Fun & Sun

10th Annual Founders Day
Saturday, August 4
5:00p to 8:00p - at the Pool

Join us for one of the largest social events of the year! Residents and guests are invited to join the good times and good food at the 10th Annual Founders Day celebration at the pool. Take a dip if you wish, but come enjoy the fun, children’s games, good music, great food catered by Carfagna's, and fabulous desserts made by our legendary MP bakers. Call Lisa Craddock-Thitoff at 891-2166 to volunteer for dessert baking and Bob Gale at 882-8622 for set-up and clean-up.

There is no charge for MP residents. You may bring chairs for additional seating. Support your Village and meet your neighbors! See you there! •

Resident Directory Updates

It’s time to update the resident directory, so please check the directory and report any changes to Sharon Bierman (899-3755, sbierman@columbus.rr.com) by September 10. And then please pay your $15 Community Association dues promptly when volunteers stop by to collect in September and October.

Street Reps

Street reps are needed to “get the word out” to MP neighbors – call or email a designated number of homes to advise them of special MP Community Association events. Contacting residents a few times a year can be quick and easy, and you can get to know your neighbors. One group on East Shore even had a recent block party. We need someone from the Village to help cover Wildwood, Woodley, Elmhurst, Westbridge, and Jordan Road. Call Lisa Craddock-Thitoff at 891-2166 for more information and to sign up.

2nd Annual Doggie Dip

Join us Sunday, September 9, from 1:00p to 3:00p to let your doggies enjoy a swim before we close the pool for the season! The fee is $4 per doggie. Woof!

MP Community Garage Sale
August 18 • 9a to 4p

Sign up today! (page 7)

AUGUST DATES
4 (5p-8p) ............... Founders Day
13 (7:30p) ............ Council Meeting
15 (5p) ............... Villager Deadline
15 (7:30p) ............. MPCA Meeting
18 (9a-4p) ............ Garage Sale

Underwritten by your MPCA dues
MPCA News

Garden Award

The Four Seasons Garden Award contest took place on July 8. It recognizes outstanding achievement by MP residents in garden design and maintenance. This year’s winners for the mid-summer garden are Howard and Judy Wright at 5239 E. Shore Drive, who received a certificate of recognition and their name on a plaque in the Community Building.

Judges’ comments included, “The design, variety, and color were the best … really liked the backyard with all the hidden paths and the lake garden … the many bird baths and many of the plants being labeled.”

Other honorable mentions were gardens tended by the Thitoff, Bierman & Leman, Blateri, and Howard families.

Thanks to the judges for their time, and thanks to all MP gardeners for their continuing hard work to make Minerva Park a great place to live.

Available at Founders Day

Minerva Park Note Cards

Old-timers will remember fondly the musings of resident Ray Beougher, long-time contributor to the Villager newsletter, with his “Town Pump” and “Hi, Neighbor” articles and drawings. His commentary and profiles of Village residents delighted Minerva Park for more than 10 years, before his passing in 1998. Even today, his nostalgic recollections are enjoyed with occasional reprints in the Villager.

Celebrate the history of Minerva Park with this rare collection of Ray’s sketches depicting life in Minerva Park in days gone by. Each packet contains 12 cards – 2 cards of 6 images each (with envelopes).

Family Fun Night

Wine & Cheese Nite on July 14 was the best attended yet, with nearly 65 MP residents and guests in attendance! We enjoyed perfect weather, shrimp cocktail, Italian meatballs, a full complement of appetizers, and a variety of wines. You’ll be attending next year’s event, won’t you?

Advertise in the Villager

Ads start at $15 monthly, or $75 for a 6-month contract (get 1 month FREE).

Contact Sharon Bierman at 899-3755.

1 pack for $12 • 2 packs for $20

Contact ... Tina Cates (776-1459), Bob Gale (882-8622), Gretchen Persohn (898-0903), Dianne Poncinie (882-0012), Steve & Lisa Thitoff (891-2166).
MAYOR’S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout

I would like to thank State Representative and Minerva Park resident Kevin Bacon for his sponsoring of and invaluable assistance in the passage of an amendment that has addressed as issue that the Village, particularly Police Chief Bobbie Hillard, has been trying to resolve for about 15 years – what has been referred to as the Cleveland Avenue fee distribution issue. As you may recall, we have had the Village police officers patrolling the east, or adjacent, two lanes of Cleveland Avenue. Traffic citations would be issued, but the resulting monies from fines collected were not being paid to the Village. This amendment accomplished several things: It has clarified the term “adjacent” to mean all lanes of streets and highways, their shoulders, medians, and berms and further defines the authority of the police officers of that political subdivision to enforce the traffic laws and to have the fines collected from citations issued to be directed to that political subdivision. Please refer to page 4 for an article where Chief Hillard offers a history of the Village’s efforts and a more in-depth explanation.

Homestead Tax Exemption Information: The Homestead Exemption Act has been expanded. The following information has been taken from Franklin County Auditor Joe Testa’s website: “House Bill 119 provides for an expanded homestead exemption. It eliminates the income eligibility criteria, thereby making the exemption available to ALL homeowners who: Are at least 65 years old during 2007; OR are totally and permanently disabled as of January 1, 2007 as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist, or state or federal agency; OR Are the surviving spouse of a person who was receiving the previous Homestead Exemption at the time of death and where the surviving spouse was at least 59 years old on the date of death AND own and occupy the home as the principal place of residence as of January 1, 2007 for real property, or January 1, 2008 for manufactured homes. The bill also changes the manner in which the homestead tax reduction is calculated. A senior or disabled homeowner will now be entitled to a tax reduction the equivalent of the net amount of taxes due on $25,000 of the market value of their home. For example, an eligible owner of a home valued at $100,000 will now be billed as if the home were valued at $75,000. Those individuals who were not previously qualified may now apply for the homestead exemption during an extended application period beginning July 2, 2007 and ending October 1, 2007. The credit will appear on their 2007 real estate tax bill, payable in 2008. Qualified individuals may complete an application online, print out the form, sign, and mail to the Franklin County Auditor’s Office, Homestead Section, 373 South High Street, 21st Floor, Columbus OH 43215-6310.” Contact information: Phone 462-3240 or email joe_testa@franklincountyohio.gov. His website is http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/auditor//.

A packet that includes all of the above information, the Exemption Application, and the Certificate of Disability has been assembled and is available at the Community Building. Please don’t hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Home 891-0895, Office 882-5743.

Electrical Outages: I have been told that there have been numerous outages of long and short duration and power surges in the central part of the Village – East Shore, Kerrwood, and Ponderosa Drive, and all of the courts in that immediate area, affecting about 98 residents in all. I met with Gregory Griffith, AEP Customer Service, and here is what we know. After reviewing a map of the area, it seems that there is one fuse servicing 98 customers and is periodically blowing. The fuse was improperly sized for the load on that part of the circuit and has been replaced with a properly sized fuse and fuse holder. Further inspection along the lines revealed that a defective lightning arrester, not tree limbs, also contributed to the outages. That, too, is being replaced. I have been told that there may be a few brief outages as any additional repairs are made, but that the residents affected should receive a heads-up via a recorded message.

Northland Plaza: I spoke to the new owner, New York-based Oliver Nassimi, co-owner of Nassimi Realty. I told him I was very concerned about the deteriorating condition of the plaza and the lack of maintenance. He was unaware of the situation and thought his property management company had rectified the problems we had spoken about earlier. Pictures of the property were forwarded to him. He has four or five prospective tenants that are currently conducting marketing surveys before they commit to an agreement, but he has assured me that this property will remain retail.

Meetings: I met with the co-owner of MP’s trash hauling company, Local Waste, to discuss several ongoing problems—throwing trash cans and recycling containers, leaving trash receptacles in the middle of driveways, loud music from trucks, drivers’ attire, and so on. I have seen some improvement since then, but please let me know if you have any concerns or suggestions.

In April, we received notification from the Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department (EDPD) that, with the passage of House Bill 175 (this HB established the statewide uniform
residential building code for 1-, 2-, and 3-family dwellings), all residential building departments had to be certified by the Ohio Board of Building Standards by May 2007 and that the Ohio Board of Building Standards had been given the authority to adopt rules for HB 175. Because the Village did not have a Building Department, we had three choices: (1) establish a Building Department and hire a Building Inspector that was certified by the State, (2) contract with a neighboring municipality for inspections, or (3) contract with Franklin County. The first two options proved to be quite costly. After meeting with the EDPD’s Assistant Director, our Law Director, and the Planning & Zoning Board, it became clear that our best course of action was to contract with the County. Accordingly, Council passed Ordinance 12-2007 at the June meeting to establish a Building Department and to contract with Franklin County for all residential inspections. Last month, Zoning Clerk Arlene Stuart and I met with Mike Kelleher to iron out the details of these inspections-timelines, permits, and so on. For further clarification, please refer to an article by Arlene on page 5.

I would like to thank Maplewood Drive resident Bob Caley for his services as our Building Inspector for the past 3½ years. Bob, with his many years of experience in the building industry, has been most generous donating his time and sharing advice with residents, the Planning & Zoning Board, and me.

All Council members were present for the Regular Council meeting held July 9. The following departmental reports were made:

Police: Chief Hillard was absent because of illness. His monthly report was distributed.

EMS: Chief Hoechstetter reviewed his monthly report. There are 17 paramedics who have completed their employment packets. Woodley gas station: The Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks Regulation (BUSTR) and the State Fire Marshal’s Office received all three of their attempts to serve the owner of the gas station refused and unsigned. The owners were personally served by a BUSTR representative and have 30 days to respond to the administrative order that the tanks be removed.

Engineering: Mike Flickinger added his report to the Streets Committee report, below.

Planning & Zoning: Code Enforcement Officer Dick Busick reviewed his monthly report. There are four cases that continue to be monitored. A Mapledwood resident's window replacement application was approved. Normally window replacement projects do not need an application nor a hearing in front of the Planning & Zoning Commission, but the size of the windows changed the present structure. There was a “look-see” for ABC Homecare.

Minerva Park Community Association: Board Vice President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff was unable to attend, and Councilmen Todd Walter and Dave Way reported in her stead. Family Fun Night was well-attended. To date, 389 residents (68%) have paid their dues. The Community Garage Sale is August 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Minerva Park Pool: We continue to have a successful season. Membership is at 262, 76 of whom are Minerva Park residents. Revenue collected to date is $61,000.

Northland Community Council: NCC Rep Kenton Stanley reported on a discussion of the West Nile virus. Residents are cautioned to take care in disposing of any dead birds, especially crows. Double-bag it and dispose of it immediately. The next NCC meeting is the Annual Picnic to be held at Blendon Woods.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way had nothing further to add to the MPCA report.

Finance: Councilman Don Champney asked for and received approval for warrants totaling $175,742.25. Note that this amount was larger than usual because the Clerk/Treasurer processed checks for one month in advance, because she would be on vacation for 30 days. There will be a Finance Committee meeting Monday, August 6, at 7 p.m.

Legislation: Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to consider the following legislation:

Resolution 2007-17 - To proceed with placing the issue on the ballot for a Replacement Tax Levy for purposes of providing for the current expenses of the Village of Minerva Park. Third reading accepted, passed.

Ordinance 11-2007 - Revising and adopting Chapter 244, Fire Department and Fire protection of the Codified Ordinances. Third reading accepted, passed.

Legislation is available online at http://www.minervapark.org/legislation/

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

Service: Councilwoman Sharon Bierman had nothing to report.

Streets: Councilman Jeff Rigg reviewed the quotes he and the Engineer have received for the work to be done on the parking lots, the concrete pad, pothole repairs on Jordan Road and Alder Vista Drive, and the storm sewer repair on Alder Vista. The total amount for the quotes is $300 less than anticipated. There will be a Streets Committee meeting Thursday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m.*

Ohio Revised Code 2935.03

By Police Chief Bobbie Hillard

HB669, later identified as ORC 2935.03, was passed in late 1991 and became law in January 1992. This law allows police officers to enforce any state traffic laws on any street or highway that is immediately adjacent to a municipal corporation limits—in MP’s case, that would mean Cleveland Avenue and Highway 3.

Any citation issued under Sections 4503.11, 4503.21, or 4549.01, 4549.08-12, 4549.62 or Chapters 4511 & 4513 had to be sent to Franklin County Municipal Court for processing, and then any fines collected would be distributed to the issuing agency.

But fines collected were not being sent back to MP. After learning this, I began looking into the matter (November 1992) and discovered that, when the bill was written, it failed to include instructions on how
I began speaking and meeting with state representatives, state senators, and anyone else who would listen. The goal was to get proper instructions added to the law about how municipal court clerks were to distribute those fines.

After 15 years of effort, that's about to change. A special thank you to State Representative and MP resident Kevin Bacon for his sponsorship of the amendment and to Mayor Eisentrout for her support. In approximately 90 days, all municipal court clerks statewide will begin distributing collected fines back to the issuing agencies.

A Message from the MP Zoning Clerk

By Arlene Stuart, Zoning Clerk

I must compliment MP residents on the beautification of their homes. It is always a pleasure to drive through the Village and see the landscaping and various steps you have taken to beautify your homes and add to the uniqueness of our Village.

There have been some changes in the permit procedures that took effect on June 11. As explained in the Mayor’s Report, Village Council passed a resolution to accept a contract with the Franklin County Building Department to do all of our residential building inspections. As a result of this action, residents will continue to bring all permit applications to this office for zoning approval. Once the Planning & Zoning Commission has reviewed the application with you, a Certificate of Approval will be issued. Then take that certificate to the Franklin County Building Department with your construction plans. All requirements submitting your building plans will be addressed by the Franklin County Building Department.

For minor repairs and/or electrical, heating, or waterline requests, you will still need to come to this office on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9:00a to noon to fill out the necessary paperwork.

We will do everything possible to make this transition simple and painless. The process will aid in getting your inspections done in a timely manner. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to call me at 882-5743.

Garage Sales - We are in the midst of some beautiful weather and doing some housekeeping. The gardens are being replanted, weeded, and the lawn mowers are humming. It’s time to clean out the garage. One of the first thoughts that come
June - MP Police made 15 misdemeanor arrests and 3 felony arrests; 16 were transported to the Franklin County jail.

6-2 ...... 11:00a, 2700 blk Jordan Rd., theft & criminal trespass

6-5 ...... 8:10a, Minerva Park Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave., telephone harassment & menacing

6-13 .... 2:15p, Care Partners Home Health Care, 2999 E. Dub-Gran, theft, unauthorized use of property, tampering with records

6-17 .... 11:23p, Excel Health Services, 2505 Woodley Rd., false alarm

6-20 .... 2500 blk Wildwood Rd., theft reported

6-24 .... 11:30p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., aggravated burglary & trespass

6-29 .... Minerva Park Nursing Home, theft reported •

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

June 2007
In June, Medic 119 made 30 runs - 4 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park; 17 patients were transported to hospitals. 24 members volunteered a total of 433.6 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 3,062.7. Leading volunteers for the month were Brian Horton (54.5 hours), Aubrey Dudra (40.6 hours), and Tina Quinn (33 hours).

MP Runs
6-14 .... Ill person

to mind is, "Let's have a Garage Sale." MP is having its annual community-wide garage sale on August 18, but some of us may not be able to wait. If you are planning your own garage sale (separate and apart from the community event on August 18), you will need a permit to erect a sign directing people to your sale. The fee for this sign is $7, and you can get the permit from the Village office. Garage Sale Signs can be erected out of the right-of-way at the main entrance leading to your residence. They cannot be tacked to telephone poles, trees, traffic control signs, or any of the Village monuments.

Letting us know when the sale will take place helps our Police Department when they are patrolling the Village. They are also there if you have any need for their help should a situation arise.

I hope you are able to wait until our annual sale on August 18. The event will be well advertised in the suburban papers and other outlets, and the Village will be decked out in all its splendor on the day of the sale. Your participation will be your contribution to the Community Association to continue to beautify your Village.

Joshua’s Mowing & Trimming
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

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- Landscaping
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- Snow Removal

890-5316
890-5316 fax

Minerva Park Police

We want to welcome you to FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH. We are a church where God is training His people to live successfully in Him. FAITH LIFE FAMILY CHURCH is a place where you can come, no matter your situation, and meet a God who will elevate you to a higher level of living. You will hear the word of God taught with an opportunity for practical application in your everyday life. You will meet a God who says nothing is impossible for them that believe!

2580 Jordan Road
Nursery • Children’s Services Sunday 10:30a
Youth Services Wednesday 7:00p
Prayer Service Friday 7:00p

Living the Life Christ Created for Us to Live

898-7688
Pastor Dan & Kim Cascioli
MPCA Garage Sale FUND-RAISER
Saturday, August 18
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Registration deadline: August 16
Cost: $5 plus 10% of your proceeds
$5 Late Registration Fee after August 16 (you will not be on the map)

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, August 18. 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 funds 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 2008 garage sale.

To register, send the attached form and a check for $5 payable to "Minerva Park Community Association" to 2718 Alder Vista.

Registration packets will be distributed this year on August 17. 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 Dianne Poncinie at 882-0012 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 2007 annual garage sale FUND-RAISER. Additionally, I will submit 10% of my proceeds.

Registration
MPCA Garage Sale FUND-RAISER - August 18, 2007

Name
Phone
Address

NO unauthorized sales

NO food or drink sales

This is also a fund-raiser for our own Emergency Squad. Please direct people to the Community Building throughout the day to purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, and baked goods. No food or drink sales at residences, please.

Return to
Dianne Poncinie
2718 Alder Vista
882-0012
The Villager is mailed to all MP homes for delivery by the 1st Monday of each month. 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.minervapark.org/villager

Next deadline: Wednesday, August 15, 5:00p

Gena Latimer
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Here’s a Reason to Call
BONNIE LIMES
891-0180 or 882-5313

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• Selling Homes in Minerva Park for the past 26 Years
• Past President of the Northeast Area Realtors Association
• Member of the Columbus Board of Realtors $25 Million Club

Joe Walker & Assoc.

Bonnie Limes
CRS, GRI

Minerva Park Community Association
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus OH 43231

Advertise in the Villager ... 899-3755
Ads start at $15 - discount on 6-month contracts

Advertisers are included as a service to residents. We do not review their qualifications and are not responsible for consequences arising out of the services provided. Residents should make their own investigation as to the ability and background of the person or company offering the services.