The Villager - March 2010 Page 1

The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2009 in Review

In addition to monthly reports presented in the “Villager,” Mayor Eisentrout has requested that the various Village departments provide annual wrap-ups. Here is a summary of 2009 ...

Clerk-Treasurer

By Suzanne Coulter, Clerk-Treasurer ... The Village started 2009 with a General Fund balance of $263,595.56, down from the starting 2008 General Fund balance of $309,204.23.

Municipal Income tax collections were strong last year, ending $40,086.76 higher in 2009 than 2008. This was attributable to greater recognition of the tax existing for residents and companies with Minerva Park and the diligence of RITA (Regional Income Tax Agency) on helping the Village to stay up on collections.

The inheritance tax was again strong last year at $98,132.79, but this is income we can never set into our budget because we do not know when we might receive it and because the State of Ohio continues to talk about discontinuing this tax.

The Village will vote in May 2010 on a replacement levy of 4 mills for 5 years. This is not a new tax (it is a replacement of a tax that is expiring), and we hope that you will give the Village your support on this issue - it helps to fund many great programs in our General Fund programs like 24/7 Police protection, EMS services, trash pick-up, leaf removal, and Village parks upkeep. Thank you for your continued support of this levy.

Police: The Police Department continued in 2009 doing a great job holding down their operating costs. Two new cars were purchased in 2009, one from the 2009 monies and one that will be paid for from 2010 monies. This is part of the Village’s ongoing 3-year cruiser replacement program. The department was once again honored by MADD for DUI arrests. Acting Chief Adam Beach continues to apply for grants for the department’s new equipment needs.

Pool: The Minerva Park Pool had another great summer in 2009. They ended the season “in the black,” which is a rare occurrence for most municipal pools. Mayor Eisentrout again procured an ODNR grant for more pool renovations. The awning on the pump building was ripped off during the wind storm in February and was replaced by the Village insurance company. There were plenty of great parties at the pool in 2009, and two new events are being planned for 2010.

Streets: Because the Village ... continued on page 6

gridSMART

From AEP OHIO

March 10 • 7:30p Community Building
Join Greg Griffith, AEP, to learn about the new meters, repair & replacement work that has taken place throughout the Village during the past few years, brownouts and remedial work needed, future work at the main stations throughout Franklin County.

Residents are invited ... Monday, March 22 7:00p Community Building to have “Coffee with Council.” This is your opportunity to meet your Council Members and discuss Village issues.

Council Vacancy - see page 12.

MARCH DATES
2 (5p) ................. Mayor’s Court
4 (7:30p) .......... Planning & Zoning
6 (8a) .......... Council Work Session
8 (7p) .......... Council Meeting
10 (7:30p) .......... MPCA Meeting
10 (7:30p) .......... AEP GridSmart
16 (5p) .......... Mayor’s Court
17 (5p) .......... Village Deadline
22 (7p) .......... Coffee with Council
27 (10a) .......... Easter Egg Hunt
30 (5p) .......... Mayor’s Court

... continued on page 6
MPCA News

TWO Easter Egg Hunts

1. Village of Minerva Park
   Saturday, March 27
   10:00a - NEW TIME!
   Hawthorne School
   Join us for one of the more popular children’s events of the year. As always, we need volunteers to help with the set-up and running the event. Call Glenda Morris at 882-2359 if you can help in any way. Please bring your own camera to capture pictures with the Easter Bunny!

2. Faith Life Family Church
   Details on page 11.

Chief Hochstetter Honored

Fire Chief Rick Hochstetter was honored on January 26 for 25 years of service to Minerva Park. Captain Tina Quinn made the presentation – “In honor of your 25 years of service at the Minerva Park Volunteer Fire Department, the entire department would like to present you with this plaque. As a humanitarian, your diligent efforts to impact lives in the community are noble. As our Chief, your commitment and dedication to our well-being and to EMS are both respected and admired. Thank you for your leadership, friendship, and service.”

Chief Hochstetter leads a team of more than 50 part-time members who serve tirelessly on behalf of the Village, especially notable because they all have other, full-time jobs ... assistant professor, bartender, business owner, computer programmers, EMT, ER nurse, financial analyst, firefighters, ICU nurse, instructors, lab technicians, manager of a first aid service corp., marketing manager, medical students, paramedic ER, paramedic students, physicians assistant, printer, project manager, salesman, students. We thank them all for their service!

Thanks to crew member Juanita Smith who made the unique cake.

Street Reps

The Village is in need of Street Reps to help get information to residences of Minerva Park. We need coverage for Wildwood, Woodley, Kernwood, North Lake Court, Ponderosa, and Carleton Court. This is to enhance the sense of connectedness people feel with their neighborhoods as a means to increase community pride and a feeling of sense of place. If you can help, please call Bonnie Townsend, 890-2427.

The 2009 Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year was presented to Steve Thitoff for involvement in almost every facet of the Community Association, including Pool Committee chair, increasing the pool membership by spearheading canvassing and advertising events, helping with MinervaFlora, lake clean-up, garage sale, membership drives, children’s parties, Founders Day, Christmas carriage rides, Newcomers Committee, Festival of Lights judging, and driving the mayor in past NCC Fourth of July parades.

MPCA Citizen of the Year

The MPCA welcomes Roberto Segovia to Village Council, the newest member of Council. He can be reached at mp-segovia@minervapark.org.

MPCA Vice President Dave Way (r) presenting the 2009 Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year to Steve Thitoff (l).
MAYOR’S REPORT
Lynn Eisentreat

We certainly have received our fair share of snow this winter. It has been so gratifying to see neighbors helping neighbors clear driveways and walkways of snow and just generally watching out for each other. I received a note from a Wildwood resident expressing her gratitude to Minerva Park's Sgt. Beach and Officer Rick West for going "above and beyond," stopping while out on patrol to shovel her driveway. I also received a report that Blendon Township snow plow driver Corey Fleig stopped and helped one of our residents, already being helped by a neighbor, push her car out of the snow. These are some of the many aspects of Minerva Park that make us unique and such a great place to live.

2010 Pool Renovation Project: As promised last month, here are the final numbers for the grant application the Village submitted to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in February. The total cost of the project to replace the remaining concrete deck and sidewalk on the interior of the pool and to install a handicap ramp at the main entrance to the pool is $26,000. We submitted our application to ODNR's Land & Real Estate Division for a 25%-75% matching-reimbursement grant; MP's 25% would be $6,500 and ODNR's portion would be $19,500. Additionally, we submitted the same project to ODNR's Land & Water Division for a 50%-50% matching-reimbursement grant; MP's and ODNR's portions would both be $13,000. We submitted this application to both of these divisions to ensure that we are in the running for as many funding opportunities as possible. We should receive a decision in May.

Green Team & Community Garden: For the last several months, you have undoubtedly seen signs at the various entrances reading "Green Team Meeting." This is a private group of MP residents who have been very active in environmental issues and activities. I have been privileged to be a part of this group from the beginning and am on the committee to explore the possibility of a community garden. I would call your attention to the flyer insert and ask you to fill out the survey and return it to either the Community Building or to the residents listed at the bottom of the survey. For more information, see page 12.

2010 Street Repair Project: We have submitted revisions for the 2010 project to the Ohio Public Works Commission asking for a 15-year, no interest loan. The project will mill and fill the rest of Lakewood Drive and Lakeland Court at a total cost of $110,338. We are asking for a loan of $56,272.38 (51%) from the OPWC, and we would match $54,065.62 (49%). We are the only application from our division but are still competing statewide. As you know, we have been approved for funding to mill and fill Maplewood in its entirety and Farview Road. If we are fortunate enough to have our most recent request for funding approved, I hope to bid, construct, and complete both projects at the same time to avoid inconveniencing all of you twice and to hold down costs. We should learn of their decision by May.

4.0 Replacement Tax Levy: Again, as promised last month, we now have the numbers for this levy - it would generate $155,010.32, provides for current expenses, and costs 40 cents for each $100 valuation. This would replace a levy that is expiring (it is not a new levy), and its passage would continue services such as police and fire protection, trash hauling and curbside recycling programs, leaf removal, snow plowing, mosquito spraying, etc. If you have any questions, please call any of your elected officials.

AEP GridSmart: New electrical meters are being installed at our homes. An AEP representative will be speaking at the March 10 at the MPCA meeting held at the Community Building at 7:30p. See page 1 for details.

All Council members were present at the Regular Council meeting held on February 8, 2010. The following reports were made:

Police: Acting Chief Adam Beach reviewed his monthly report.
EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter was excused but had submitted his monthly report.
Engineer: Mike Flickinger reported that the Village was moving forward with complying with the Ohio EPA Director's Findings & Orders and would be meeting with the Mayor later in the month.
Legal: Kerry Boyle responded to last month’s query about training requirement for elected officials. The only required training is contained in H.B. 9, Public Records, and that requirement needs to be fulfilled anytime within each official's 4-year term. He also responded to a resident's request for an explanation of the necessity of permits for erecting sheds. Ordinance 1202.06A speaks to this.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Dick Busick introduced Greg Anderson who had a variance request for a sign before the Council, which was subsequently approved. Kent Stanley was appointed by the Council as the new liaison to the P&Z Commission.

Minerva Park Community Association: MPCA Vice President Dave Way and Councilman Roberto Segovia reported that some events have been scheduled through 2010, about 15 people attended the Volunteer Breakfast for the Street Reps, and the topic of a Community Garden was briefly discussed.

Northland Community Council: The recent redistricting of the City of Columbus as it relates to police coverage and the 2010 Fourth of July parade was discussed.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Roberto Segovia had nothing further to add to the MPCA report.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval for the December financials totaling $106,405.26, the end-of-the-year financials, year-end reports, and the January expenditures totaling $188,287.68 (this total includes the last street project payment and waterline loan payments).

Legislative: Councilwoman Sharon Bierman asked the Council to consider the following legislation:

Resolution 2010-03 - Authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to request a certification and estimate of revenue from the Franklin County Auditor’s office for a 4 mill replacement levy. Third reading accepted, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-04 - Proceeding with placing the issue on the ballot for a 4 mill replacement levy for purposes of providing for the current expenses. Third reading accepted, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-05 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to seek financial assistance from the OPWC for funding of various infrastructure improvement projects. Rules suspended, three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-06 - Authorizing the Mayor to establish pay schedule for Village employees. First reading accepted.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter reported that the purchase of in-car cameras for the police cruisers would be discussed at the Safety Committee meeting. The new cruiser has been delivered.

Service: Councilman Kent Stanley observed that snow removal continues to go well.

Street: Councilman Jeff Rigg commented that the few pot holes we are seeing and a larger one on Maplewood will be addressed in the spring.

New Business: In response to a request to explain the purpose of the Franklin County motor vehicle permissive tax, Clerk-Treasurer Coulter explained that this is a license tax collected by the BMV for the Village. Franklin County holds the money to be used only for certain street projects-in our case, only for Minerva Lake Road. Councilman Jeff Rigg was thanked for his service to the Village and will be sorely missed.

Medic 119 - Where are you?

Janurary 2010

In January, Medic 119 made 23 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 2 into Minerva Park; 15 patients were transported to hospitals. 28 members volunteered a total of 748.6 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 748.6 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Tim Lockard (68 hours), Ambrose Wu (60 hours), and Tonya Crenshaw (54.3 hours).

MP Runs
1-5 ...... Injured person
1-10 .... Difficulty breathing
**How Minerva Park Voted**

**November 2009 General Election**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1 Authorize the state to issue bonds to provide compensation to veterans of Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 Create the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board to establish and implement standards of care for livestock and poultry</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3 Allow for one casino each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo and distribute to all Ohio counties a tax on the casinos</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>349</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4 Proposed tax levy (replacement and decrease) Franklin County Children Services</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>211</td>
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<tr>
<td>#48 Proposed tax levy (replacement) Westerville City School District</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>298</td>
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**Mayor’s Court**

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are Mar 2, 16, 30, at 5:00p. If you have questions, please call Christi Nordman, Clerk of Courts, at 882-1408 (Community Building).

**January 2010**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citation payments</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village General Fund</td>
<td>$4,096</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Fund</td>
<td>$242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remitted to the State</td>
<td>$989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received from FCMC</td>
<td>$1,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Court Receipts</td>
<td>$6,817</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Minerva Park Police**

**January** - MP Police made 13 misdemeanor arrests; all were transported to the Franklin County jail.

- 1-6: 10:18p, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd., domestic violence, assault
- 1-11: 7:24p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., criminal mischief, burglary, & safecracking of Jan 5 to Jan 11 reported
- 1-15: 5:00p, 2700 blk Jordan Rd., animal complaint
- 1-19: 9:45p, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd., burglary & theft reported
- 1-19: 10:00p, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., burglary, theft, & criminal mischief reported
- 1-20: 1:30p, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., burglary reported
- 1-22: 3:12p, 2800 Lakewood Dr., assault
- 1-26: 6:09p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft reported
- 1-29: 12:36a, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd., property dispute

**Multi-Surface Care and Maintenance**

- Fine painting (inside and outside)
- Wood Restoration
- Pressure Washing
- Waterproofing
- Cement
- Decks, Roofs, Stone, Brick, Siding, Stucco, and more

**Surface Solutions**

**882-7935**

Jeff Howard

**Resident**
did not qualify in 2009 for an OPWC (Ohio Public Works Commission) grant-loan, the Council decided to continue with the street repair program as planned, and that is why the costs for streets were so much higher in 2009 than 2008, at $226,994.52. It does look good for the Village to get some loan money from OPWC in 2010 to complete the street repair program.

Bureau of Workers Compensation: Because the Village worked diligently to implement and follow a successful return-to-work program in 2009, we were able to again join the OML (Ohio Municipal League) group program for workers compensation. In 2010, the Village will save $35,000.00 in BWC premiums.

2010 will continue to hold its challenges for the Village because of the downturn in the economy, but with each department continuing to watch its expenses and applying for grants, I have no doubt that the Village can maintain the great fiscal health we have enjoyed for a long while. Minerva Park continues to be a great place to live, and I hope to help keep it that way as your Treasurer and fellow resident.

Remember to volunteer this year for one of the many great MPCA events and programs.

2009 General Fund
Revenue ................................. $1,212,304.93
Property Tax .......................... $523,107.83
Income Tax (1%, 50% credit) .... $288,384.32
Inheritance Tax ........................ $98,132.79
Expenditures .......................... $1,252,913.60
Street Fund .......................... $226,944.52

Police Department
By Sgt. Adam Beach, Acting Chief ... The Police Department is continuing the cruiser rotation program, which will help with maintenance expenses.

Besides providing patrolling services for Minerva Park, your Police Department is active in community outreach. For the 2nd year in a row, the youngsters at the 2009 Central Ohio Cops & Kids Day picked our cruiser for 1st place in the Kid’s Award. For the 4th year in a row, we received an Award of Excellence from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), given in recognition of our continued commitment to removing drunk drivers off the roadways. Both Sgt. Adam Beach and the Police Department received certificate of recognition for helping the Ohio Department of Public Safety at the Ohio State Fair with our display for wearing seatbelts.

We applied for a grant for tasers an protective vests for both the Police and Fire Departments, and through the Click-It or Ticket campaign and Over-the-Limit, Under-Arrest campaign, we had an opportunity to win a free cruiser and radar unit.

Your Police Department continues its collaboration with area agencies to help keep our Village safe. Here are our 2009 statistics:

- Dispatched runs ......................... 1,101
- Nondispatched runs ................... 514
- Assist area agencies .................. 398
- Misdemeanor arrests ................. 120
- Felony arrests ........................ 21
- 9-1-1 calls ............................. 43
- Animal complaints .................... 11
- Assaults ............................... 14
- Auto thefts ............................. 2
- Breaking & entering false alarms .. 22
- Breaking & Entering .................. 2
- Burglaries ............................. 2
- Burglary in progress false alarms .. 33
- Criminal damaging ................... 6
- Criminal mischief .................... 5
- Deaths ................................. 1
- Domestic disputes or violence ....... 52
- Homicides ............................ 0
- Menacing ............................. 1
- Missing people ....................... 4
- Motorist assists ...................... 48
- Passing bad checks ................... 0
- Receiving stolen property .......... 5
- Robberies ............................. 0
- Sex offenses .......................... 1
- Stolen vehicle recoveries .......... 1
- Suicide attempts ..................... 3
- Suicides ............................. 2
- Suspicious people ................. 164
- Suspicious vehicles .......... 118
- Telephone harassment ............ 5
- Theft ................................. 15
- Traffic citations ..................... 1,026
- Traffic warning citations ......... 1,062
- Trespassing ........................... 6
- Vandalism ............................. 3

Mayor’s Court
By Christi Nordman, Clerk of Courts ... 2009 proved to be an exciting year for Minerva Park Mayor’s Court. In January 2009, we hired a new Clerk of Courts, Christi Nordman, who implemented several new ideas for operating Mayor’s Court. In June 2009, we partnered with the Baldwin Group to install new Mayor’s Court software, allowing us to better manage many of our reports … Supreme Court electronic reporting, Treasurer of State Reparations/Rotary report, and State-mandated costs remitted to the ODPS for the Drug Law Enforcement Fund. Additionally, we can run daily cash reports, detailed end-of-the-month disbursal reports, delinquency reports, audit reports, council reports, dockets, and court disposition reports. From our delinquency reports, we have been able to go back through the years and collect unpaid traffic fines.

Since June 2009, we have collected thousands of dollars in unpaid fines owed to Minerva Park before 2009. This is a work in progress, but we remain very positive in believing we can collect most of the unpaid fines.

The purchase price for the Baldwin Group software was $9,100, fully funded by the Mayor’s Court Computer Fund. Computer Fund revenue collected from traffic violations in 2009 totaled $1,476.50.
Just as exciting - the addition of our new VeriFone Credit Card Machine, purchased in September 2009 for only $350. Within two weeks, the credit Card machine had paid for itself! For many violators, it is more convenient to pay traffic fines via the telephone, so we can now offer this service. Since September 2009, we collected $3,867.50 from credit card payments.

Here are the statistics for 2009:
Number of court cases .......... 610
Paid to State of Ohio .......... $8,974
For MP Computer Fund ..... $1,477
For MP General Fund ...... $31,817
Total Receipts ................. $42,268

Fire Department - EMS
By Chief Rick Hoechstetter ...
The Fire Department responded to 307 emergency calls in 2009. Eleven percent of the calls in Minerva Park, 22% from Blendon Township, 54% from Columbus, and 13% from Westerville and other areas.

Members served a total of 7,446 hours in 2009. Sixty-seven percent of this total represented paid hours; the rest is volunteer time. The 5% increase in time served in 2009 is a direct result of the efforts that the entire membership has made to make this new employment structure work. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to former Lt. Jon Packer for his service as the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) officer. Captain Quinn has taken over that responsibility for now. I promoted Brian Horton to Vehicle Lieutenant this year and would like to express my appreciation for former Lt. Michael Ostrander for his yeoman’s service in the same office.

Fire inspections in 2009 were up a bit because more residents requested them as a part of their efforts to create home-based businesses. The Ohio State Fire Marshall’s office divested primary compliance for monitoring responsibility to local jurisdictions in 2007, and this change appears to have settled into a familiar routine. Fire code violations pursued this year were unremarkable. We remain vigilant because there remains no limit to human creativity and because compliance issues remain unfulfilled in the category of ongoing issues. To date, BUSTRE has taken no further action to remediate contamination issues involved in the removal of the fuel tanks from the Payless QuickStop Gas Station at 5620 Cleveland Avenue. The current step (Tier I testing) was supposed to have been completed in October 2008. I wish to recognize Fire Inspector Tom McClannahan, as always, for his service.

The 2009 run data are as follows - we are proud to serve the Village:
Illness ....................................... 101
Injury ......................................... 69
Vehicle-related .............................. 37
Difficulty breathing ...................... 30
Chest pain .................................... 25
Fire .............................................. 8
Other ........................................... 34

Zoning
By Arlene Stuart, former Zoning Clerk ... The Planning and Zoning Commission had a busy 2009. Many of the residents made improvements to their homes ... a good thing for us all. The following applications were heard in 2009, totaling $934.35.

Home Business/Occupation .......... 3
Room Additions .......................... 1
Decks ....................................... 1
Sheds ....................................... 3
Fences ..................................... 9
Handicap Ramps ......................... 1
Signs (Commercial Business) ...... 5
Signs (Private Garage Sales) ......... 6
Plumbing – Hot Water Tanks ........ 6
Plumbing – Remodel ................. 1
Total ........................................ 36
Copies & tapes ....................... $32.35

Note the following schedule for filing applications for hearings before the Planning & Zoning Commission for 2010:
by March 17 ................... for April 1
by April 21 ......................... for May 6
by May 19 .......................... for June 3
by June 16 ............................ for July 1
by July 21 ........................... for August 5
by August 18 ............ for September 2
by September 21 ........ for October 7
by October 20 ............... for November 4
by November 17 ........ for December 2

The Village continues to update the Zoning Code and fees.

Thanks for a wonderful year of compliance and improvements in our beautiful Village. We should be planning our spring projects while...
it’s still cold, so call us at 882-5743 or stop by the Community Building on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9 to noon with any questions.

**Zoning Violations**

By Dick Busick, Code Enforcement Officer ... During 2009, there were 25 violation notices written, and 4 citations were made into Mayor’s Court, for a total of 29 notifications with a case being sent to Franklin County Environmental Court. This was a significant decrease from the 48 notifications sent in 2008. Many additional issues were resolved via personal contact with cooperative residents. Of those receiving violation notices, the highest numbers were for trailer-truck-automobile code infractions, followed by high grass or weeds, and home occupation permits, and signage issues.

Council will continue to examine the Building Maintenance Code relative to “improved surfaces,” and we will continue to monitor the use of trash dumpers and storage pods, which are permitted for only a limited time. Presently our zoning tracking sheets indicate that we have no code violations being processed, which is a 4-year low. In the past, when code violations occurred, we tried to resolve the issues first by personal contact, followed by a rather extended period of time for compliance, and then we sent violation notices when the problems were not addressed. We have observed that most of our issues can be attributed to a very small group of individuals who do not respond until violation notices are issued. For those repeat violations, we will be issuing notices much more quickly so we can resolve problems more quickly.

We will continue to enforce our Villages Zoning Code and the Building Maintenance Code so that Minerva Park will continue to be a place where we can all be proud to live. With us all working toward keeping our Village “looking good,” we also will be keeping our property values high. Village residents can continue to contribute to this effort by keeping all vehicles in good operating condition and properly licensed, by maintaining their property in a neat and well trimmed manner, and by limiting the storage of trailers and boats in their driveways to less than a 48-hour period for loading and unloading. New residents should be aware that the erection of fences, the installation of sheds, and the operation of a home occupation all require a Village permit.

The 2009 statistics follow:
- High grass or weeds .......... 6
- Truck-automobile ...... 13
- Home occupation permits ...... 3
- Signage issues .......... 3
- Repair permits ......... 3
- Tree-trimming permits .... 4
- Vandalism .......... 2
- Swimming pool violation .... 1

**MP Community Association**

By President Lisa Craddock

Thitoff and Past President Bob Gale ... The MPCA continues to have a steady membership of village residents (69% as of December 2009, with a drop of 9% from 2008, although we did have an increase of donations). In 2009, the MPCA hosted or helped with more than 20 activities or committees underwritten by your annual $15 dues, advertising in the Villager and directory, annual garage sale, in-kind donations, and various fundraisers, including MinervaFlora events (garden contest awards, the annual Garden Tour, Festival of Lights, and MinervaFlora beautification), the Duck Award for outstanding citizen of the year, children’s parties (Halloween, Christmas, Easter egg hunt), Founders Day, the Publicity Committee (including our wonderful street reps), Candidates Night, membership, the Resident Directory and monthly Villager newsletter, Christmas carriage rides, pool events (Family Fun Night, Adult Wine & Cheese), Garage Sale, greetings from the Sunshine Committee and Northland Community Council participation. Not bad for $15/year dues, eh?

Because of minimal interest and to make money available elsewhere, scholarships were dropped from the 2009-2010 budget. We will revisit funding for these in the future.

The 2009 Duck Award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year (page 2) was awarded to Steve Thitoff for involvement in almost every facet of the Community Association. The 2009 NCC President’s Award went to Jim Kehl for his past work with the Newcomers Committee, as a past officer with the MPCA, lake clean-ups, and various work around the Village. Congratulations to both Steve and Jim!

We welcomed Tina Cates as the new MPCA secretary and Glenda Morris as the new Children’s Committee chair. Many thanks to outgoing Children’s Chair Lisa Stockdale, Don Champney (NCC rep), Gretchen Persohn (for her years as secretary), and Bob Gale (for his many years as the MPCA president and for staying on as chair of the MinervaFlora, sunshine, and NCC committees). Thanks also to all those who have helped throughout this past year and to the dedicated and overworked MPCA Board: Marilyn Herboltzheimer, Sharon Bierman, Dave Way, Dick Busick, Dianne Poncinie, Kristan Onofrio, Bonnie Townsend, Tina Cates, Bob Gale, Lynn Eisentrout.

We look forward to more fundraisers like the annual flower sale and to the music series planned for this summer (thanks to Sid Townsend and others for taking this on). We have a goal to get more of our residents involved, and let’s face it, all these activities take three things – help, money, and people to enjoy them. Please, if you haven’t paid your yearly dues, do it now. If you have, thank you! If you can help or have an idea, let us
Mayor’s Office

By Mayor Lynn Eisentrout … It seems as if this year has just flown by. 2009 ushered in several changes in part-time staff (20 hours per week). Clerk of Courts Charline Garrabrant retired after 10 years of employment with the Village. Christi Nordman was hired in January and brought a wealth of experience and initiative. She has implemented many changes to the betterment and increased efficiency of our Mayor’s Court (please see her report on page 6). Christy Williamson, a most welcome addition in her role as Office Assistant and support staff to the Clerk of Courts, the Police Department, and the other departments, also has shown a great deal of initiative in organizing the Police Department office and the Clerk of Court’s office before Christi Nordman accepted the position. Arlene Stuart, my Administrative Assistant and Zoning Clerk, semi-retired to travel and spend time with her grandchildren but is still researching and drafting changes to our zoning code in partnership with the Legislation Committee. Sara Schumacher, initially hired in 2008 as an Office Assistant to support my office and the Clerk-Treasurer’s office, was appointed to fill the vacant Zoning Clerk position and has settled nicely into that role. Sara also has done an amazing job with the Records Retention Program and the Records Commission. Please see the Zoning Report on page 7. And not least, Court Magistrate Chip Witterauer replaced Don Breckenridge at a slightly lower rate per court session.

In January, our request to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses we incurred from our cleanup efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike was approved. We received $12,388.27 – $10,000 from our insurance company and $2,388.27 from FEMA, which represented the 75% match of the $3,184.36 in remaining expenses that we submitted.

Our 2008 Pool Renovation Project to recap the remaining pool floor and to replace about 75% or 2,700 sq.ft. of the concrete deck around the pool began in April 2009 and was completed before the pool opened in late May. You may recall this was a $72,151.00 project with $37,800 in funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and $34,351 in matching funds from the Village. The MP Police Department also was awarded a grant for $2,400 for the purchase of three new Mobile Data Terminals.

With the warmer spring weather, we experienced severe algae problems on the North Lake. Homeowners residing along the Lake (the Friends of the North Lake) met several times with their elected officials voicing their concerns. While the lake was treated several times, the problem persisted, prompting us to investigate the installation of aeration devices in conjunction with treating the lake as an immediate, short-term solution to the problem. We hope to have these devices installed by early April 2010, with treatment to begin as soon as the weather and water temperature permits.

As Clerk-Treasurer Coulter noted in her report, our income tax collection is a little better than anticipated; however, there still are some residents and business owners who have not complied. In July, I reported to you that I had attended a Regional Income Tax Agency Council of Government meeting, and this issue was discussed at length. Once we receive the final list of filers and non-filers, and those who are still delinquent in their payments, we will send notifications and summons into Mayor’s Court. I encourage anyone who has not paid their income tax to contact RITA at 1-800-860-7482.

The bid for the 2009 Street Repair project was awarded at an August Special Council meeting, and construction commenced shortly after. This, as were the other street projects, was a mill and fill but required extensive repairs on the streets (East Shore Drive, Kernwood Drive, Ponderosa Drive, and Berry Lane Court, East Shore Court, and North Lake Court) but especially Alder Vista. Also at the August Council meeting, the Peddlers and Solicitation Ordinance was approved.

In November, I reported to you that we had been approved for funding for the above-mentioned Street Project, which at the time had included all of Maplewood and Farview. Because we had already begun construction on those other streets mentioned above, we were ineligible to receive funding for that portion, but because we had eliminated Maplewood and Farview from the original grant application, we were eligible for a loan for those streets. Revised paperwork (project total is $150,894) was submitted to the OPWC, and we have been approved for a 15-year, 0% loan of $76,956 with MP’s matching contribution of $73,938. We then had to revise our 2010 Street Repair Project to include ONLY the remainder of Lakewood Drive and Lakeland Court. We should receive a decision in May.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for your support as I begin my sixth year. I am honored and privileged to serve as your mayor. I hope you all feel that my door is always open, and that every idea, suggestion, and concern of yours is as important to me as it is important to you. Our Village is unique, safe, and beautiful, and I truly appreciate your efforts to work together to keep it that way. •
Remodeling?
Do Your Homework

By Arlene Stuart

Before beginning any construction project, call the Zoning Clerk at 882-5743. Planning a room addition, deck, garage, or other home improvement project? There are three general phases:

1. Research and Preparation - Your approach to this phase will have a great impact on the overall time necessary to complete the project. The steps to success include calling the Zoning Clerk at 882-5743 to answer all your questions and obtain all the necessary paperwork for the application. In most cases, you will have to present your request to the Planning & Zoning Commission at their regular meeting. They will discuss your plan with you and point out zoning compliance with setbacks, lot coverage, and any pertinent questions regarding your project. The homeowner ultimately is responsible for adhering to all the zoning restrictions.

2. Application and Plan Approval - Your application should be submitted to the Zoning Clerk along with 10 copies of your documents that you want reviewed by the Commission. Depending on the type of construction, you will need a plot plan or survey. An addition will need a scaled drawing that should indicate the proposed addition with all dimensions and acknowledging it will comply with all applicable zoning restrictions, including setbacks, lot coverage, height, etc. Depending on the project, the zoning approval will have to be granted by the Planning & Zoning Commission before the actual construction can be approved. All construction plans have to be approved by the Franklin County Building Department. A letter stating Zoning Approval will be given to the applicant after the hearing, along with any conditions that may have been stated by the Commission. Then take the letter of approval to the Franklin County Building Department along with the building plans for approval. Franklin County has been very helpful in getting the plans turned around in a reasonable amount of time.

3. Construction and Inspection - Construction can begin once the respective plans are approved. During construction, several inspections will occur to ensure that the construction meets code regulations for safety and reliability. Please note that sheds, fences, and other minor modifications do not need a permit from Franklin County. That will be discussed with the Zoning Clerk when the process begins.

Please remember that the Planning Commission meets only once a month. Allow plenty of time to get your approvals so you can get your project started in a reasonable amount of time.

Please don't skip getting the necessary permits. Permits and inspections are actually for your protection, and any contractor who tells you differently is mistaken. Permits and inspections do prolong the home addition process, but they are the only way to ensure that any project is safe and meets code.

The contractor is not responsible to ensure that permits and inspections occur routinely; that responsibility falls on the homeowner. That’s why it’s important to hire contractors who don’t try to cut corners. In the long run, you’ll be much better off to consider permits and inspections a routine and integral part of the home remodeling process.

Once the snow clears away, and it will some day, you will want to get started. You don’t have to wait until spring to submit plans. Dreaming and preparing now will make your project become a reality a lot quicker.

Happy remodeling. •
**Census**

April 1 is Census Day. Census data, collected every 10 years, are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, make decisions about what community services to provide, and distribute federal funds to local and state governments.

Census forms will be mailed to every residence in March. Please ensure that someone in your household fills out a form and mails it back by April 1. Everyone is required to fill out a census form – citizens, non-citizens, young and old alike. Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census, so it is safe for everyone to participate. It will take less than 10 minutes to complete the 10 questions, and the benefits to you and your community will last for the next 10 years: 10 questions, 10 minutes, 10 years.

For more information, contact Amelia Costanzo (614-233-4161, acostanzo@morpc.org).

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**Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt**

**for Minerva Park kids - Pre-K through 6th Grade**

Come & have a good time getting to know your fellow Minerva Park neighbors.

Please bring a basket for each child who will be collecting eggs.

Faith Life Family Church
2580 Jordan Road
Easter Sunday, April 4
11:30 a.m.

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Know emergency & poison control numbers, how to mend injuries, CPR on children & infants, what to do when for choking.

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**Clerk-Treasurer’s Report**

If you have questions about the information provided here, please call Suzanne Coulter at 882-5743 (Community Building) or at 891-7346 (h).

**January 2010**

Beg balance general fund $263,595.56
Revenue collected $27,062.69
Expenses $118,737.00
Ending balance $171,921.25

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MP
Helping Hands
Health & Wellness Center

Helping Hands provides medical care and health education to those who do not have adequate financial resources. Created by community churches in Franklin County, it serves poor adults and working poor individuals without health insurance, usually on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.

Contact them for assistance or to volunteer your time and/or donations of money or equipment.
1421 Morse Road • 778-0153
helpinghandsfreeclinic.wetpaint.com

Community Garden
Open Forum Discussion
March 16 - 7:00p
Community Building

Join members of the Green Team to discuss the creation of Community Gardens to start this spring. If you expressed an interest in obtaining a garden plot, this is an important planning meeting that you will not want to miss. Please complete the enclosed flyer stating your interest.

The Green Team is a group of MP private citizens who strive to create an environmentally friendly village.

Council Vacancy
A Council seat has become vacant. If you are interested in serving the Village in this capacity, please submit your resume and a letter of interest to the Mayor (mayor@minervapark.org) and Council President (mp-curry@minervapark.org) or mail it to 2829 Minerva Lake Road, Columbus OH 43231, to arrive by March 3, 2010, noon. Please read the February Mayor’s Report for information. minervapark.org/villager

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sbierman@columbus.rr.com ... 899-7731 fax

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, March 17, 5:00p

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