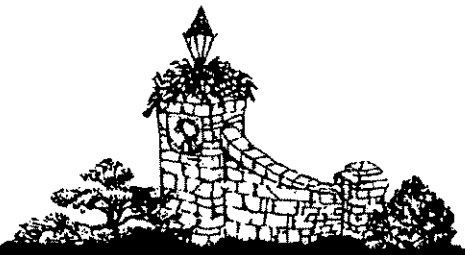


the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Lake Sludge is on the Move

Minerva Lake Road residents have become used to the frequent rumbling as more than 20 tanker trucks a day transport lake sludge to the village's disposal site, Alum Creek Topsoil. Workers from Metropolitan Environmental began dredging and sludge removal on April 12. The entire silt removal process, which will include excavation and redesign of the shoreline in the western portion of the lake, is expected to be completed by July 1. Shoreline improvements, aeration, and restocking will be done at a later date.

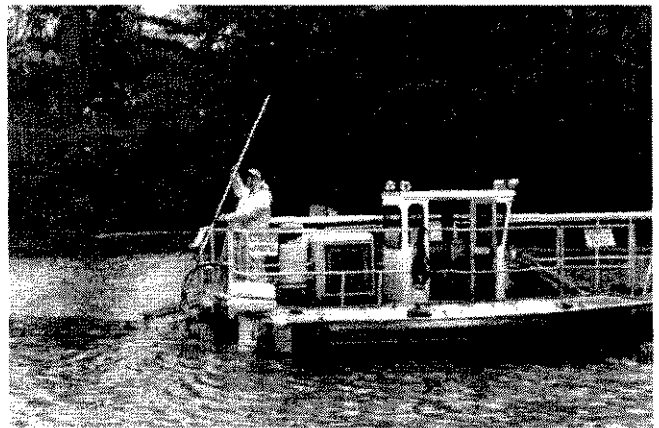
through about 150 feet of hose to a large yellow faucet-like arm. The 5,000-gallon tanker trucks are filled at the street.

The dredge maintains its position using a cable system stretched across the lake. The dredge operators periodically measure the depth of the grid square they are dredging to

determine when they reach the target or a maximum possible depth. The orange floats are floating curtains, a safety measure designed to contain an accidental oil spill from the equipment or

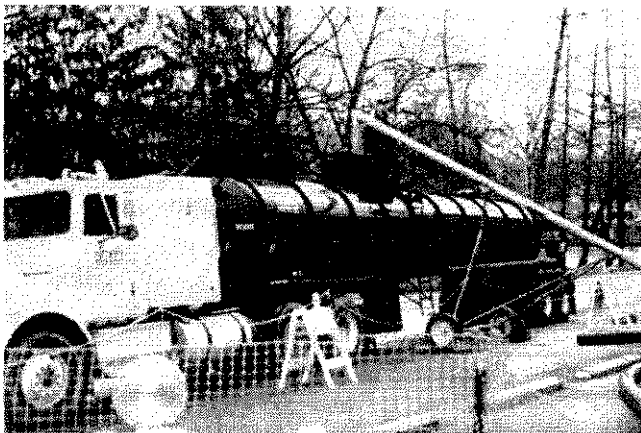
any floating debris.

Veteran dredge operators Ken Norman and Rich Yascavage say they have found some interesting artifacts with the equipment, including 30-year-old beverage cans, toys, and a fishing rod. They have also been warned by



our local historian Bob Stuart that they are likely to encounter railroad track and parts of rides from the turn of the century when the Minerva Amusement Park was closed.

If you're planning to watch the dredging or check the project's progress after hours, please keep away from the areas behind the orange fencing and behind the community building. The taut cables, hoses, and other equipment pose serious dangers for adults and especially children.



The floating dredge, which uses an auger to chew up the silt layer, pumps the sludge through about 600 feet of black floating pipe. Large particles and debris are screened out and collected in a large black tank, called a vac box, and then the sludge is fed

MAY DATES

- 10 Garage Sale Deadline
- 10 (8:00p) Council Meeting
- 10-31 Hydrant Flushing
- 12 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
- 15 Garage Sale
- 16 (1:00p) Pool Meeting
- 16 (4:00p) Kilbourne Run Meeting
- 21 (5:00p) Villager Deadline

MPCA Notes

MPCA Lobbies for New Playground Equipment

The MPCA has been circulating petitions throughout the community to ask village government to install some new equipment at the playground on Maplewood Drive. The association will recommend a plan for multi-level wooden play structure at the May 10 council meeting.

The structure, in addition to offering multiple fun activities, will be safe for a wider age-range of children, including toddlers.

The MPCA will recommend that it replace the current slide and jungle gym.

The existing swings and rocking horses would remain.

If you haven't seen a petition and would like to sign one, please contact Nancy Fry at 890-6845 or come to the council meeting to discuss the issue.

Scholarship Applications Accepted

Minerva Park's graduating high school seniors are encouraged to apply for one of the MPCA's two \$250 college scholarships. For more information or an application, contact Beth Birckbichler at 882-2935. Every little bit helps!

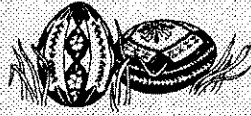
Egg Hunt Attracts Crowd

The sunny weather brought lots of kids to our Egg Hunt this year (many of whom didn't live or have family members in the Village!), and a good time was had by all. The children collected

over 1,000

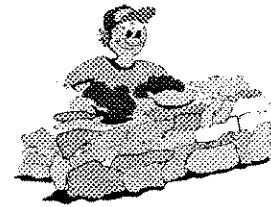
eggs and

had their photos taken with the Easter Bunny. The MPCA thanks the approximately 20 women who helped stuff eggs and carrots in March. Special thanks go to Nancy Fry for organizing the event yet another year and to our volunteers at the event.



Founders Day July 24

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our second annual Founders Day celebration, July 24. There will be a free history presentation, music, food, games, rides, and fun for all ages. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the event for a half or full hour, so please consider helping make this event fun for everyone! For information, contact Lynn Eisentrout at 891-0895 or Nancy Fry at 890-6845.



Planning Some Construction?

Residents planning to remodel or add a fence, shed, deck, or room need a **PERMIT** from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Some projects may require a variance, which has to be brought before village council. Contact the commission clerk, Jan Staats, at 882-5743, for information and to apply for a building permit. Your application will be scheduled for review at the next Planning & Zoning meeting, held the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Building.

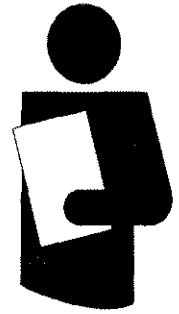
Storm Drains



Please be MP neighborly and help keep the storm drains cleared of debris. After all, a wet basement is something we all can relate to!

MAYOR'S REPORT

By Jack Murray



I guess we can stop complaining about the cold and snow and start complaining about the rain and how fast the grass is growing!

The Minerva Lake Road water line project is now complete. Although we had some problems – mostly landscaping – we had several meetings with the contractor, who has promised to make an effort to correct the major concerns. Soon we will be starting to replace the water lines on Wildwood, Woodley, and the streets in between. There will be some inconvenience during the period of construction, but if you have any major problems, please call me at the community building, at 882-5743. A public meeting was held on April 15 at Hawthorne School for the residents in the construction area to explain what to expect.

Speaking of inconvenience, if you travel the North Outerbelt, besides the traffic tie-ups, there will be ramp closures of I-270 and I-71 throughout the summer.

The council met on Monday, April 8, with all members present. Minutes from the March 8 regular meeting and the March 15 special meeting were approved with minor corrections. The Fire Department reported that its new computer system was up and running. All the EMS records will be Y2K compliant in a few months.

The village engineer reported that most of the small potholes in our streets have been repaired. The contractor who did the water line repairs also did the pothole repairs, resulting in a lower-than-expected cost (\$500).

The service station at Cleveland Ave. and Woodley Rd. is still not in compliance with our ordinances. The chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission will make a

personal visit to the site in an effort to convince the owners of the need to abide by our laws or legal actions will be undertaken.

The rail right-of-way that runs along the east side of the park has surfaced again as a possible site for a new rail transit system.

Property will be reevaluated this year to establish the real estate tax base.

The nursing home on Jordan Road will be asked to provide proper drainage for their retention basin. The water is now deep enough that it could be a safety hazard and a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

The street and traffic control signs I reported last month still aren't up. We ran into a post (lack of) problem. Now the sign erection man is going on vacation, so there will be a 2-week delay.

The lake dredging is progressing well. Weather permitting, this project should be completed by the first week in July. The fountain configuration will be one large fountain with two smaller ones on either side.

A Natureworks grant is available for homeowners in the ravine. This is a private grant and not involved with the village. The grant will offer \$2,700 to each homeowner for materials to prevent ravine bank erosion. A specialist from the Natureworks program will provide guidance.

Approval from the homeowner could not be obtained for placing a corporation marker at Minerva Lake Road and 3-C highway, so the materials on hand will be used at the Ponderosa entrance. The two markers on Cleveland Avenue will be enhanced with barberry bushes on each end of the markers. The total cost will be approximately

\$3,500.

The service committee will advertise for bids for the fall leaf pick-up to begin October 26 and run through December 6.

Pay increases were granted the part-time officers to \$10 per hour and the full-time police officers to \$12 per hour. The chief's salary was increased to \$33,000 annually. The clerk of courts hourly rate was increased to \$10.

Council is considering leasing a LEADS machine for the Police Department, because we can no longer find another municipality that will provide this service for us. This machine is the source of information that provides the past history of people cited for violations.

A resolution was approved to allow investment of any excess village funds that may be accumulated from time to time.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, when we lost our tempers, we couldn't find them again?

Food Bank Collection Continues

Thanks to everyone who has contributed non-perishable food to our NCC collection for the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. The drive will continue through the end of the year. To participate, bring items to the box inside the front door of the Community Building. Please mark your donations "Food Bank."



MPCA Garage Sale

Saturday, May 15

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration deadline: May 10

Cost: \$3 plus 10% of your proceeds

\$5 Late Registration Fee by May 12 (you will not be on the map)

Contact: Anne Hughes, 2777 Wildwood, 891-9329

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 15. 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 2000 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 coordinator, Anne Hughes, 2777 Wildwood, 891-9329.

Registration packets need to be picked up this year on Wednesday, May 12 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 at 891-9329 if you can help with packet creation and distribution, advertising, or collecting money.

Because we have a very limited number of volunteers this year, we will again ask you to pick up your packets at the Community Building on May 12 from 7:00p - 9:00p. Call Anne Hughes only if you are unable to do so, and she'll try to set up some kind of delivery arrangement.

Registration

MPCA Garage Sale - May 15, 1999

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my check for \$3, payable to "Minerva Park Community Association," for participation in the MPCA 1999 annual garage sale. I will submit a check for 10% of my proceeds by Saturday, May 22, 1999.

Kilbourne Run Meeting

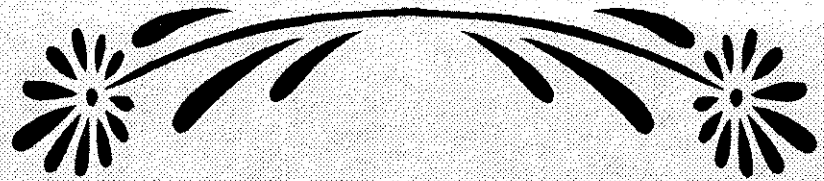
Residents who live along Kilbourne Run Ravine are strongly encouraged to attend a meeting to discuss options for reinforcing the creek to prevent further erosion. It will be held **Sunday, May 16, at 4 p.m.** at the Community Building.

Councilman **Dave Stahr** and a representative from the Franklin County Soil and Water Division will discuss anti-erosion techniques and grant money that may be available. Four residents have already received grants for \$2,700 each to purchase ground cover and trees. Stahr said he would like to have 100% attendance at the meeting, which he promises to keep under an hour.

Pool News

Swim season is fast approaching, and the Minerva Park Swim Club will have its annual meeting **Sunday, May 16, at 1 p.m.** at the **Community Building**. All residents are invited to attend and ask questions. They encourage residents who use the pool to volunteer to serve on their board and help at events.

The Swim Club is planning to open **May 29**, with an open house one week earlier. Watch for flyers with additional details.



Admiring someone's yard?

If you've been admiring someone's landscaping—or are particularly proud of your own efforts this year—send a nomination to the MinervaFlora Committee for the **Spring Minerva Park Garden Award**. Judging for this year's Four Season Award will take place in late May or early June. To be considered, nominations must be phoned in or mailed to **Bob Gale, 2690 Lakewood Drive, 882-8622**, between May 15 and May 31.

Contest Rules

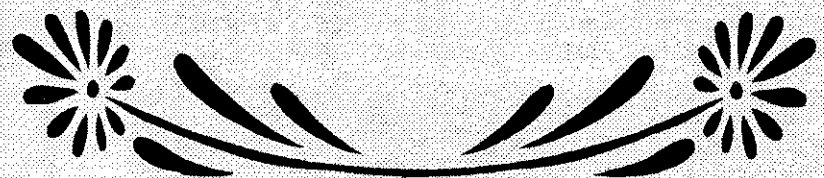
Judging will be based on six criteria:

1. overall appearance of the property
2. bed design
3. abundance and quality of color of plants and flowers
4. variety of plants
5. curb appeal (looks great when you drive by)
6. backyard plantings (with permission)

All residential properties are eligible except those that have won in the previous three years. A minimum of three judges will be selected by the MinervaFlora Committee chairman. The winner will be recognized in *the Villager* and on a commemorative display in the community building. A certificate of recognition and a small plaque will also be presented.

Garden Tour Planned

The MinervaFlora Committee is tentatively scheduling a garden tour sponsored by the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department for July 10-11 or for July 17-18. As in previous years, the Saturday date will be for Minerva Park residents and their guests. The Sunday date will be open to the general public. If you are interested in showing your garden or in helping with the event, please call as soon as possible ... **Bob Gale at 882-8622** or **Jeanne Blair at 882-8467**.





Regina Nash issues explained

Editor's note: While it is not our policy to cover matters related to village personnel, the recent letters regarding a potential lawsuit against Minerva Park by the former court clerk have precipitated many questions from residents. Here is a brief summary of facts about the financial aspects of the case, so we can put this issue to rest. We

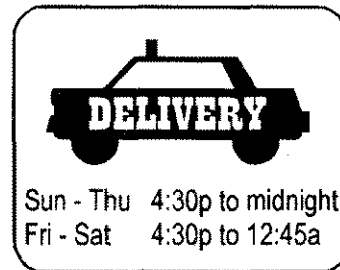
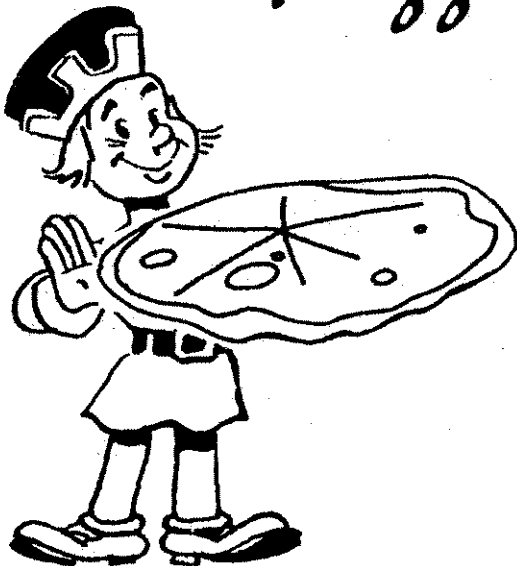
have turned away—and will continue to turn away—new letters to the editor on this subject because the debate has become a bit too emotionally charged and the letters are unlikely to further anyone's understanding of the issue. If you have concerns about the case, please contact the mayor or a council member.

Regina Nash, clerk of Minerva Park's mayor's court for two years, resigned her position in April 1998. She has sought legal advice and an investigation by the Civil Rights Commission but has not filed suit against Minerva Park or the mayor as of our printing date (April 19).

After Nash resigned, it was discovered that all the computerized records of receipts from 1997 court fines had been deleted, so there was no

verification that the \$28,000 in fines deposited in 1997 into bank accounts was accurate. State auditors, when they reviewed the village books in 1998, said it did not appear that funds were missing. But to determine if an independent audit was necessary, Minerva Park Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter recently did a manual check of the actual receipts returned by those owing fines. She found they totaled approximately \$26,000, indicating a \$2,000 surplus, which Coulter thinks is probably due to 1996 deposits that were made late. Receipts are filed numerically, so it appears that all of them have been accounted for. Coulter said her accounting cannot be considered official, however. The records would need to be audited by an independent auditor, at a cost of approximately \$2,000.

Angela's Pizza



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(just south of Route 161)

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\$2 OFF

Coupon

May 1999 Minerva Park Villager
expires 7-31-99

Safety Corner

By your
Fire Department

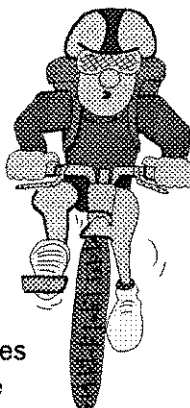


American Bike Month

May is American Bike Month. With some of the recent discussions about adding stop signs and more focus on enforcing speed limits, there is no time like the present to review and practice safe bicycling.

The League of American Bicyclists provides such information.

They recommend that children be taught very simple safety rules at the same time that they learn to ride a bike:



- Always wear a helmet. It should be a model that has been approved by either ANSI or SNELL, the two testing agencies that ensure that our equipment is safe.
- Do a safety check before riding. Make certain that nothing on your bike is loose, wobbly, or cracked.
- Do not allow anyone to ride on your handlebars or behind you on the seat.
- Wear lightly-colored clothing – the brighter the better to be

seen.

- Avoid riding at night. Choose instead to walk your bike home after dark or have someone pick you up.
- Wear a strap or a rubber band on the pant leg nearest the chain.

As children grow up and learn to ride on public streets, additional rules are needed:

- With your left arm, signal when changing direction or stopping. Forearm raised signals a right turn, arm outstretched signals a left turn, and forearm down signals a stop.
- Always ride on the right side of the road, with the flow of traffic, and ride in a single file.
- Use a basket or luggage rack to carry items. Never carry items in one hand and ride with the other.
- Obey all traffic signs. Bicyclists are considered vehicles, just like cars.
- Ride carefully and cautiously, doing nothing that would surprise or block approaching cars.

Let's have a safe summer!

If you need help ANY TIME, call 911. **Stay Well, Stay Safe!**

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

February 1999

In March, Medic 119 made 35 runs with 17 into Blendon Township (exclusive of Minerva Park) and 4 into Minerva Park - 19 patients were transported to local hospitals.

Members volunteered a total of 576 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 2,148. Leading volunteers for the month were **Anthony Huffman** (68 hours), **Jim Rhodes** (63 hours), and **Michael Ostrander** (49 hours). **Anthony Huffman** leads the year-to-date totals with 182 hours.

MP Runs

- 3-5 Ponderosa, ill person.
- 3-26 Cleveland Ave., ill person.
- 3-27 Carlton Court, injured person.
- 3-27 Minerva Lake Road, auto & garage fire.

Villager Advertising

It costs only \$15 per month to reach more than 700 households with a business card-size ad in the *Villager*. Discounts are available for half year and full year prepaid. Call Felicia Busick, *Villager* Editor, at 794-3862.

MINERVA PARK

DID YOU KNOW?

Scenic Railroad

By Bob Stuart
17th in a Series

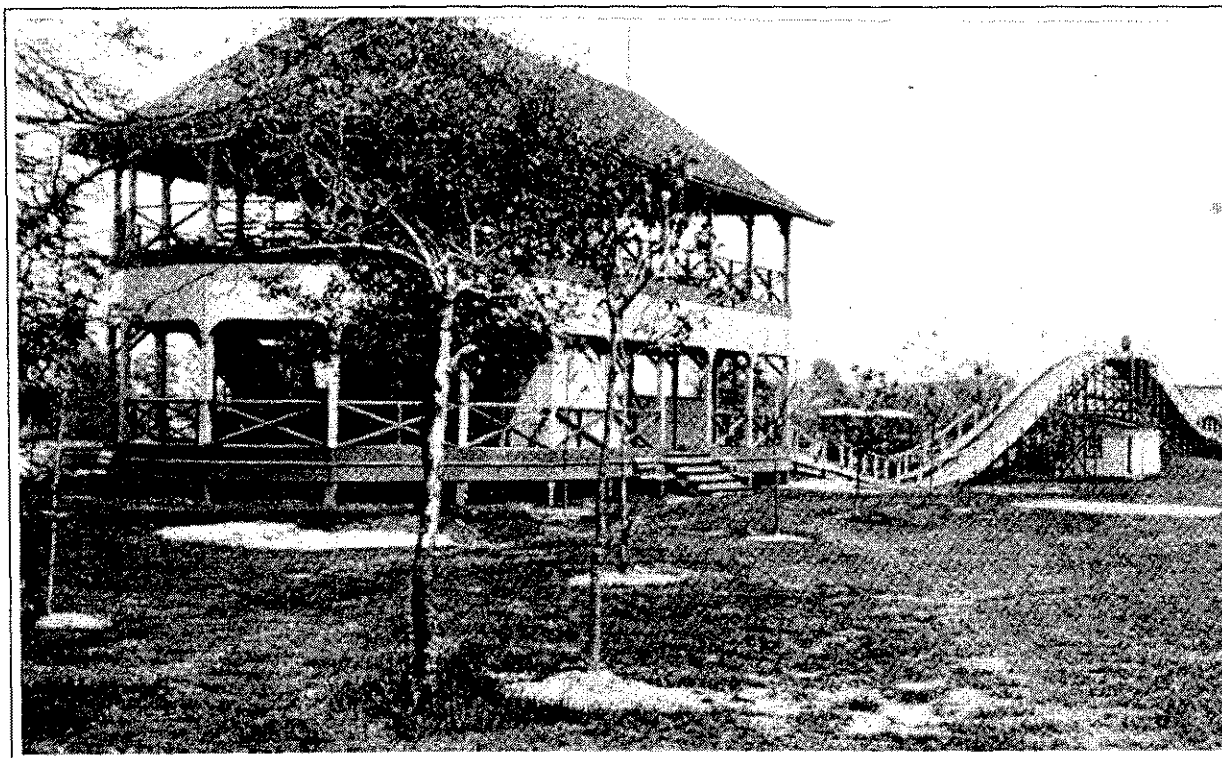
The wonderful, magical Scenic Railroad was located on elevated ground on the south side of the lake, diagonally opposite the main (Pavilion) building (see 3rd installment).

This long, rambling structure extended 650 feet along the ridge, with a building at both ends. Both buildings were connected by two railway tracks that ran up and down in graceful elevations on

trestle works. Gravity made the cars move along the tracks just like a roller coaster today, but a lot slower. The station end of the railway was at the western end and consisted of a 2-story frame building, the lower part of which was used as a place for getting on and off the cars. The upper story was a sort of private lunchroom and observatory. The higher building at the eastern end presented a very imposing appearance. It was high to give the car an impetus sufficient to carry it back to the starting point, and it had to be wide and capacious to contain the cave and give room for the car to go in, turn, and go out on the adjoining track. As people approached the irregular structure, their eyes would be met with the announcement for the "Wonderful

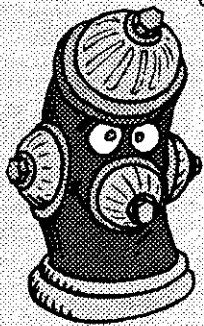
Scenic Railway." The newspapers of the day described a ride on the Scenic Railway as "a course that was as swift and graceful as the flight of a bird. Taking the passenger through the cave effects endless colors, with submarine monsters, tropical scenery, all heightened by electric flashlights."

Historical note. The Scenic Railway at Minerva Park was designed by the L.A. Thompson Scenic Railway Company, New York City, "who hired the finest stage designers to blueprint his rides, hired top-notch engineers to create breathtaking special effects, and created a world of illusions, thrills, and escape." Effects like those were fully appreciated until another empire of make believe was developed - the magic of cinema!



Annual Hydrant Flushing

As part of its annual maintenance plan, the Minerva Park Fire Department will flush village fire hydrants throughout mid to late May. 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. when you see the Fire Department on your street. If 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. We know they are unattractive, but it is



dangerous to obstruct the visibility and access to hydrants.

That extra minute that it takes the

Fire Department to

find the hydrant could mean the loss of additional property or even your life.

Please keep hydrants in plain view.



Minerva Park Police

- 3-1 ... 5:54p, 5400 blk Parklane Ct., false alarm.
- 3-13 . 6:17a, 2700 blk Lakewood Dr., false alarm.
- 3-13 . 2900 blk Kerrwood Dr., resident reports harassment since January.
- 3-15 . 6:30a, 2600 blk Wildwood rd., slashed car tires reported, occurring the night of 2-25.
- 3-16 . 8:30a, 2999 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., #214 (Detwiler Insurance), attempted breaking & entering reported, occurring between 3-12 & 3-15.
- 3-22 . 7:39p, 5236 Cleveland Ave. (Tuxedo Classics), passing bad checks & theft on 3-4 reported.
- 3-27 . 7:30a, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft reported; property located.
- 3-29 . 1:07p, 5400 Cleveland Ave. (Gordon Food Service), false alarm.
- 3-31 . 12:45p, 5270 Cleveland Ave. (1st Aid Service Clinic), passing bad checks & theft.
- 3-31 . 6:16p, 5309 Westerville Rd. (Iron Pony), false alarm.



Villagers

Erin Mangan, 2575 Jordan Road, has been chosen to represent Westerville South High School at the National Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference in May at Denison University. Participants from across the U.S. will meet to discuss current critical issues that good leadership can help solve. Erin is a sophomore at WSHS. Congratulations, Erin!

Welcome Our New Neighbors!

From Missouri, **Scott & Melisha Davies** with daughters **Emily (12), Sarah (10), Molly (8), and Julia (1)**, are new residents at 5360 Ponderosa Dr. Their phone is 823-8512.

Michael Morus is a new resident at 2544 Wildwood Rd., with an unlisted phone.

Jess Simpson & Lisa Ford and **Brandon (2½)**, are now residing at 2634 Wildwood Rd. 899-2582.

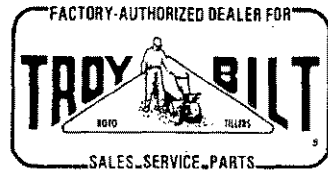
Steve & Tracy Moncure have moved to 2631 Wildwood Road. Their number is 901-2042.

Bill & Sharon Moore of Columbus now live at 2685 Jordan Road. Phone them at 890-3349.

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

Minerva Park CLASSIFIED

**SHOEMAKER
RENTAL
& SALES**



2591 E. Granville Rd.
(161 at Cleveland Ave.)
614-882-7451

Mon-Sat 12-7 890-5235
Sun 12-5
Closed Wed & Thur

Minerva Park Furniture Gallery

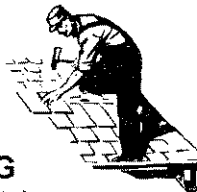
32 Rooms Furniture, New, and Fine Antiques
In Business for Over 22 Years



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Columbus, Ohio 43231



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RESIDENT
for 17 years!

Advertise in the Villager ... 794-3862

the Villager Staff

Editor Felicia Busick, 794-3862
2769 Minerva Lake Road
Layout & Design Sharon Bierman
Advertising Felicia Busick, 794-3862
Contributor Bob Stuart

The Villager is distributed to all MP 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. Use the drop box at the Community Building or on the Editor's front door.

A business-card size advertisement costs \$15 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 21, 5:00 p.m.

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."*

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



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RESIDENT
for 31 years!