The first public meeting regarding the lake dredging project will be held Sunday, May 17, at 4 p.m. in the Community Building. The open forum will feature presentations by Chris Thobe (of the dredging firm, Metropolitan Environmental) and Rebecca Princehorn (of Bricker & Ecker law firm), who will serve as our bond counsel and finance adviser.

In addition to information about the main lake dredging and bond issue, the group will also discuss the feasibility of a retention basin to slow future buildup of silt and sludge, and erosion prevention along the ravine and shoreline. Aeration and restocking of the lake with the appropriate aquatic life will also be discussed.

All residents are encouraged to attend and ask questions.

As part of its annual maintenance plan, the Minerva Park Fire Department will flush village fire hydrants May 18-22. This process can dislodge rust, which can stain clothing and other items. If possible, avoid washing laundry between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on these days, especially if you see the Fire Department on your street. If you forget and your clothing gets stained, try using a rust removal product available at local grocery and discount stores.

At this time, the Fire Department will also inspect the area around the hydrants and will remove any obstructions, including shrubs. Hydrants are unattractive, but it is dangerous to obstruct their visibility and access. The extra minute that it takes the Fire Department to find a hydrant could mean the loss of additional property or even your life. Please keep them in plain view.

This year’s Lake Clean-Up was more than a day of mucking out the lake, picking up debris, trimming trees, and cleaning garden areas. The day also gave the MPCA the opportunity to honor two distinguished residents and to present its gift to the community.

The first of those honored was Don Champney, who was given the 1997 Duck Award for citizenship. The 27-year resident has been involved in many village activities through the years. Champney served 16 years on Minerva Park Council, including a stint as Council president, and completed a two-year term as president of the community association last fall. He also has been a village representative to the Northland Community Council for five years and was that group’s vice president.

The University of Michigan architecture graduate has more than 35 years’ experience in the building industry and currently works in that capacity for Karrington Health Assisted Living in Columbus. Champney and his wife, Ann, have two grown daughters and eight grandchildren.

Mary “Flora” Yost, the village’s long-time gardening guru, Villager columnist, and the driving force behind the village’s lovely public...
The Villager - May 1998

Editor's Note: The recent Block Watch training sessions provided a lot of useful information about home and neighborhood security. Beginning in this issue, we will pass along some ideas for avoiding crime and making our homes and community safer.

Just as nice weather brings you outdoors, it also causes an increase in many types of crime, including opportunity crimes and fraud. Here are some crime avoidance tips from Dan Douglas, the Columbus Police officer who conducted the Block Watch training sessions:

Reduce the opportunity for theft. Open garages and doors invite theft, so close and lock all your doors when you’re out working in the yard. The Minerva Park Police Department says that a large number of warm weather thefts occur when valuables are removed from an open garage.

Be on the lookout for scams. Springtime is scam time, and people looking for home maintenance and improvement help are common targets for scam artists. So if you plan to hire someone to help you around the house, do some research before you sign on the dotted line or hand over money. Get references and call the Better Business Bureau. And don’t be pressured to go with a certain person or company. Reputable businesses allow you to time to mull it over.

Also, remember never to provide your social security or credit card numbers over the phone to someone you don’t know. And know that, to sell in Minerva Park, salespeople must have a permit that identifies them and is signed by our Chief of Police. When in doubt about someone, call the Police Department. (As we mentioned in the last issue, Ameritech representatives will be visiting our community to solicit new cable business. All will be carrying a photo ID and will be registered with the Police Department. If you are suspicious, call.)

Finally, trust your instincts. If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

MPCA to Collect for Mid-Ohio Food Bank
Please help us support the local Food Bank by bringing nonperishable food and household products to the collection box in the Community Building. This collection is being made in conjunction with an ongoing drive by the Northland Community Council. We will collect donations now through the 4th of July weekend. Our NCC representative, Don Champney, will take your donations to the NCC meeting on July 7. If you’d prefer to give money, contact Don Champney at 882-3318.

Egg Hunt
A basket of thanks goes to all the good eggs who helped make this year’s Egg Hunt a success. Despite frigid weather, approximately 65 children met the Easter Bunny and hunted for goody-filled eggs.

Secretary & NCC Rep Still Needed
The MPCA is still looking for someone to take over the office of Secretary for the 1998-99 program year. The office requires a minimal amount of time and will get you more in tune with village happenings. We are also seeking another person to represent Minerva Park on the Northland Community Council. This person should be someone who’s familiar with the village and the surrounding area. To apply for either position, contact Nancy Fry at 890-6845.

MPCA Notes

Don Champney recently received The President’s Award and a service certificate from the Northland Community Council, awards presented for his many years of service to Minerva Park and to the NCC. The NCC represents the interests of more than 20 member communities in northeastern central Ohio in development and other issues.

He’s not a “Villager,” but nearby Little Turtle resident Robert Montgomery is on the May 5 ballot for a seat on the Republican State Central Committee for the 3rd District (eastern Franklin County). If elected, Montgomery plans to step up recruitment and increase involvement with the Republican Party in Ohio. The State Central Committee develops party platforms and recruits candidates.
Originally a wharf existed behind the PAVILION (See 2nd installment in the series, and illustration at left.). By the start of the 1897 season, the new MARINE SLIDE (See 7th & 8th installments in the series) was ready to open, and for safety, the original wharf was removed and a new pier was constructed on the south shore of the lake across from the dam. From the pier there where rowboats available to all patrons for the pleasant occupation of rowing.

Originally there were three excursion swan boats and a small number of rowboats, but due to the popularity of the sport of rowing “On Moonlight Bay”, ten additional light weight rowboats were ordered and also delivered for the opening of the 1897 season.

If a couple desired to sit in company and ride on the back of a noble swan could hire a sturdy boatman, who would propel their craft through the sparkling water. You can see the three swan boats, tied to the wharf/bridge and two "boatmen" nearby, in the photo included in the 7th installment of this series. I also believe that due to the construction of the MARINE SLIDE a new wharf existed just east of the MARINE SLIDE for discharging passengers.

As the popularity of Minerva Park grew, the need to expand the use of the lake increased. Among the new attraction offered for the opening of the 1898 season was a new steamboat, also called a naphtha launch. This was bought from the “Lagoon”, a similar amusement park in Cincinnati. The steamboat sat 12-14 patrons for trips around the lake. Like all other facilities of Minerva Park, the steamboat and all the new rowboats were removed to Olentangy Park, for the opening of it’s 1905 season. The photo at right, shows the steamboat as well as several of the row boats at Olentangy Park. I identified the steamboat from early photos of the “Lagoon".
Editor’s Note: The 5-mil tax levy that Minerva Park voters passed last fall won’t leave as much money unaccounted for as many residents believe, according to Council members. The levy, which will generate $133,000 in annual revenues from 1998 through 2002, will leave Minerva Park with a $23,000 surplus in 1998 and, as costs increase, will allow the village to cover expenses plus a few new projects in the next five years.

Council recently studied the past & anticipated expenditures and provided this summary of where the money is going. All figures are based on data from 12-31-97.

During the 5-year period from 1993 through 1997, the village spent $37,000 more than it received and has used reserve funds to pay for current expenses. This deficit reached a high point last year, when Minerva Park spent almost $27,000 more than it took in. The levy that voters passed in last autumn will allow the village to stabilize its cash flow in 1998 so that expenditures do not exceed revenues.

In 1998, Minerva Park’s annual operating expenses are expected to jump $43,000 over 1997, mostly because of an increase in Police Department wages and benefits, court clerk and administrative costs, and refuse collection fees. The new levy funds will cover the cumulative increase of $70,000, leaving approximately $63,000 of the new funds available for new and ongoing projects.

Where will that extra money be spent? Some of it will go to village improvements, including the Phase 3 (Minerva Lake Road) waterline project and playground improvements. Also in 1998, the village will apply for a low interest loan to pay for the fourth and final phase of the waterline replacement project (Woodley and Wildwood Road areas). If the loan is approved, Minerva Park will need to spend approximately $40,000 this year for engineering fees and another $74,000 in 1999 to cover the 20% of the project that the village must pay for in cash. The remainder of the Phase 4 project will be paid with the 3% loan, which will cost Minerva Park approximately $20,000 a year for 20 years.

What does all this mean? Well, in 1998, the village levy will provide approximately $23,000 more than it plans to spend. In 1999, these funds will be used to pay our share for waterline replacements. In future years, the funds will go toward a variety of infrastructure improvement projects.

Please be assured that Council is looking for other sources of revenue so your tax dollars go further. We will continue to apply for grants, low-cost loans, and corporate gifts to fund both large and small projects. We did just that for the replacement entrance markers on Cleveland Avenue, which will end up costing taxpayers less than $1,500.

If you’d like more information about the village’s budget, it is available in the Community Building for review on the spot (or you can make copies to take home).

Now that long-term easements have been granted, the manufacture and installation of the two stone markers along Cleveland Avenue will move ahead. If all goes as planned, installation should begin no later than May 23, according to the project’s coordinator, Councilman Dave Stahr.

Council plans to hold an unveiling ceremony at a later date in which Kroger, Time Warner, and Ameritech will be acknowledged for their donations, which made this project possible.

Stahr also wishes to thank the residents who have allowed the pillars to be built on their property. “Deneen Farley and Marilyn Herbolzheimer showed great generosity and outstanding community spirit by allowing us to use their land.”
Flora Says

By Mary Yost

It’s Spring!

We had as beautiful an Easter as I’ve ever seen! The blooms were great, even though some plants are up to a month early this year. Missing from the scene were the early daffodils and most of the magnolias that got hit by the mid-March freeze; however, in the two weeks before Easter, Flora spotted the following pleasing displays:

Paugh - 2860 Minerva Lake Rd.  
Their host of golden daffodils reflected in the smooth water of the North Lake.

Kohn - 5150 Lakeland Ct.  
Woods full of daffys & spring beauties and a star magnolia at the front door.

Carfagna - 2801 Park Lane Dr.  
A woodland back yard full of daffys.

Franco - 2653 Lakewood Dr.  
A tree ringed with yellow daffys and an outer ring of blue grape hyacinths, plus bluebells out by the street.

Steward - 2937 Berry Lane Ct.  
Where the edge of the drive meets the street, there was a nice bed of yellow daffys with white clumps on either side, edged by grape hyacinths.

McLain, 2741 Minerva Lake Rd.  
A large group of white daffys along the east property line, with yellow ones in the blue myrtle out front. Both yellow & white in a center bed, plus white flowering trees and forsythia along the west boundary.

Pilkington - 3119 Minerva Lake  
Daffys & blue scilla along the drive and a star magnolia by the front door.

Pohl - 2811 Lakewood Dr.  
A white pear, 2 purple PJM rhododendrons, & a pink weeping cherry made quite a display.

Webber - 2791 Maplewood Dr.  
Colorful, with a white pieris, a pink magnolia, pink hyacinths by the door, and nice daffys with both a crabtree and a dogwood opening.

Neuberger - 2692 Jordan Rd.  
Masses of purple PJM rhododendrons by every walk & around the east corner of the house.

Randall - 2636 Jordan Rd.  
A very different look with white creeping phlox at the mailbox, scarlet quince by the entrance, and forsythia & daffys on the west corner, plus a red flowered crabapple in the center of the yard.

Earnest - 5344 East Shore Dr.  
The most perfectly shaped deep pink crab that I’ve seen so far!

Giammarco - 2736 Wildwood  
The biggest Easter display! A weeping pink cherry had Easter eggs dangling from its ends and a lavender bunny chewing a carrot as it lounged below. On the other side of the yard was a pink rabbit under a dogwood covered with Easter eggs. Close to the house is a third egg tree. An Easter flag flew by the front door, and numerous decorations lined the front walk.

Underwood - 5291 Elmhurst  
In a different vein, a lighted cross was draped in blue with a basket containing pink flowers at its foot. A colorful wind sock by the front door, and at the other end a basket of Easter lilies.

Blair - 5336 Ponderosa Dr.  
The rabbits are enjoying their carrots while resting on the porch bench. They have set their Easter baskets down beside them.

Busick - 2769 Minerva Lake Rd.  
Here is captured the spirit of both Easter and spring, with an egg tree to the left of the door, with a large stand of yellow daffys to the right, and white ones in the right corner at the street. Three window boxes contain pansies.

In the two days following Easter, the redbuds and crabapples have been coming on fast, and even the dogwoods are showing color. Most are small trees so, if you don’t own one of them, look for a spot. The crabs come in many sizes and shades between white & red, and are reliable bloomers. While some varieties are susceptible to leaf diseases, most local nurseries carry disease-resistant ones. Be sure to ask. It looks like we will continue to have a colorful spring.
We now have easement grants for the placement of masonry signs across Kilbourne Run and facing Cleveland Ave. They will be very attractive structures that I think you’ll like once in place. Councilman Dave Stahr (890-8819) has done most of the work on this program.

We are working on a street repair and maintenance program to identify the streets that need service. If you have any comments concerning the streets, curbs, or storm sewer drains, call Councilman Marty Grosh (899-1815), who is in charge of the project.

Our Clerk of Courts has resigned, so if you know of anyone interested in a part-time job (approximately 15 hours per week plus one evening every 3 weeks), have them call Jan Staats at 882-5743 for an interview.

Council has authorized an expenditure of $2,639.52 for mulching of the playground area. The mulch is intended to provide a safer play area.

To provide for more orderly meetings, council has proposed a method by which citizens’ comments can be presented. Councilman Bill Moore (898-9480) suggested a protocol in which anyone who wanted to address the council would be asked to sign a Speaker’s Registration. When recognized, that person would be given five minutes to make their comments. I hope this isn’t too restrictive. If it is, we can make changes as required. Residents’ input is welcome and encouraged.

The South Lake dredging project is going forward and will be presented to the community on May 17 at 4:00 p.m. at the Community Building. Two additional meetings will be scheduled before the November elections, so that all residents will have an opportunity to get all available information.

The Planning & Zoning Commission met this month and approved a sanitary sewer hook-up on Minerva Lake Road. This is one of the few homes left in the village using a septic system.

The golf course applied for a sign permit, but it was tabled because of lack of information. A sign permit was approved for the President Tuxedo store, and an application for a fence and deck on Maplewood Dr. was approved.

I just heard that “marriage is the only union that can’t be organized. Both sides think they’re management.”

As we move into nicer weather, I promised that I would provide information about building permits and the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Anyone planning to remodel or add a shed, fence, deck, or room will need a permit from the Commission. A storage shed is considered an ‘accessory use building.’ Our zoning ordinances require that an accessory building be not more than 25% of the square footage of [your house]. And it must be at least 8’ from your property line.

The ordinances prohibit fences that extend beyond the rear building line of your property, which means you cannot build a fence completely around your property in Minerva Park and in particular around the front of your property.

We occasionally receive a request to erect a fence along the length of a driveway or a property line with an unusual shape, such as a pie shaped lot. It is possible in some unusual cases to obtain such a variance, but that issue must be placed before the Village council.

We also receive requests to build decks or room additions. Bring your blueprints or diagrams of your plans when making your permit application.

Our commission is cooperative as we can be within the confines of the ordinances. We are allowed only to approve permits that come within the mandates of the planning and zoning ordinances. If what you are requesting is not allowed by the ordinances, you have an option to appeal directly to the village council for a variance. Contact the commission clerk, Jan Staats (882-5743), to apply for a building permit. Your application will be scheduled for review at the next Planning and Zoning meeting, which is on the first Thursday of every month and at other times by special request.

continued
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 Association” at the Community Building, 2829 Minerva Lake Road, or to the event coordinators, Anne Hughes (891-9329) or Donna Marple (523-2321).

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 Anne Hughes (891-9329) or Donna Marple (523-2321) if you can help with packet creation and distribution, advertising, or collecting money.

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.

Another reminder concerns recreational vehicles & boats. You are prohibited from leaving these in your driveway for more than a day at a time. Our ordinances mandate that boats and RVs are not exposed to the street. They must be stored to the rear of your property or inside your garage, concealed from public view.

Editor’s Note: Pat Mangan has served on the Minerva Park Planning & Zoning Commission for five years, the three past years as chairman. Mangan has been a resident of Minerva Park for 15 years. He is a graduate of OSU and the University of Toledo College of Law. He is a shareholder in the law firm of Mangan, Morris & Lonn Co., LPA.
Over the Back Fence,
4-15-98

The Villager editor has asked me to send along my thoughts on our lovely but tiny village. It is hoped my words will stimulate others with like or contrary thoughts to add their comments through "letters to the editor."

On St. Patrick’s Day, I had a special visitor down at the edge of the North Lake. It took some research, but my field guide proved it to be a pair of Buffleheads, beautiful black and white ducks on their way to their summer nesting grounds. About the size of small Wood Ducks, they were bright in the morning sun... that is, the drake was bright and the duck was drab. It befits her work of nesting.

Two major changes are in effect this spring. One, the enforcement of an ordinance to stop feeding of the ducks and geese. I won’t get into the reasons, which are many and sensible.

Only three parties were observed on Easter (usually a day of 30 or more carloads of people bringing all manner of garbage and bread wrappers). At this time, I can report a much cleaner park area. However, this gain does not come cheaply. There are many young children no longer getting to feed and observe strange things waddling around. For those parents, grandparents, etc., who feel burdened without this cheap entertainment, be aware that Blendon Woods Metro Park (east of here on old Rt. 161) has a bird sanctuary where you may watch the critters from 8:00 a.m. to dark, free of charge.

The second change, a bit more difficult to manage, is the updated ordinance about dog walking. Already on the village books in a milder form, the new law gives teeth to the problem. If you must walk your dog on public land in Minerva Park, come prepared to clean up what the mutts bring and leave! You may be cited the first time with a warning. The second time, you are ordered into Mayor’s Court and fined real money. It is simple to carry along a plastic bag in which to capture the stuff and drop it into a nearby trash container. To leave it where the dog does is an insult to this beautiful village and your neighbors. Walking your dogs on private land can bring you into Mayor’s Court immediately. After all, if you don’t want it in your yard, why should you be allowed to put it elsewhere?

Richard L. Paugh
2860 Minerva Lake Rd.

Minerva Park Four Seasons Garden Award

This year featured the best early spring look. The winning yard was at 2816 Lakewood Dr., the home of Mary Yost. The judges commented on spectacular hollies which still have all their berries, several PJM rhododendrons, crabs, and redbud just opening, and a lot of tulips, daffodils, and pansies, both in the front and in the rear. The runner-up was 2625 Jordan Rd. (Cathi & Pete Havens), which is described in the MinervaFlora column. Judging took place the day before Easter.

Teens Can Make a Difference

Youth. That word means a lot in today’s society. It is stereotyped often and treated without respect or attention. Teenagers today have very important things to say which should be paid attention to.

Recently, there was a seminar held for the youths of Westerville. I attended, and I learned that anyone can make a difference. This seminar held many short classes, most that demanded the teens’ input and opinions about jobs, volunteering, and helping the community in general. The opinions were written down and discussed. All opinions counted!

Some teenagers believe that, because of their age, they will not be heard. Do you believe that? Adults sometimes do not take the time to listen and understand the youths of today. Teenagers can make such a difference in the lives of people — just like adults can.

Volunteer at a soup kitchen or a retirement center. It may seem like a little thing to you, but to the people being helped, it is more, much more. The environment needs help, too. We have a beautiful lake in the park. Take a walk and enjoy it. Bring a bag and help clean up the trash around it. Remember you can never do too little, and there is never enough to do — so go and volunteer!

Sarah Eisentrout
2753 Wildwood Rd.

Editor’s Note: Sarah is a junior at Westerville South High School.
May - National Bike Month

With beautiful days, it's time to think about bicycle safety. The village is a wonderful place to get out in the fresh air, get a little exercise, and take in the views by bicycle. The Fire Department would like to remind you that following some simple rules will help keep this activity safe:

1. Wear a Helmet. Make sure that everyone in your family who rides a bike always wears a helmet every time they get the bike out. Helmets should fit comfortably and be ANSI-approved. There are now a great many good helmets available to fit any size head (even little ones!)

2. Be Seen. Dress for the weather and concentrate on lightly-colored clothes. If you will be riding near dawn or dusk, add light-reflective clothing and lights ... white for the front and red for the back. The law requires that all vehicles carry illumination between dusk and dawn.

3. Ride with Traffic. Bicycles are legally considered vehicles and should remain as far to the right as is safe on any road. Always signal when you plan to change directions, just as you would in a car, and try to avoid sudden changes in direction or speed.

4. Teach Bicycling Safety. Teach your children basic traffic safety and practice it yourself. You are the best example they have.

5. Keep Bikes in Good Repair. If you don't know how to fix your bike yourself, have it checked by a local bike shop for safety.

There are many organizations that offer information and programs on bicycle safety (and trips). Four are: Adventure Cycling (406-721-1776) ... Columbus Outdoor Pursuits (447-1006) ... Columbus Recreation and Parks Dept. (645-3308) ... League of American Bicyclists (202-822-1333).

March 1998

In March, Medic 119 made 77 runs with 23 into Blendon Township (exclusive of Minerva Park) and 5 into Minerva Park. Forty-five patients were transported to local hospitals.

Members volunteered a total of 1,062 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 3,405. Leading volunteers for the month were Aaron Wilbur (117 hours), Roger Hall (134 hours), and Michael Ostrander (74 hours). Roger Hall leads the year-to-date totals with 379.4 hours.

MP Runs

3-4 ..... Lakewood, chest pain.
3-8 ..... Cleveland Ave., chest pain.
3-16 ... Lakewood Dr., oven fire.
3-21 ... Minerva Lake Rd., fire alarm.
3-26 ... Kernwood Dr., ill person.
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890-5316

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Contributors ................................. Sarah Eisentrout  
............................................ 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, May 15, 5:00 p.m.