The Villager - December 2010

9th Annual Christmas Carriage Rides

FREE for Minerva Park Community Association Members and LIMITED guests

Again this year, in an effort to recreate an "Olde Fashioned Village Christmas," the Minerva Park Community Association has arranged for horse-drawn carriage rides through the village. This is FREE to all Minerva Park Community Association members and LIMITED guests, but WRITTEN reservations are required. Because of the popularity of this events, this year, the maximum is 8 per household. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at the Community Building for hot chocolate, a light supper, a bonfire, and Christmas caroling.

Written reservations are required – phone reservations cannot be accepted. Join us for the festivities, but you must be a paid MPCA member to ride. If you are unsure of your MPCA membership status or need to pay your dues, please contact Marilyn Herboltzheimer at 882-0455.

**Written Reservations Required**

**DEADLINE** Dec. 1, 7:00p. Mail or deliver WRITTEN reservations to: Lynn Eisentrout (882-5743)
2829 Minerva Lake Road

**Sunday, December 19**
5:30p - 8:30p

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names &amp; Ages of Minerva Park Community Association Member Household &amp; Limited Guests</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Preferred Times (not guaranteed)</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Phone #</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (7p) .......... Carriage Ride Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (7:30p) ....... Planning &amp; Zoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 (5p) ............... Mayor's Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 (8a) .......... Council Work Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 (7p) ............... Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 (7:30p) .......... MPCA Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-24 ........... Festival of Lights</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 (5p) .......... Village Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 (2p-4p) ........ Christmas Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (5:30p-8:30p) .... Carriage Rides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 .............. Cops for Kids Deadline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (5p) .............. Mayor's Court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attending the Carriage Rides?**

Please bring desserts to share and donated canned goods or other staples for a food drive. If you would like to help set up and knock down, we could use your help. Contact Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427 to volunteer.

**Merry Christmas Cops for Kids**

Please support our Police Dept. by donating new & gently used toys for children of all ages. Donations will go to families in Minerva Park and surrounding areas. Donations accepted Mon-Fri, 9:00a to noon Community Building Deadline - December 20.

If you have any questions, contact Lt. Rex Waldenmyer at 218-2332. Thank you!

Underwritten by your MPCA dues
Happy Holidays

On Thanksgiving Day, we spotted a group of folks heading to the school yard for a game of football. What a great way to spend time with friends and family! I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with much to be thankful for.

When my 5-year-old nephew was asked what he was thankful for, he replied, “I forgot.” Hopefully we will not. I hope the coming Christmas season and the New Year bring you only good things and that you find good in everything.

Please reserve a time to take a carriage ride and have a light meal at the Community Building on December 19 and to bring the children for the Christmas Party on December 18.

I also would like to thank all those who participated in, helped with (Erin) and attended the “Art in the Park” Minerva Park art show.

Beginning in 2011, your Community Association board will be forming a special projects committee to create and develop new and exciting ideas and events for Village residents. If you are a paid MPCA member and you are interested in participating, please call me at 891-2166.

Lisa Craddock Thitoff
MPCA President

Festival of Lights

December 16-24

If you are looking for creativity and artistic expression during the holidays, now is your opportunity to decorate your property and celebrate this beautiful community by making it a winter wonderland. If you won a first place in last year’s contest, you are not eligible to win anything this year, but your talents as judges would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in judging, contact Bob Gale at 882-8622:

• Best Outdoor tree
• Best Entranceway
• Best Religious Theme
• Best Whimsical Display
• Best Outline Effect

The judges look for well placed, well thought-out decorations and enjoy having the decorations complement the property. Be imaginative, creative, and have fun!

Winners will receive gift certificates from a local hardware store or nursery.

Children’s Christmas Party

Saturday, December 18 • 2p to 4p • Community Building

“Santa at the South Pole” is our theme with penguins and winter fun activities. Bring the kids to the Community Building for games, snacks, crafts, and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. We will have some activities for the little ones and make something for the birds.

Parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras for pictures.

Halloween Party

The children’s party had a “Pumpkin Carnival” theme this year and brought together approximately 40 kids and their families. Activities included mini-pumpkins to paint (some grown in the community garden), door hanger craft, a fun house to crawl into, pumpkin bowling, can toss, snacks and drinks, candy guessing, and parachute games. It was a beautiful day to have games outside. At each activity, the kids received a small prize and candy for their treat bags. Everyone gathered on the patio to hear storyteller Lynn Ford. Many people made this a great event, and our thanks to all the MP bakers for yummy treats. Congratulations to the candy guessers and costume prize winners. Some of the winning costumes were a Mickey Mouse bride, little tiger, grave digger/monster truck, cowgirl, and Luigi. Thanks to Holly and family, Nayda, Andy, Lisa, Lori, Lynn E., Lynn D., Sharon, Carolyn, and Teresa & girls.

Underwritten by your MPCA dues

Paging for 2010
Thank you: Before I begin my report, the Village Council, the Clerk-Treasurer, and I would like to extend our appreciation to all of you for supporting the 1.9 mill Replacement Levy. As always, we will continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars.

During the week of November 8, some residents received an unsigned, undated flyer citing declining police coverage. Many community leaders, including me, did not receive a copy. It said, “Did you know there is [sic] no longer two policemen on duty?” It encouraged residents to attend the Coffee with Council held November 15 to “discuss their concerns” with the Village Council and the Mayor. We have been asked if this flyer was drafted and circulated by the Village Government. The answer is no.

Coffee with Council was a very productive meeting with an estimated attendance of 80, and I thank all of you for meeting with us. Several topics were discussed: coyotes, feeding raccoons to the detriment of the neighborhood, single-family occupancy and our R-3 Single-Family zoning, dog walkers not cleaning up after their pets, implementing a tree replacement policy, the geese population, setting up a Block Watch Program, and police coverage.

We also heard concerns that police coverage was declining because now “there are no longer two policemen on duty.” That’s only partially true. We have maintained two-man shifts on Monday-Friday, 6a to 2p, so the chief can perform administrative work while one officer patrols as children leave for school and to participate in the DARE program at Hawthorne Elementary. However, some one-man shifts overlapped (i.e., 10a-6p and 2p-10p), giving the appearance of “two-man shifts.” With the agreement of the Safety Committee and Legal Counsel, effective November 1, I directed that no one-man shifts overlap.

Why the change? Ongoing comments from residents and other agencies but more pointedly a recent meeting I had with a neighboring agency made it clear that our officers needed to spend more time patrolling in the Village. Some MP officers have been jumping calls in other jurisdictions (i.e., going “to the scene” without being requested) and have been reported well outside our jurisdiction. Even so, I always try to give our officers the benefit of the doubt when someone tells me they have seen one of our cruisers somewhere outside of our jurisdiction ... they could be transporting a suspect to jail, attending a training session, or delivering documents to court, etc.

Our responsibility and mission are to provide police coverage and patrol the Village and the portions of Cleveland Avenue, Dublin-Granville Road, and Westerville Road within our jurisdiction. And through our mutual aid agreements, we also provide coverage to surrounding jurisdictions when our officers are called to assist in emergencies. It is reciprocal ... when Minerva Park needs coverage, surrounding police agencies provide back-up for us, including but not limited to the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, Blendon & Mifflin Township Police Departments, and City of Columbus Police Department.

With support from the Safety Committee and Legal Counsel, I issued General Order #1 on November 1 refocusing law enforcement activities specifically within the political and geographical boundaries of the Village. While overlapping shifts do not seem like a bad idea, now that the officers will be staying within the Village, are “two policemen on duty” fully justified?

To quell another rumor and to repeat what had been published in a previous Mayor’s Report, we have no plans to disband the Police Department nor to outsource our law enforcement services. In fact, in 2010 we purchased new body armor for all of the officers and a new cruiser. We will be providing more information in the coming months. I would ask you to please contact me or one of your other elected officials when you have any questions and not to be influenced by misinformation or fear tactics.

A suggestion also was made to include a “Safety Tip of the Month” in the Villager. Accordingly, see
made to compile a list of residents about 30 kits. Suggestions were of the Life project and have distributed James Meade are retiring. The Officers Lt. Jeffrey Hunter and Sgt. particularly near the earthen dam to patrol has been increased Beach reviewed his monthly report. They have seen an increase in runs, and all of the fire hydrants have been drained and winterized.

Leaf Pick-up Program: I have received many compliments about McKinney Landscaping’s performance. The best comment was, “The leaf piles are being picked up too quickly—the kids don’t have time to play in the piles of leaves!”

North Lake: We seem to be having great success with the bubblers and the treatments to rid the North Lake of algae. We will be evaluating our program with Aqua Doc in early spring to determine the best course of action in 2011. We need to turn our attention to the trees in and over the North Lake (Councilman Matthew Danzuso has asked that this be the area we concentrate on during the next Lake Clean-up) and to the shoreline in general.

All Council Members were present for the Regular Council meeting held November 8.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reviewed his monthly report. They have seen an increase in runs, and all of the fire hydrants have been drained and winterized.

Police: Acting Chief Adam Beach reviewed his monthly report. Foot patrol has been increased particularly near the earthen dam to decrease vandalism; Reserve Officers Lt. Jeffrey Hunter and Sgt. James Meade are retiring. The Police and the EMS are continuing their cooperative efforts on the File of Life project and have distributed about 30 kits. Suggestions were made to compile a list of residents that may need help with yard work and minor repair jobs and to include the File of Life information in the welcome baskets.

Engineer: Mike Flickinger reported that we have come in about $40,000-$45,000 under budget for the 2010 Street Repair Project. Additionally, we have stayed under budget for 2010’s engineering costs and can comfortably reduce the 2011 engineering budget from $18,000 to $15,000.

Legal: Jennifer Croghan provided detailed reports of hours worked and hours billed to the Village in 2009 and 2010.


Minerva Park Community Association: Matthew Danzuso reported that the Art in the Park would be held on November 14, pie orders were due on November 15, the MPCA would like to focus on events that our senior residents may enjoy, and that a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser is being discussed.

Northland Community Council: No report this month. The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Matthew Danzuso is planning the 2011 Spring Lake Clean-up on either April 23 or April 30 and the second planning meeting for the 2011 Children’s Safety Day would be held on November 18.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received the Council’s approval for the October 2010 financials and for expenditures totaling $102,888.99.

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

Resolution 2010-23 - Submitting a temporary appropriations budget for the first three months of 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-24 - Authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to transfer funds from the General Fund EMS Capital area, into the EMS Vehicle Fund. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-25 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for the services of a Village Engineer for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-26 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract with the Franklin County Public Defender’s office for legal services for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-29 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract with Kelleen R. Roth, Prosecuting Attorney, to provide prosecution of certain cases before the Franklin County Municipal Court during 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-30 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for the services of a Law Director for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed (ayes were Bierman, Curry, Danzuso, Stanley, Walter; nays were Segovia).

Resolution 2010-31 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for the services of a Law Director for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-32 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for the professional services of a Mayor’s Court Spanish Interpreter for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2010-33 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into
contract with the Franklin County General Health District to provide for plumbing inspections for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed.


Resolution 2010-36 - Updating the faithful performance bond required for the Clerk-Treasurer. Second reading accepted.

Resolution 2010-37 - Updating the faithful performance bond required for the Clerk of Courts. Second reading accepted.

Resolution 2010-39 - Authorizing the Mayor to accept ODNR grant monies. 3 readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Ordinance 04-2010 - Adopting Section 432.44, Traffic Code, a ban on texting while driving in Minerva Park. Third reading tabled.

Ordinance 05-2010 - Establishing a Veterans Memorial. Third reading accepted, passed.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter noted that the wall by the path near the earthen dam has been vandalized.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia reported that he thought the Leaf Program was going well.

Streets: Councilman Kent Stanley reported that there was a problem on North Bay around a sewer entrance. The Engineer will investigate.

Happy Holidays: In closing, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Mayor in 2010. Watch for the Year-in-Review report coming in a future issue of the Villager. •

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the joy of the Lord is your strength
Nehemiah 8:10

Medic 119 ...
Where are you?

October 2010
In October, Medic 119 made 37 runs - 7 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 2 into Minerva Park, with 31 patients transported to local hospitals.
23 members volunteered a total of 736 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 6,935 hours.

Leading volunteers for the month were Scott Logsdon (116 hours), Frank Meredith (112.8 hours), and Pete Richison (73 hours).

MP Runs
10-1 .... Ill person
10-8 .... Seizure

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Emerald Ash Borer Invades MP Ash Trees

While attending an urban forestry conference 3 weeks ago with the ODNR Division of Forestry, I learned that Minerva Park will need to make some major decisions sooner than later about how our Village will handle at least a couple hundred ash trees that will inevitably face fatal devastation from the Emerald Ash Borer insect.

You already have heard that the Emerald Ash borer (EAB) girdles the tree and in effect cuts off the food supply for the tree. You might know that there are chemically systemic treatments that can be done at a significant annual cost per tree. With certain trees, this treatment may be effective, and with others it may not be. Nonetheless, it is becoming more apparent that perhaps a couple of hundred ash trees will die in Minerva Park if not treated. It is not a question of IF our ashes will die but rather WHEN they will die.

The ODNR Division of Forestry says that the time is coming very soon for most of the State of Ohio and municipalities such as ours to have EAB management strategies in place to be eligible to apply for state grant monies to be able to help handle the problem.

We have had at least 15 affected trees and probably many more in our neighborhood already. The Ohio Division of Forestry suspects that within 3 years most of our untreated ash trees will have the EAB.

A plan of action to handle the danger that can come from having hundreds of dead standing trees in our neighborhood is being drawn up by the MPCA’s Green Team, who will host a speaker from the Ohio Division of Forestry at the Community Building to help define this problem more clearly. At this presentation, you will learn what the Emerald Ash Borer is, what ash trees look like, how to spot infected trees, and what we can do about the EAB.

The Top Six Things People Should Know about Dealing with Emerald Ash Borer

• Make sure it is an ash tree. Here’s a good page of resources: emeraldashborer.info/identifyashtree.cfm
• Know what an emerald ash borer looks like, in comparison to other insects: emeraldashborer.info/ files/E2944.pdf
• Know the signs and symptoms of emerald ash borer infestation: emeraldashborer.info/files/E-2938.pdf
• How to protect (or save) your ash trees: emeraldashborer.info/treatment.cfm
• Whom to contact about the possibility of having EAB in your ash tree, especially if you live in a state that has few or no infestations known: emeraldashborer.info/call.cfm
• If you are thinking about moving firewood, here’s where you can learn if it’s allowed or not: emeraldashborer.info/firewood.cfm

To learn more about the EAB, visit the above sites, agri.ohio.gov/eab/, and emeraldashborer.info/ohio.

* * * * *

Although there will be no Green Team meeting in December, Village residents and friends are invited to two presentations in January. The first, about backyard birding, is January 8 at 2 p.m. at the Community Building. We will set up birdfeeders at the Community Building and teach people about attracting winter birds to our yards.

On January 22, we will host a speaker from the Ohio Division of Forestry to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer and the urgent need for an Ash Tree Management Plan in Minerva Park.

The next Green Team business meeting will be January 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Building. All are welcome!

Stopping Crime

By Corporal Matt Fenstermaker, MP Police Department

With the holidays approaching, crime tends to rise, especially residential break-ins and theft. The Minerva Park Police Department is dedicated ensuring you have a safe holiday season and is always willing to assist the community in preventing crime.

Home Security

Most thieves are opportunists. They almost always will pick an easy target, so make your home a hard target for them by following these simple tips.

• The best deterrent to a burglary is to think “outside the box” and think like a criminal. Consider what you would do to break into your own home if you were a burglar. If you need assistance in doing a self-assessment on your
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home, call the MP Police Department and an officer will be happy to help you.
• Thieves don’t want to be seen in the act, so install lighting around your home connected with motion detectors on short timers. Cut back trees and shrubs around windows that would conceal someone trying to gain entry.
• Make your home appear occupied at all times. Put lights, TVs, and/or radios on timers when you are away. Dogs are a good deterrent, especially the small ones that make a lot of noise when someone comes around.
• Don’t leave notes on doors for relatives or service people. These are good indicators to thieves that the home is not occupied. If you must leave and you are expecting someone, leave a key with a trusted neighbor and tell your expected guest where it can be obtained.
• If you have an alarm system, be sure it is in good repair and consider purchasing a cellular transmitter back-up line in case the phone line is cut by a burglar. If you cannot afford an alarm system, you may be able to purchase a fake alarm company sign at a novelty store and put that in front of your home.
• Doors are as good as their locks. Always use a strong deadbolt. No door or lock is theft proof, but you want something that will delay a thief in gaining entry so they can be caught.
• Do not put your name on mailboxes or on the outside of your home on signs. A burglar could look up a name in the phone book and call the house to see if someone’s home before attempting a break-in.
• If you are leaving the house for a vacation, notify the police department to put your home on the vacation house watch list. Stop mail and newspaper delivery. Leave a key with a relative or trusted neighbor so they can check on the house from time to time.

Personal Security

When shopping, use common sense and pay attention to surroundings. Trust your gut! If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. Just like making your home a hard target, make yourself one by following these tips.
• Travel in numbers. Try to shop with friends or other people. Criminals usually want to attack a person individual with no witnesses around.
• Plan ahead. Tell someone where you are going and how long you will be. If traveling over long distances by car, try to travel during daylight hours. Carry a cell phone with you and keep it charged for emergencies. Do not carry a lot of cash. Use credit cards or travelers checks. If you must visit an ATM, be aware of your surroundings and avoid ATMs where anyone is loitering.
• Place shopping items in the trunk, not in plain view inside your vehicle.

These are a short list of many tips you can follow to help protect yourself and your home. The Minerva Park Police Department is committed to protecting you and your home, so if you need any advice or assistance in security, call us and we will be happy to help you. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

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).

October 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beg balance general fund...............</td>
<td>$267,874.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue collected</td>
<td>261,692.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>(100,688.99)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending balance</td>
<td>$428,877.78</td>
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Mayor's Court
Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are December 7 & 21 at 5:00p. If you have questions, please call Christi Nordman, Clerk of Courts, at 882-1408 (Community Building).

October 2010
Citation payments ............. 68
Village General Fund .......... $3,253
Computer Fund ................ $152
Remitted to the State .......... $959
Total Court Receipts ........ $4,587

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Leaf Pick-up
This year’s leaf collection program will continue through Monday, December 6. Contact Councilman Roberto Segovia with any questions.

Advertise in the Villager
899-3755
October - MP Police made 2 felony arrests & 8 misdemeanor arrests; all were transported to the Franklin County jail.
10-2 .. 4:20p, 2700 blk Alder Vista, false alarm
10-2 .. 11:30p, 2800 blk Lakewood, missing juvenile
10-5 .. 11:30a, 2700 blk Lakewood, DOA
10-6 .. 7:40a, 2800 Lakewood, missing person
10-6 .. 7:05p, 5400 Cleveland Ave., endangering children
10-11. 5:45p, Newcomer Funeral Home, 3047 E. Dub-Gran, false alarm
10-13. 2:30p, 2800 blk Lakewood, phone harassment reported
10-14. 6:19a, A&G Commerce, 5308 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
10-14. 7:24a, 5300 blk Park Lane Dr., false alarm
10-15. 12:20p, Hawthorne Elementary, 5002 Farview, theft reported
10-15. 9p, 2800 blk Lakewood, missing juvenile
10-15. 9p, 2800 blk Lakewood, missing juvenile
10-19. 11:28a, 3000 blk E. Dub-Gran, menacing
10-19. 2:17p, 2800 blk Lakewood, missing juvenile returned
10-19. 11:30p, 2800 blk Lakewood, disorderly conduct
10-20. 2:40p, 2500 blk Woodley, phone harassment reported
10-21. 12:55p, 2800 blk Park Lane Dr., false alarm
10-27. 9:52a, Yasmin Market, 5444 Cleveland Ave., criminal trespassing
10-28. 3:41p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm
10-30. 2:15p, 5000 blk Maplewood, DOA •
Advertise in the Villager ... 899-3755
Ads start at $15 - discount on 6-month contracts

the Villager Staff

Editor.............................. Dianne Poncinie, 882-0012
bizeefam@att.net

Layout & Design ............. Sharon Bierman, 899-3755
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, Dec 15, 5:00p

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Announcements

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Wednesday, Dec 15, 5:00p

The Villager

Minerva Park Community Association
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus OH 43231

Dated material.
Deliver by Dec 4.