Incumbent Mayor Jack Murray was reelected to his 2nd term on November 2nd and will lead Minerva Park into the next millennium. Five hundred seventeen villagers voted for mayor, with 329 votes for Murray and 188 votes for Darrell Kern. According to the Franklin County Board of Elections, there were 1,021 registered voters in Minerva Park as of October 28, 1999. Murray believed that the bad weather could have led to the lower than usual 48% turnout at the polls. Incumbent Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter ran unopposed and received 405 votes.

In an interview with Murray about the mayoral race, he believed he lost some votes because of the income tax issue and the effect of the waterline project on the roads. Now that Murray can look ahead to four more years, he is ready to put his goals into action. As he stated at the MPCA’s Candidate Night in October, Murray plans to redo Minerva Lake Road and add on to the Community Building. He plans to make this possible through outside sources, mainly grant money.

When asked how Murray would “sell” someone on moving into Minerva Park, he mentioned the strong Westerville school district and our own police department. After a pause, he said, “They should just walk through the Park in the fall.”

Darrell Kern, candidate for Mayor, received 188 votes in the November 2nd election. In an interview after the election, Kern stated that he was thrilled with the support he received. Even though he did not win, he enjoyed the experience of running for public office and having the opportunity to meet many Minerva Park residents. Kern’s future political plans include seeking a position on the current village council and later making another run for Minerva Park Mayor. Kern wished Mayor Murray good luck in his next term in office.

In the race for the Westerville School Board, incumbent Debbie Cunningham and newcomer Cindy Crowe were chosen by voters to fill the two open positions. Issue 18, or the Westerville Schools Capital Improvements Levy, was passed by voters. This levy extends the 5-year, $2.7 million capital improvements levy that passed in 1994 and had since expired.
MPCA News

Celebrating Halloween in Minerva Park

Winnie the Pooh, knights in armor, Tigger, a panda bear, a skunk, angels, Batman and other cute, scary, and funny costumes could be seen at the Halloween Party on Sunday, October 31, at the Community Building. The event was coordinated by the MPCA’s Children’s Committee, which is co-chaired by Marci and Tim Monaco. Approximately 45 children attended the party which lasted from 2-4 p.m.

As the children arrived, they received candy from volunteers and could walk through an Enchanted Forest (i.e., the wooded area on the side of the Community Building). They played games and took part in making crafts. A magician delighted and entertained the children with tricks, riddles, and lots of laughs. Older children took part in a scavenger hunt and took turns hitting a piñata.

Prizes were awarded to all of the children for their costumes. The following awards were presented:

- Abbey Engelbach - cutest Madeline
- Adam Carifa - best scary monster
- Alex Carifa - cutest pikachu
- Alyssa Gum - cutest little kitty cat
- Anthony Woods - best Anakin Skywalker
- Austin Carifa - best lion
- Candace Woods - most beautiful vampire
- Carly Rue - most beautiful ballerina
- Chelsea Quail - best Queen Amadala
- Colin Butts - best Winnie the Pooh
- Darragh Bridgette - cutest Batman
- Dominique Dosky - cutest Batgirl
- Emily Bennett - best kimman
- Emily Fry - cutest Dorothy
- Emily Johnston - prettiest black cat
- Emily Walter - cutest clown
- Erica Evans - best hippy
- Gigi Howard - most beautiful angel
- Jake Harn - cutest pirate

Janelle Breeckner - cutest Ariel
Jared Coulter - cutest little lion
Jeremy Johnston - best Batman
Joshua Kem - cutest little panda
Kelsey Coulter - prettiest Dorothy
Kristen Bauer - best hippy
Lauren Bennett - cutest poodle skirt girl
Luke Howard - best knight
Mason Butts - cutest Winnie the Pooh
Melanie Fry - cutest cheerleader
Nick Walter - best scarecrow
Olivia Watkins - best Pocahontas
Ryan Crane - cutest skunk
Samantha Moss - best big clown
Sara Rowe - loveliest princess
Shane Coulter - best little Anakin Skywalker
Spencer Robison - cutest little Tigger
Taylor Fickes - cutest little clown
Tiffany Graves - best dead prom queen
Tiffany Jones - prettiest princess
Tyler Carifa - best pikachu
Tyler Rowe - best fireman
Valerie Scott - best Britney Spears
Wayne Quail - best Guy Quan Gen (from "Star Wars")
MAYOR'S REPORT

By Jack Murray

Well, finally, all of the old water lines in Minerva Park have been replaced! Columbus has blessed our final Phase IV Project with this approval for pressure and chlorination. When I started working on this program 10 years ago, little did I think it would take this long. Now I am really looking forward to a winter without numerous breaks in our water lines.

Have you noticed that our fire hydrants are being painted? Columbus fire division informed us that fire hydrants with a black top were considered to be out of service. So we painted them yellow. Some needed to be painted anyway.

Plans for a new funeral home have been submitted for approval to be built at 3047 East Dublin Granville Road, which is east of Ponderosa Drive. It is a very attractive building and should make a good neighbor.

The income tax proposal by council was discussed at length during the November 8 council meeting and at a special meeting on November 22.

We hope to have the streets that need the most repaired before severe cold weather gets here. This repair will include potholes and major cracks. I am not sure how this work will affect your driving, but be aware.

If anyone has a shortage of leaves, I will be glad to share ... I have plenty!

Legislation acted upon included:
- Resolution 99-20 - Honoring Karl Garrabrant for 111/2 years as fire chief - passed.
- Resolution 99-26 - Authorizing Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer to contract for auditing of the BMV records of registration - passed.
- Resolution 99-27 - Declaring it necessary to replace a 4 mill tax levy, which expired November 1999 in excess of the 10 mill limitation - passed, final reading.
- Ordinance 5-99 - Increasing the Mayor salary to $12,000 per year - passed, 2nd reading.
- Ordinance 6-99 - Increasing the Clerk-Treasurer salary to $11,000 per year - passed, 2nd reading.
- Ordinance 7-99 - Income tax of 1% for the Village of Minerva Park - passed, 2nd reading.

I would like to inform you again that, although the mayor does not have a vote on most issues, I would be pleased to discuss any issue with you where you have a concern. My office hours are 9:00 a.m. to noon (or usually 1:00 p.m.) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please call first.

My daddy always said, "Borrow money from a pessimist. They don't expect it back."

Halloween Party Thank You

By Marci Monaco

It was very nice to see all of the children in their costumes and watch them hit the piñata. I would like to thank everyone who helped out and all who came to the party. I would especially like to thank Bill and Yvonne Giamarcco, who really helped me out in my first year as co-chair of the Children's Committee.

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Annual Festival of Lights Contest Rules

Time to bring out the lights and dress Minerva Park for the holidays! The judging for this year’s contest will be between December 3-13, depending on the weather. First place winners will be selected in six categories:

- Best Outdoor Tree
- Best Entranceway
- Best Religious Theme
- Best Whimsical Display
- Best Outline Effect
- Best Daytime Display

Winners will receive a gift certificate from a local nursery. Winners and runners-up will be honored in the Villager. Households that won last year are ineligible. Judges typically include adults, teenagers, and youngsters who reside in Minerva Park. If you are interested in being a judge, contact Tim Curry at 890-5809.

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

Villager Drop-off Locations

Residents are encouraged to submit articles and items of interest for publication in the Villager - signed and by the deadline, of course. Here are the new drop-off locations:

1. 3237 Minerva Lake Rd.
2. 2807 Wildwood Rd.
3. Community Center

Minerva Park Police

10-1 ... 12:34a, 3205 E. Dublin Granville Rd., Consumer Support Services, false alarm.
10-6 ... 11:15a, 5305 Cleveland Ave., Grand Canyon, aggravated menacing.
10-9 ... 3:00p - 4:30p, 2500 blk Wildwood Ave., theft.
10-9 ... 7:00p, 5460 Cleveland Ave., resident died of natural causes.
10-13 ... 12:52p, 2900 blk Berry Lake Dr., false alarm.
10-13 ... 7:50p, 2500 blk Woodley Rd., several annoying telephone calls reported during the prior 2 days.
10-22 ... 7:10p, 3205 E. Dublin Granville Rd., Consumer Support Services, false alarm.
10-22 ... 7:35p, 2600 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
10-23 ... 3:36a, 5424 Cleveland Ave., US Cleaners, false alarm.
10-23 ... 12:30p, 5298 Cleveland Ave., Dirko’s Pizza, menacing threats.
10-23 ... 3:55p, 5258 Cleveland Ave., Sally Beauty Supply, theft.
10-24 ... 6:00p, end of Maplewood Dr., at the park, assault.
10-28 ... 9:45a, 5300 blk Ponderosa Dr., false alarm.
10-28 ... 10:13a, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
10-28 ... 2:30p, 2900 blk Berry Lake Dr., at the park, criminal mischief reported.
10-39 ... 10:06a., 2600 blk Lakewood Dr., false alarm.
Oh, Christmas Tree

Christmas is right around the corner, and it is time to start picking out a Christmas tree. There are three types of Christmas trees—spruce, pine, and fir. The Douglas fir and the Fraser fir are the most popular because of their wonderful fragrance and longevity. The Scotch pine and White pine are more traditional trees, less fragrant and less expensive. The White pine is more popular for those with children and pets, because of its soft needles.

Now that the type of tree has been chosen, be sure to feel the needles for elasticity, and make sure the needles do not come off easily. Also, avoid trees with brown-tipped needles. When the tree is purchased, have the attendant provide a fresh cut so the tree is better able to draw water. Once leaving the nursery, try not to make too many stops on the way home—the tree needs to be in water within an hour.

Check the water level twice a day. Never let the tree run completely out of water! This will inhibit the tree's ability to drink, even if you add water afterward. Remember, if this happens, the tree will quickly dry out and will become a fire hazard. With proper care, the Christmas tree should last up to about three weeks.
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the Villager Staff

Editors .................................. Ruth Crane, 895-9362
                                  DeAnna Kem, 891-4203
                                  Jane Miller, 891-6105

Layout & Design ....................... Sharon Berman

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, on DeAnna Kem's front door, 3237 Minerva Lake Rd., or on Ruth Crane's front door, 2807 Wildwood Rd.

A business-card size ad 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:
Wednesday, December 15, 5:00 p.m.