in thanking **Betty Beatrice** for her many years of dedication in serving as editor of our monthly newsletter. She gave many selfless hours to collecting, annotating, and editing copy for the news in Minerva Park.

In fact, she stepped in and willingly took over for her second stint as editor when our editor at the time abruptly resigned.

Thank you, Betty, for serving us so well and for so long.

Don Champney

5386 Park Lane Court



... Go!

Now is the time to plant **pansies** if you haven't already done so. They do well, both in the ground and in containers or hanging baskets. They last well until the hot humid days of July, and by that time the other annuals take over. **Violas** are like small pansies and last longer. The ones under my mailbox were still blooming in the fall! Other than pansies and violas, **DO NOT PLANT** other annuals until about mid-May, no matter how nice the weather! To get a good selection, you may want to buy your plants now, but leave them in flats so they can be rushed to a protected spot when frost is predicted. **Hanging baskets** can be put out now, as it is easy to move them inside when necessary. Many **house plants**, such as **orchids**, like to summer outside but are susceptible to sunburn if you put them out before the trees are in leaf. Plants raised from seed

Flora Says

By Mary Yost

should be hardened off before being planted by putting the flats outside for a few hours on warm days.

Hellebores (Christmas & Lenten roses) are very popular these days. If you don't know what they look like, you may want to check those low-growing plants with white or purple blooms along the front of the **Presson's house (2610 Minerva Lake)**. They are March/April bloomers, and, when allowed to go to seed, multiply fairly rapidly. Their evergreen foliage dies back about now and should be cut back.

Note that **daffodils** have early, midseason, and late blooming varieties. You may want to get some next year to extend the blooming season in your yard. To get the best effect, bulbs should be grouped rather than strung out in a line or alternated by color. A group of 5-10 yellow daffys underplanted with **blue scilla** makes a good picture. Then one year, I realized I had too many pictures that looked alike, so I added a group of white with **lemon cups** across the drive and another group of **red low-growing tulips** farther up toward the house. I found the results to be much more pleasing. One of the biggest challenges in the use

of all plant materials is to find a good balance. Too many of the same color or shape is boring. Too much variety leads to a lack of focus and gives a messy look.

Not all bulbs last forever. In general, the little bulbs (**scilla** and **Spring Beauties**) go to seed, and their numbers increase.

Hyacinths and the **tall tulips** are at their best for only a couple of years and then stop blooming or are poor specimens of their former selves. When you see this happening, dig & discard ... or dig & divide and raise in an

Gardeners Needed

A good portion of the upkeep of the community flower beds depends on volunteers. Please call **Mary Yost** at **882-5444** if you think you will have the time to give an hour a week or even an hour a month. Every little bit helps to keep the park looking good. And if your time is more limited, at least come to **spring clean-up day** on **April 25**.

inconspicuous spot until they reach blooming size again.

Daffodils are the lazy gardener's joy, as they can do well for up to 10 years, and, once established, the squirrels leave them alone. Unfortunately, **if you want your bulbs to bloom well, you must leave the foliage on until it is brown and can be lifted off**. It takes **daffodils** longer than it does **hyacinths** and **tulips** to mature their foliage so place them carefully so that the dying leaves are not too obvious.

An additional word of caution. If you decide to replace a planting or add a new one, mark the spot and then write yourself a note about the kind, color, and number you want to buy in October. I, at least, always forget!

MP

Minerva Park Four Seasons Garden Award

The Minerva Park Four Seasons Garden Award will be presented this year for the **best early spring look**. To submit your own yard or that of a friend or neighbor, leave a note for **Mary Yost, 2816 Lakewood Drive**, or call **882-5444**.



Villagers

Welcome Our New Neighbors!

Welcome **Lewis Feesler** to his new home at **2525 Lakewood Drive**. Feesler, who has just returned from Sarasota FL, has two daughters living in Minerva Park.

A very belated welcome also goes out to our neighbors at **2924 Kerrwood Dr. JoAnne Knox, Theodore Hanzo III, and Clara VanAlta** have lived here for five years!

If you learn of any new residents, please advise the
Newcomers Committee
Jim Kehl, 794-0047



Minerva Park Police

Between 1-31 & 2-1, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd., theft.
2-3 3:04p, 2900 blk Kerrwood Dr., false alarm.
2-4 10:44p, 5426 Cleveland Ave., false alarm.
2-6 7:06a, 2900 blk Berry Lane Ct., false alarm.
2-6 10:15a, 2900 blk Berry

The Town Pump

Beougher Dies at 88



We are saddened to lose Raymond E. Beougher, a long-time resident of Minerva Park, who passed away March 21 at the age of 88. He is probably best known in the park as the creator of *The Town Pump*, *Hi Neighbor*, and many illustrations for *The Villager* (including "MinervaFlora") and for the *Directory* cover. His profiles of village residents and commentary have been a fixture in this publication for well over a decade. Beougher was one of the first recipients of the MPCA's Duck Award for citizenship.

A Columbus retired fire chief, Beougher was an active member of several associations: F.&A.M. Neoacacia Lodge 595, Scottish Rite, Valley Of Columbus, the Old Buzzards, Westerville Art League, and Blendon Senior Citizens. He was a life member of the V.F.W. for his service in the Navy during World War II.

A self-trained artist, he gave up dreams of an art career when told as a young man that he had no talent. Despite this discouragement, Beougher was

a voracious contributor of illustrations to Fire Department publications for nearly 30 years. The Department recently published a book of his work.

Neighbor and friend Peggy Dlusky remembers Beougher as an active, well-read man with many interests, a great sense of humor, and a love of people. She said he took great interest in the personalities and happenings in the village.

Beougher was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys, about four years ago. He is survived by his son, two step-children, nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and their families. His step-son, Mick Burlingame, and his family live in Minerva Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shrine Hospitals for Children, Burns Institute, 3229 Burnet Ave., Cincinnati OH 45229.

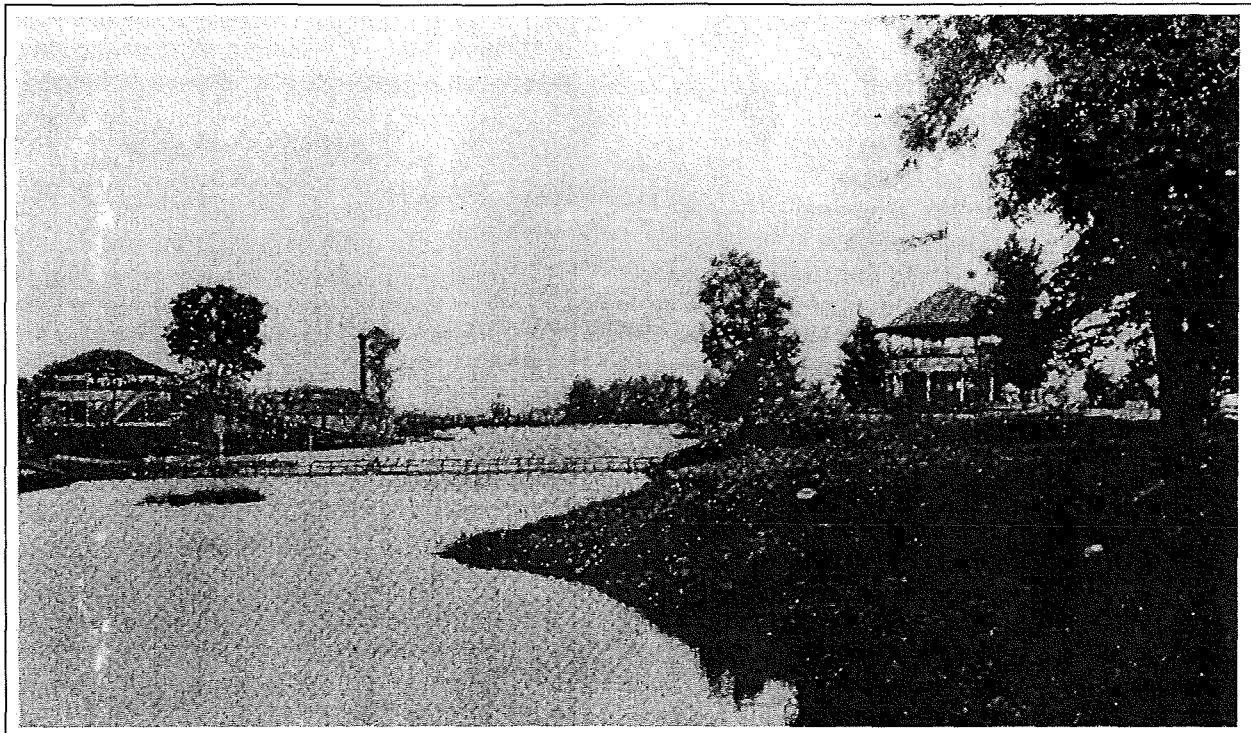
If you have any fond remembrances or special anecdotes about Ray you'd like to share, we welcome them for publication in next month's *Villager*. We will miss him!

Lane Ct., false alarm.
2-6 7:48p, 5309 Westerville Road, false alarm.
2-8 8:09p, 2999 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., false alarm.
2-9 8:25a, 2800 blk Alder Vista Dr., false alarm.
2-9 8:41a, 2700 blk Jordan Rd., false alarm.
2-10 .. 7:39p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
2-18 .. 4:42p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
2-19 .. 5:45p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
2-26 .. 8:30a to 10:53a, 2900 blk Kerrwood Dr., attempted aggravated burglary.
2-26 .. 8:42p, 2999 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., false alarm.
2-27 .. 2:56p, 5266 Cleveland Ave., passing bad checks.



THE LAKE

Before proceeding across the lake, we should become familiar with the only attraction that remains of the original Minerva Amusement park, THE LAKE. Geologically, the lake was formed when a 400 foot long, by 25 foot high dam was constructed across a small creek called Kilbourne Run. The backed up water eventually would fill the two arms of the natural "L" shaped ravine. Once filled, the lake formed an eight to ten acre body of water, irregular in



shape with a bluffly shore line. The clear, clean water of the lake would forever reflect the trees and bushes growing on its banks, and when wind rippled the surface, the glint of sunshine or the gleam of the silvery moon where a sight, dreams were, and are, made of.

However, from the onset, the construction of the lake was plagued with problems. Due to a long and continued drought and the necessity to have the lake filled by the May 1895 opening of the park, the lake was initially filled with water from Alum Creek which is nearly one and a half miles (6000 feet) away. The water was pumped from Alum Creek at a rate of 750,000 gallons a day by a set of two 50,000 gallon steam-powered pumps. Fortunately, the lake is located at the low point of an extensive water shed area and with no other outlet for the water, except Alum Creek. Therefore, once filled it takes only a few days of rain to keep the lake up to the desired level.

By 1896, the lake was one of the chief attractions at the park with its small water craft and bathing facilities. The lake proved so attractive that in 1897 it lake was extended westward, up the winding ravine towards Cleveland Ave. which required the excavation of thousands of yards of dirt. This increased the lake to about 15 acres in area and serpentine in shape. Once filled again the lake extending beyond the "Rustic bridge" which crossed the lake to the new Casino.

Why You Should Not Feed the Ducks and Geese

Adapted from information by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

We know it's relaxing and fun to sit by the lakes and feed the ducks and geese, but it destroys the shoreline and water quality. And it isn't too good for the waterfowl, either!

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the ducks' and geese' survival depends on their ability to seek out and feed on highly nutritious marsh and grassland plants. Feeding them less nutritious, processed bread products is not as healthy, but the waterfowl don't know that. They're happy to accept hand-outs.

Many northern waterfowl, like those in Minerva Park, have become side-tracked from their traditional migration patterns when they find an urban area with plentiful food. These once-wild birds have become tame, have lost their fear of most things people-related, and have picked up habits that conflict with humans and their migration patterns. This causes a number of problems:

- **Traffic.** These birds don't fear cars and planes, often strolling and sitting in roadways tying up traffic and causing a hazard to drivers and themselves.
- **Damage to parklands and lawns.** Large numbers of birds eat, trample and defecate on the grass and walkways.
- **Water quality.** Excess nutrients in ponds, caused by waterfowl droppings, may damage water quality by creating noxious algal blooms in summertime, creating an unsightly pond.
- **Life-threatening diseases** to ducks and geese. Food hand-outs often result in large numbers of birds competing for very limited natural food supplies in small, concentrated areas. Crowding and competition for food, combined with the stresses of less nutritious food and harsh weather, increase their susceptibility to life-threatening diseases like avian cholera, duck plague, and avian botulism. These diseases have the potential to kill large numbers of waterfowl.

If you care about waterfowl, here's how to help them retain their wildness and well-being.

- **Stop feeding them.** They don't understand the problem and are eager to accept your hand-outs. You understand the repercussions.

- **Purchase a Federal Duck Stamp**, available at most post offices, state Department of Natural Resources offices, and national wildlife refuges. ALL proceeds from the sale of these stamps are used to purchase wetlands, which provided natural habitat for our nation's waterfowl.

Please preserve the natural order of things – and the sidewalks and public areas in Minerva Park – by allowing waterfowl to stay wild. Observe and appreciate them from a distance.



It costs only \$10 per month to reach more than 700 households with a business card-size ad in *The Villager*. If you pay for a year's advertising up-front, we'll give you one of those months FREE!

the Villager Staff

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 Bob Stuart
 Mary Yost

The Villager is distributed to all Minerva Park homes on the 1st Monday of each month inside a plastic hang bag - either alone or with advertising flyers. Residents are invited to submit articles, letters to the editor, & other items of interest by the deadline. There is a drop box at the Community Building and on the Editor's front door.

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.

**Next deadline:
 Friday, April 17, 5:00 p.m.**

Safety Corner

By your
Fire Department



April - Smoke Detector Month



Please test your smoke detectors in April. All units have a test button which activates the emergency circuit and emits the same tone the unit would make if it ever detected smoke in your house. And make sure your family knows what to do if they ever hear that sound.

Smoke detectors are either hard-wired (to house current) or battery-operated, or both (battery back-up). If your units have batteries, this is the time of year to change them.

If you would like help testing your smoke detectors, please give us a call at **882-3375**.

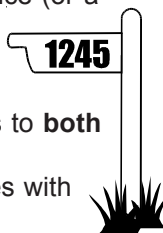
Check Your House Numbers



Fire and rescue personnel often have difficulty finding the right houses because they aren't clearly marked. When you're doing your spring yard work, please examine your house numbers to make sure they can be easily read. Remember,

the next emergency could be YOURS!

- Place letters that are at least 4" tall near the front entrance (or a location easily visible from the street) in a color contrasted by the color of your home - for example, light letters on a dark background.
- For a single driveway off a main road, affix your address to **both** sides of a post at the entrance of the driveway.
- At the intersection of individual driveways, affix addresses with arrows pointing toward individual residences.



Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

February 1998

In February, Medic 119 made 58 runs with 17 into Blendon Township (exclusive of Minerva Park) and 6 into Minerva Park. Thirty patients were transported to local hospitals.

Members volunteered a total of 1,002 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 1,077. Leading volunteers for the month were **Roger Hall** (136.4 hours), **James Rhodes** (96 hours), and **Tom Pickett** (54 hours). **Roger Hall** leads the year-to-date totals with 236.4 hours.

MP Runs

- 2-3 5460 Cleveland Ave., fire alarm.
- 2-7 2544 Wildwood Rd., ill woman.
- 2-11 ... 2576 Minerva Lake Rd., seizures.
- 2-13 ... 2702 Alder Vista Dr., chest pain.
- 2-21 ... 2568 Minerva Lake Rd., chest pain.
- 2-23 ... 2894 Wildwood Rd., ill person.

Green up your Lawn the Natural Way

Your lawn is most likely your most prominent landscape feature, so it's important for it to look its best. But instead of using expensive chemicals this year, why not try some homegrown recipes for a beautiful, green lawn? These recipes, adapted from master gardener Jerry Baker's recipes, will cover approximately 2,500 square feet of lawn.

Pre-emergent Weed Control

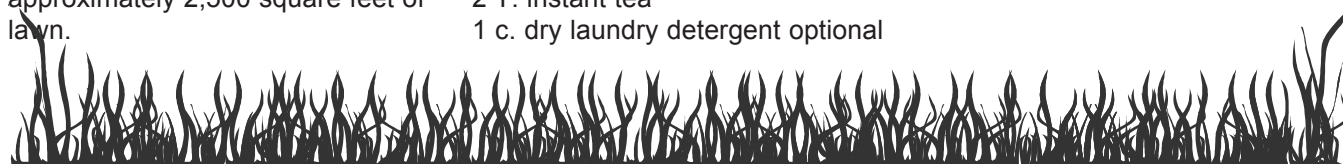
As soon as possible in spring, apply this tonic to prevent crabgrass and other sprouting weeds. Apply before noon with a 20-gallon hose-end sprayer.

- 1 c. baby shampoo or liquid dish soap
- 1 c. hydrogen peroxide
- 2 T. instant tea
- 1 c. dry laundry detergent optional

Lawn Preparation

Cleans the grass of pollutants and makes fertilizers work better. Apply not more than 2 weeks before fertilizing with a hand-held broadcast spreader.

- 50 lbs. lime (pelletized is best)
- 50 lbs. gypsum (pelletized is best)
- 2 lbs. Epsom salts



Minerva Park **CLASSIFIED**

Thinking of Selling Your Home?

Here's a Reason to Call
BONNIE LIMES
891-0180 or 882-5313

*"My Professional Goal is to Exceed
Your Expectations with a Genuine
Commitment to Your Best Interests."*

- Long-time Resident of Minerva Park
- Selling Homes in Minerva Park for the past 15 Years
- Past President of the North-east Area Realtors Association
- Member of the Columbus Board of Realtors \$25 Million Club



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◆ Licensed ◆ Bonded ◆ Insured ◆ Residential ◆ Commercial ◆

10% up to **\$500 OFF** Reg. price

must present coupon within 24 hours of estimate

North Columbus Jaycees
Fifth Annual

Mulch Sale

North Columbus Jaycees, a not-for-profit organization.
Leadership training for young people.
Profits go toward projects to benefit the community.

April 24, 25, 26
May 1, 2, 3

FREE Delivery
for Orders Paid
Before April 10

Grade A Cypress (3 cu.ft.) - \$3.50 donation
Premium Hardwood (2 cu.ft.) - \$2.50 donation

Pick-up
or Delivery

Pre-Sale
Delivery
April 16,17,18,19

Make checks payable to
North Columbus Jaycees
Send order and payment to
Jaycee Village
Attn: North Columbus Jaycees
5905 Beechcroft Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229
890-0304