A Message from Your Editor

By Marty Matunas

With spring well upon us, most of us have turned our attention to the great outdoors — mulching, planting, painting, washing windows, cleaning gutters, and mowing the lawn, to mention a few! The pride Minerva Park residents take in their property, both public and private, is certainly evident. I know of no other village where volunteers maintain the common area landscaping.

On that note, a big THANK YOU to all who helped with lake clean-up. Our common area landscaping needs attention throughout the season, so if you have an hour or two to weed or deadhead plants, please call Bob Gale at 882-8622 or any MinervaFlora committee member.

Many of our residents have offered positive comments on two new features. One is “Neighborhood Naturalist” by Greg Wittmann. Be sure to check out Greg’s tips on page 4 for down & dirty with the worms.

“Did you Know? A Closer Look at MP’s Ordinances” is an occasional article, focusing on ordinances meant to protect our village and maintain the high quality appearance we have always enjoyed. Look for it again!

MPCA’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt again this year was a huge success! The weather cooperated, and the event was very well attended. All the children had a chance to be photographed with the Easter Bunny, and some of the eggs had certificates that could be redeemed for special prizes. A big Thank You to all who helped organize the event! Your volunteering continues to help make this a successful event for our children!

Fourth of July Parade

The Northland Community Council has assumed responsibility for what used to be the Jaycee Fourth of July Parade. The Minerva Park Community Association, and by extension the Village, has been invited to participate in the parade, starting this year at 11:00a on July 4. The route is on Karl Road from Morse to 161.

If anyone can provide a flatbed truck or help with preparing a float, we would love to hear from you! Or if you have a convertible or a vintage car that you would be willing to drive ... or decorated bikes, etc. ... please let us know. The deadline for entries is June 1, and there will be monetary prizes. Any interested parties should contact Rolla Wagner (895-2236) or Lynn Eisentrout (891-0895) for further information.

MAY DATES

10-20 ............... Hydrant Flushing
12 ........ Garage Sale Registration
14 (8:00p) ........... Council Meeting
16 (5:00p) ........... Villager Deadline
16 (7:30p) ........... MPCA Meeting
18 ............... Garage Sale Packets
19 (9-4) ........... MPCA Garage Sale
20 (12-4) ............... CPR Training
A Message from Your MPCA President  
By Lynn Eisentrout

A couple of years ago – the summer of 1998 – training sessions (in conjunction with the Columbus Police Dept. liaison) were conducted to establish a Blockwatch Program. Interest waned, and although quite a bit of crime prevention information was provided to residents through these sessions, a formal Blockwatch Program was never established in the village.

What is a Blockwatch Program? Simply put, residents would be the eyes and ears, in their vicinity, for our police department and would report any suspicious activity or person. The block watch captains would need to attend three or four meetings to become certified. They would be responsible for overseeing the activities of 3 or 4 volunteers, depending on the size of the street. Do we need such a program with a full-time police force? The purpose of this article is to generate your comments — the Board would like your input.

Please call Marty Matunas at 891-3024 with your comments and feedback.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact any MPCA Board member - listed in the Directory.

Mary Yost, our own long-time “MinervaFlora,” graciously bequeathed funds to be used for plant materials to enhance village beautification. In accordance with her bequest, landscaping plans for lake areas along Minerva Lake Road and the dam area have been submitted to Minerva Park Council for approval. Council must agree to pay for labor costs. This project will likely be phased in over the next several years. Thank you, Mary, for your generosity!
MAYOR’S REPORT

By Jack Murray

It’s now official — I had to cut my grass this week, so summer must not be far behind!

At the April council meeting, Oakland Park Nursery presented a landscape plan for the shores of both the north and south lakes. The goals are to control erosion, to provide some color throughout the year, to have a low profile, and to require low maintenance. The plan will be implemented in increments over several seasons, if desired. Both sides of the road will be completed, so as to provide uniformity. The overall cost of the project is estimated at $20,986. Of this, the plant materials would cost $9,000 and will be paid for by funds left to the village by an endowment from Mary Yost, our own “MinervaFlora.”

By the time you read this, the pothole repair project should be well underway.

The Planning and Zoning Commission reported that 4 applications have been approved, a building permit for work on Cleveland Ave., and 2 sign permits for Cleveland Ave. businesses.

We are still in the running for a grant from the Ohio Commission for replacement of Minerva Lake Road. I received a letter of congratulations from the OPWC Administrator on our proposal’s success so far. He pointed out that they expect to receive about four times as many applications as they have money to fund. Awards are scheduled for late April or early May.

Council is discussing the possibility of hiring a professional to write grants, and a special effort will be made to acquire funds for the purchase of Minerva Lake Golf Course. We hope this can be accomplished before a developer secures the land for a housing development!

Rolla Wagner has agreed to become Maintenance Supervisor, replacing Jim Fisher, who will continue to ply his skills as the expert grass cutter.

Council approved the purchase of a golf-cart type vehicle with a dumping bed. It will be used for various clean-up projects.

The first phase of the sewer line inspection has been completed. Darrell Kem reported that 7,200 linear feet were inspected and only a few places will need review with the camera system. The sewers were not as bad as anticipated. The total cost of this phase was $3,900.

After we found a large deposit of grease in the sewer line downstream from Hawthorne School, we contacted them concerning any discharge from their kitchen. They reported that they no longer prepare food in their kitchen but have nevertheless installed a grease trap in the sewer line. We hope grease at this location will no longer be a problem.

Ordinance 01-2001 - removing the quarterly flat surcharge for replacement and repair of waterlines - passed.

Resolution 2001-05 - authorizing the mayor and clerk-treasure to enter into contract with Fred Lappert as village code enforcer, and to declare emergencies - passed.

Resolution 2001-06 - establishing a range for the hourly pay for the village’s executive secretary - passed.

My wife keeps a sign in our kitchen: “There are two choices for dinner — take it or leave it.”
Vermicomposting

Every spring I vow that “this year, by golly, I won’t do it — I won’t use any artificial chemicals on my gardens that will kill all of the bugs that kill my plants.”

I know that the good beneficial bugs get zapped at the same time, and the ecological balance gets disrupted when I start killing parts of it. But, before you know it, time slips away and before I can say “organic gardening” twice, I am staring down at half eaten wilted leaves that will take a bunch of time and labor to save. Maybe I could just spray the little suckers with something that will make them go away before they even know what hit them.

Sound familiar? But you can greatly reduce or even eliminate the use of environmentally taxing chemicals by using worms! Red Wigglers to be exact. Vermi comes from the Latin word vermis (“worms”). Vermicomposting is using worms in table scraps and yard waste compost to create good, fertile soil, which in turn produces stronger healthier plants. Leaf-defoliating bugs and plant-wilting diseases will have to move on to less hardy gardens!

I like to think of composting in terms of “garden-to-table-table-to-garden.” The castings (worm manure) have very fertile qualities that, when used in a concentrated form, could actually burn your plants if not used properly. There are commercial worm bins that you could buy, but there are so many ways to make one, you could get creative and save the money. I made one for an elementary school out of untreated plywood. I’ve also seen large plastic Tupperware-looking containers that can be used, with a little modification.

Talk to any experienced gardener (we have plenty of them in this wonderful neighborhood) and ask them where to start when creating a good healthy garden. Sure enough, they’ll say, “Soil.” I have left some very helpful handouts at the Community Building regarding backyard composting, as well as vermicomposting. I even have a cool project your kids will enjoy — the recipe for their very own countertop vermicomposter in a jar! Won’t Mom and Dad be thrilled about worms in their kitchen? Happy vermicomposting.

To learn more about vermicomposting, see these Internet sites:
http://www.oldgrowth.org/compost/vermi.html
http://www.yucky.com

March 2001

In March, Medic 119 made 48 runs - 10 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 4 into Minerva Park; 29 patients were transported to the hospital. Members volunteered a total of 774 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 2,115. Leading volunteers for the month were John Rains (98 hours), Greg Norton (76 hours), and Wayne Miller (74 hours).

MP Runs
3-3 ... Park Lane Dr., injured person
3-7 ... Woodley, ill person
3-20 . Cleveland Ave., difficulty breathing
3-24 . Lakewood Dr., ill person
Annual Hydrant Flushing

As part of its annual maintenance plan, the Minerva Park Fire Department will flush village fire hydrants from May 10 through May 20. This process can dislodge rust, which can stain clothing and other items. If possible, avoid washing laundry between 9:00a and 5:00p. 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.

Spaghetti Dinner Report
By Reno Volpe

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and the wonderful support we received from the community. We had our most successful spaghetti dinner in history. It was great to see everyone, and the food was fabulous as always. This has always been a great fund-raiser for the pool, and this year was no exception.

We are still offering a 10% discount on memberships for this season, if paid in full by June 1, 2001. If you have any questions, call Reno Volpe at 899-9189. We will be distributing membership applications in the next few weeks. See you at the pool!

Yasmin Market

- International Groceries & Produce
- Middle East & African Cuisines
- Halal Meat
- Gifts and Sweets
- Imported Kitchen Items

5444 Cleveland Ave.
Across from Meijer
895-8320
CPR Training
Sunday, May 20
Noon to 4:00p
Learn about Automatic Defibrillators

The MP Fire Department, in conjunction with the American Heart Association, will offer “CPR for Family and Friends” at no charge. All MP residents age 12 and older are encouraged to attend.

Current standards emphasize the need for early defibrillation and CPR in heart attack victims. The sooner this treatment is initiated, the better the victim’s chances of survival. Automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) are becoming more common and require very little training — they can make the difference between life and death. Many public places and law enforcement personnel are being equipped with AEDs, including the Minerva Park police. Come and learn about this new technology. Be prepared to save a life!

To register, call Greg Norton at 268-3049 between 9:00a and 10:00p.

Fire Dept. Fund-Raiser
Community Building - Saturday, May 19

Cool drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers, other grilled & baked goods, the chief’s famous cream puffs! What more could you ask for during the MP Garage Sale?! All proceeds benefit the MP Fire Association. Thank you for your support!
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 19. This event always attracts a large number of buyers, so don’t miss out!

As in the past, the $5 registration fee covers the cost of prominent advertising in local newspapers, balloons to mark your mailbox, and maps for distribution. There is also 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 your fair contribution. Those folks who have unregistered sales and do not pay their 10% contribution will not be eligible to participate in the 2002 garage sale.

To register, send the attached form and a check for $5 to “Minerva Park Community Association” at the Community Building, 2829 Minerva Lake Road, or to the event coordinator, Lynn Eisentrout, 2753 Wildwood Rd., 891-0895.

Registration packets will be distributed this year on May 18. Late registrations can be made that evening, but you will not be on the map. Volunteers will be coming personally to collect your 10% proceeds between 3:30 and 4:00 the day of the sale, as opposed to your mailing your proceeds to us.

As always, we need volunteers to help make this sale a success. Please contact Lynn Eisentrout at 891-0895 if you can help with packet creation and distribution, advertising, or collecting money.

Enclosed is my check for $5, payable to “Minerva Park Community Association,” for participation in the MPCA 2001 annual garage sale FUND-RAISER. Additionally, I will submit 10% of my proceeds.
3-9 ...... 5200 blk Cleveland Ave.,
graffiti painting reported
3-10 ...... 7:15a, Blessed & Dressed
Fashions, 5428 Cleveland
Ave., false alarm
3-10 ...... 5:10p, Sally’s Beauty Supply,
5258 Cleveland Ave., robbery
3-11 ...... 3:00a & 1:01p & 2:30p,
Blessed & Dressed Fashions,
5428 Cleveland Ave., false
alarms
3-13 ...... 3:02p, Miller & Ranney
Plumbing, 5474 Cleveland
Ave., false alarm
3-14 ...... 8:16a, Dirko’s Pizza, 5298
Cleveland Ave., false alarm
3-15 ...... 3:17p, Household Finance,
theft.
3-17 ...... 3:20p, Ohio District Council,
3021 E. Dub-Gran, breaking &
entering
3-17 ...... 9:33p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake
Rd., false alarm
3-18 ...... 10:41p, Yasmin Market, 5444
Cleveland Ave., false alarm
3-21 ...... 3:58a, 2600 blk Wildwood
Rd., domestic dispute
3-21 ...... 3:43, 2700 blk Alder Vista Dr.,
false alarm
3-24 & 3-25 Dirko’s Pizza, 4398
Cleveland Ave., bad checks

Welcome
Our New Neighbors!
Dale & Tonya Carter,
Cierra, and Cheyanne are
new residents at 2762
Maplewood Dr., formerly
of Forest Park.  891-9564.

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

This year’s MPCA
MinervaFlora garden tour will
be held in conjunction with
Founders Day, July 21.  Now
is the time to think about
putting your yard on the tour ... this is a great opportunity to
share gardening knowledge
with your neighbors! Please
contact Marty Matunas at
891-3024 if you would like
your property (or a neighbor’s)
on the tour this year.

The MP Swim Club is seeking committed
individuals to be active Pool Board Members,
participating in meetings and events. If you are
interested, please call Reno Volpe at 899-9189.
Reiner Reality
Walter G. Reiner
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Commercial • Industrial • Investment
Sales & Leasing • Management
Feasibility - Market Studies -
Consulting - Appraisal - Marketing -
Development - Financing - International
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Mulch Direct
Topsoil Direct
Hardwood Mulch
Gravel
Pulverized Topsoil
Virgin Topsoil
Special Blends
Boulders
Clays
Pick-up or Delivery

882-0800
5030 Westerville Road

Shoemaker Equipment Rental & Sales, Inc.
Est. 1945
The DIFFERENCE is
exceptional service & knowledge.
MP RESIDENT
882-7451
SE Corner 181 &
Cleveland Ave.

Advertise in the Villager 899-3755

Rosati Windows
777-4806
MP RESIDENT
for 19 years!
Michael Rosati
2188 Wilson Road
Factory - Showroom
“See the Difference”

Angela’s Pizza
5590 Cleveland Avenue
(just south of Route 181)
882-8525 • 882-8187

$2 Off
Coupon
May 2001 Minerva Park Villager
expires 6-30-01
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 & other items of interest. Use the drop box inside the front door at the Community Building. The Villager reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor’s signature and phone number. The Villager is online at:
http://www.dev-bureau.com/access.asp
username = m pca  password = villager

Next deadline:
Wednesday, May 16, 5:00 p.m.