Please ...

NO PARKING on MP Streets

... before, during, or after snowfalls. Snowplows do a cleaner, better job clearing our roads when vehicles are pulled into driveways. This is especially critical on the courts and cul-de-sacs where maneuvering space is limited.

Children’s Christmas Party

By Glenda Morris, Chair, Children’s Activities

Christmas is an exciting time of the year, and our Children’s Christmas Party added to this year’s celebration. More than 30 youngsters and their families participated in the December 18 party at the Community Building.

Snow globe ornaments, holiday necklaces, and bagel bird feeders were crafted by the kids. The little ones enjoyed the "under 5 play area" with white “snow” blocks and stuffed penguins and made a Christmas tree craft.

The party got more interactive with the games like matching Christmas cards and telling each other cute holiday jokes and the most hilarious Santa balloon-stuffing game. Riley and Ronan agreed to wear old fashioned red union suits, and two teams stuffed inflated balloons into the suits. Team 2 won with more than 30 balloons in the suit! It was a great time for funny photos.

A hot potato game got started, but Santa arrived, and everyone was ready to wait their turn to talk to him and receive a small present.

We thank all the bakers who brought yummy snacks and Mindy, Lynn D, Kathy P, Spencer, and Andy for their help in planning and activities at the party. The festive decorations made the atmosphere special, and it was a great event for the kids and their parents/grandparents.

Oops, Santa’s lost weight!

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JANUARY DATES

4 (5p) .................. Mayor’s Court
6 (7:30p) .......... Planning & Zoning
8 (8a) .......... Council Work Session
8 (2p) ........ Backyard Birding
10 (7p) ........ Council Meeting
12 (7:30p) ........ MPCA Meeting
18 (5p) ........ Mayor’s Court
18 (7:30p) ........ Green Team
19 (5p) ........ Villager Deadline
22 (2p) .......... Emerald Ash Borer

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues
A New Year

2011 - the MPCA is looking toward a busy and enriching year. We are considering electronic communications through Facebook, Twitter, and a blog. There will be more on these as they become available to you. Let us know if you like this idea, if it would be your choice as an information source.

We have a special projects meeting scheduled for January 9, at which we will brainstorm fundraising ideas and other ways in which the Community Association could benefit even more of our members and MP residents. Having more things to do brings the need for more volunteers. Please let us know if you have any requests or ideas or if you would like to volunteer. Also, if you are interested in caring for one of Minerva Park’s public gardens, contact Bob Gale at 882-8622.

At the MPCA December meeting, following a suggestion from MPCA Vice President Dave Way, the board voted to spend up to $100 for toys for the Minerva Park Police Toys for Tots drive. A big thanks to Councilman Matt Danzuso for doing the shopping for these gifts and thank you to all the current MPCA members who have paid their $20 annual dues, which helped make this donation possible.

Here’s to a great 2011, full of understanding, peace, faith, and health.

Lisa Craddock Thitoff
MPCA President

Minerva Park Festival of Lights 2010

Congratulations to these winners of the annual Festival of Lights contest, and thanks to guest judges Nikki, Finn, and Joe. The judges appreciated all the hard work residents put into their displays this year, despite the inclement weather.

Best Outdoor Tree
Garrett Rabenold
3802 Minerva Lake Rd.
Green lights wrapped the trunk, and green lights symmetrically arranged among the entire branches. Very striking.

Runner Up
Todd & Sharon Walter
3042 Minerva Lake Rd.
Every tree in their front and back yard had lights on them!

Best Entrance Way
Betty Dowl
5271 E. Shore Dr.
White lights on garland framing a door in an alcove with a life-size Santa Claus on the door.

Runner Up
Tom & Sally Meeks
2839 Park Lane Dr.
Two small wreaths on either side of door with a large wreath on the front door. Simple but oh so elegant.

Best Religious Theme
Tom & Sheila Linley
2640 Wildwood Rd.
Silhouette outline with white and colored lights that included angels and manger scene.

Runner Up
Lisa & Isaiah Stockdale
5275 Westbridge Rd.
Red lights framing entire black roof was a unique look.
I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and Santa was good to you all. Many, many thanks for the thoughtful cards and wishes and the delicious treats.

**Emerald Ash Borer:** The infestation that is plaguing our state and neighboring states (Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky, to name just a few) has been in the news quite a bit lately. What is an Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)? It is a metallic green beetle that measures about ½” long and leaves a “D”-shaped exit hole in the bark when it emerges from the tree in the spring. While the adult feeds on ash foliage and causes little damage, it is the larvae that can ultimately cause the death of a tree. It feeds on the inner bark of ash trees, thereby disrupting the tree’s ability to transport water and other nutrients. When Green Team Committee Chairman Greg Wittmann attended a recent seminar on the EAB, he found that there was grant funding available through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to either treat or remove affected ash trees on public lands. Greg and Green Team Committee members Karen Cogley, Bob Gale, Jennifer Pauken, and I invested a great deal of time drafting the mandatory Management Plan and completing the grant application to meet the December 15 submission deadline. The Green Team is an exceptional group!

Like most ODNR grants, this is a 50%-50% matching, reimbursement grant. We have applied for $5,000 from ODNR and will match the $5,000, if our grant application is approved, for a total of $10,000 to eradicate EAB on Village land. Thank you to the Village Council (particularly Legislative Chair Sharon Bierman and Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter) for supporting the Green Team, quickly and thoughtfully processing this application. We should hear from ODNR’s State Urban Forestry Coordinator by March 2011. For more information about the Emerald Ash Borer, see page 8.

**MORPC Meeting:** I had a very interesting and productive meeting on December 6 with several representatives from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC): one of the leads for the 2010 Census, an Associate Planner, and one of our contacts for our street repair projects associated with Ohio Public Works Commission’s (OPWC) Small Government Division. We touched on many topics … funding through the Clean Ohio Assistance Fund for rehabilitating the ravine and creek beds, funding and advisors through the Franklin County Soil and Water Agency, land use, watershed, and balance growth planning, to mention a few. At this point, we will have to wait and see what our new Governor plans to do with the 2011 budget (specifically, budget cuts) and what
funding will remain available. More on this later.

9th Annual Carriage Rides: The weather seemed to cooperate, and it wasn’t as bitterly cold as it was in past years. About 300 residents and guests rode, and a little over 330 stayed to enjoy the wonderful food catered by Panera. We saved about $500 this year. An added service provided at no charge by Panera was a cookie decorating station that seemed to be enjoyed by many of our little residents and guests. Another addition to the evening were the lyrics of Christmas carols laminated in binders. Thank you to Sara Schumacher and to Chief Rick Hoechstetter for putting these together. We will have more next year! As usual, the volunteers and bakers outdid themselves and are too numerous for me to thank individually. I certainly would not have been able to do this without all of you. Boy Scout Troop #007 assisted us for the ninth year in a row. They included Trey & Tyler Williams, Thomas & Jay Shimko, Alex Faytle, James Lake, Jacob Austrino, Nathan LaChapelle, Ryan Milligan, Scoutmaster Sam Austrino, Adult Leader Tony LaChapelle, and Assistant Scoutmasters Dick Busick and Jim Lake. Three of the scouts in this troop have now attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations!

Clerk of Courts: Sadly, we said good-bye to Clerk of Courts Christi Nordman because she accepted a full-time position with the Westerville schools. Office assistant Christy Williamson was promoted to Clerk of Courts. My Assistant and Zoning Clerk Sara Schumacher will take on the added duty of Deputy Clerk of Courts. Sharing these jobs is estimated to save the Village about $13,000. See Ordinance 6-10 and Resolutions 10-37 & 10-42 under Legislation.

Please be vigilant. As has happened in past years, we seem to have an individual or individuals attempting to steal from cars parked on the streets or in driveways. The goal seems to be taking loose change. Please lock your car doors at all times and set alarms if you have them. See the Safety Tip from our Police Department on page 8.

All Council Members were in attendance at the regular council meeting on December 13. The following reports were made:

Police: Acting Chief Adam Beach was excused, and congratulations were extended to his wife Michelle and him on the birth of new daughter Addyson. His monthly report was reviewed.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reviewed his monthly report. Two hydrants will need repair in the spring.

Legal: Jennifer Croghan confirmed that the agenda should be amended to have the ordinances voted on before the resolutions.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Dick Busick reported that there was no Planning & Zoning meeting in December (no pending applications) and that Good Dog Grooming has moved from the Woodley shopping center to the site of the former veterinary hospital south on Cleveland Avenue. He also reviewed his monthly report.

Minerva Park Community

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By Pam Park-Curry
Council President

Passed as an Emergency

When you attend a council meeting or read the Mayor’s Report, you will note that some legislation is passed “declaring an emergency.” It sounds sudden and unexpected, but what does it really mean? According to the Ohio Revised Code, to pass a piece of legislation as an emergency simply means that the legislation will take effect immediately after passage instead of 30 days later.

There are numerous reasons why a piece of legislation must take effect immediately, including to meet an important deadline, to sign a contract to keep services maintained, to start a project, or to take action on a hiring or benefits decision that needs to start as soon as possible. No matter what the reason, Council must consider it to be in the best interests of the health and welfare of the residents of the Village to have the legislation take effect immediately.

Despite it sounding sudden and unexpected, most pieces of legislation passed as an emergency are neither sudden nor unexpected. Much legislation is done on an annual basis such as contracts for services, the budget, and rules of council for the ensuing year. Street projects that are passed “declaring an emergency” often go through years of discussion and planning. These and other pieces of legislation are discussed in committee meetings and work sessions, and many times they are read at Council month after month before being passed.

When they are passed, if they need to go into effect immediately, they are passed declaring an emergency. So the next time you see “declaring an emergency,” read it as ”will take effect immediately.”

Association: Councilman Matthew Danzuso reported on the following upcoming events: Festival of Lights Judging on December 16-24; the Children’s Christmas Party on December 18; the Carriage Rides on December 19; Green Team’s Backyard Birding on January 8 at 2 p.m.; EAB Information on January 22 at 2 p.m.

Northland Community Council: MPCA Vice President Dave Way, NCC Representative Bob Gale, and Mayor Eisentrout attended the NCC Annual Holiday Dinner at the Hunan House on December 7.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Matthew Danzuso reported on Kid’s Safety Day to be held May 14, a planning meeting to discuss the future site of the Minerva Park Veterans Memorial would be held on December 20, and Lake Clean-up would be held on April 30.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval for the November 2010 financials, including expenses totaling $120,940.52. She also received approval for Then & Now POs for engineering costs for Rounds 23 ($3,542.45) & 24 ($4,181.40) Street Projects, $23,480 for the PNC Bank Lake Bond payment, and $5,701.01 for new bulletproof vests for the Police Department.

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

Ordinance 4-2010 - Adopting Section 432.44, Traffic Code, a ban on texting while driving in Minerva Park. Third reading accepted, passed.

Ordinance 6-2010 - Establishing the position of Deputy Clerk of Courts. Three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-28 - Authorizing the Mayor and the Clerk-Treasurer to enter into contract for health insurance for full-time police officers and the Mayor for 2011. Third reading accepted, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-36 - Updating the faithful performance bond required for the Clerk-Treasurer. Third reading accepted, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-37 - Updating the faithful performance bond required for the Clerk of Courts. Third reading accepted, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-40 - Setting a pay range for MP Police Chief. First reading, waived 2nd & 3rd reading, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-41 - Submitting a grant mitigating the effects of the Emerald Ash Borer and establishing a management plan. Three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Resolution 2010-42 - Establishing a pay range for Deputy Clerk of Courts. Three readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter reported that there were two Oral Boards of Review potential candidates for the Police Department. The Village received about 40 applications for the Chief of Police position. The Safety Committee, consultant Jeff Miller, and the Mayor have narrowed the field to three candidates.

Service: Councilman Roberto
Segovia reported that the Leaf Pick-up Program had concluded and that the contractor had been paid.

**Streets:** Councilman Kent Stanley mentioned that we are considering the end of Jordan Road and the Park Lake Court and Drive areas as our next street repair project.

**New Business:** Some residents expressed concern that information about pending legislation passed as an emergency (see the Government 101 article on page 4) is not being disseminated in a timely manner and asked what could be done. Although all legislation - pending and passed - continues to be posted on the website (minervapark.org/legislation) and itemized in the Mayor’s Report, it was suggested that not everyone reads the website or the newsletter, nor asks elected officials for updates. What are your thoughts? Do you feel uninformed? Is there a better way to get information to you? If you have any suggestions, please contact me, any of your other elected officials, or community leaders.

On behalf my fellow elected officials and our staff, have a happy and safe New Year. •

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**Medic 119 ... Where are you?**

**November 2010**

In November, Medic 119 made 39 runs - 7 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 4 into Minerva Park, with 22 patients transported to local hospitals. 22 members volunteered a total of 645 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 7,580 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Tim Lockard (62 hours), Scott Logsdon (51 hours), and Frank Meredith (51 hours).

**MP Runs**
11-9 .... Assault
11-15 ... Ill Person
11-15 ... Chest Pains
11-23 ... Ill Person

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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).

**November 2010**

| Beg balance general fund (adj) | $427,727.06 |
| Revenue collected | 44,800.54 |
| Expenses | (85,536.67) |
| Ending balance | $386,990.93 |

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**Streets:** Councilman Kent Stanley mentioned that we are considering the end of Jordan Road and the Park Lake Court and Drive areas as our next street repair project.

**New Business:** Some residents expressed concern that information about pending legislation passed as an emergency (see the Government 101 article on page 4) is not being disseminated in a timely manner and asked what could be done. Although all legislation - pending and passed - continues to be posted on the website (minervapark.org/legislation) and itemized in the Mayor’s Report, it was suggested that not everyone reads the website or the newsletter, nor asks elected officials for updates. What are your thoughts? Do you feel uninformed? Is there a better way to get information to you? If you have any suggestions, please contact me, any of your other elected officials, or community leaders.

On behalf my fellow elected officials and our staff, have a happy and safe New Year. •

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**Matisse**

is back!

Thank You!

to our neighbors for your help and hope. Minerva Park is great!

Janice Windborne & Matisse the Cat

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COPS FOR KIDS

The Minerva Park Police Department would like to thank all the residents and businesses that contributed gifts & toys to the "Cops for Kids" program. We are grateful to you for helping out people that are in need of assistance because of the economy and the scarcity of jobs.

Some of the contributions were distributed to families in Minerva Park and the remainder to families in the immediate area. We also donated to local churches or schools. Our special thanks to the generous contribution of the Minerva Park Community Association.

If we have made a difference in just a few families, this was well worth the effort.

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are January 4 & 18 at 5:00p. If you have questions, please call Christy Williamson at 882-1406 (Community Building).

November 2010

Citation payments .................... 47
Village General Fund ........$2,271
Computer Fund ....................$100
Remitted to the State ............$629
Total Court Receipts ............$3,153

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Emerald Ash Borer and How it Affects You

Amy Stone from The Ohio State University Extension Education Program will be at the Community Building on Saturday, January 22, at 2 p.m. for MP residents.

The program, entitled "What Everyone Needs to Know to Make Decisions about Ash Trees and Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)," will cover information about the insect, host trees, signs, symptoms, research highlights, and management options, including tree removal & replacements and insecticide treatments. Each participant will be provided with educational and reference materials. There will be time allotted for questions, answers, and group discussion.

For information, contact Green Team Chairman Greg Wittmann at 523-2178.

Meeting at the Community Building on January 8 at 2 p.m. for backyard birding. We will set up birdfeeders and teach people about attracting winter birds to our yards.

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

By Your MP Police Department

The Minerva Park Police Department would like to extend a Happy New Year to everyone, and wish all a very safe and happy 2011!

In the December Villager, we mentioned that most thieves are "opportunists." That basically means that, if thieves see an easy target, they will make that attempt to steal items from you. You can prevent this or drastically drop the odds of being a victim by following these simple tips:

• Park your vehicle inside of your garage at night and be sure to close your garage after dark.
• If you cannot park your vehicle inside of a closed garage, remove all loose change, CDs, GPS devices, or other valuables from your vehicle (including the automatic garage door remote).
• If you must park your vehicle in the street, park it under a street light or near a location where it easily can be seen from your home.
• Never leave your vehicle unattended while the engine is running! If you have a remote starting device that will shut the engine off without the key in the ignition if it's put into gear, please keep in mind that criminals also have been known to possess manufacturer keys that can allow them to still steal your vehicle!

Some people leave their cars unlocked and nothing inside for a thief to steal, with the thought that "if the door is unlocked, the thief won't break my window to get in." There are issues with that line of thinking. First, by leaving the door unlocked, you are giving the thief an open invitation to steal your vehicle by either breaking the ignition or by using a stolen manufacturer key. Second, you are making it easy for them to hide as police officers drive by on patrol. If a police officer sees someone in a driveway walking around a car looking inside of it, that raises more attention than a person already sitting in a car.

Officers working late-night hours also see many homes with their garage doors left open. We try to contact the homeowners when we can, but sometimes it's difficult to awaken people, so please remember to check your garage doors when you settle in for the night. This prevents a thief from stealing something from your garage and often prevents them from gaining entry into your home through the garage.

Minerva Park doesn't have very much street lighting, and the Village can get dark at night. It makes seeing people who creep around very difficult, so you can help by installing more lighting around your home, driveway, and garage areas. But most of all, please never hesitate to call 9-1-1 if you see someone who just shouldn't be there or someone who is acting suspicious. Trust yourself and never be afraid to call, because you are your police department's "eyes and ears!"

Until later, stay safe! •

Advertise in the Villager
899-3755

Red Cross Certified BABYSITTER

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

Taylor Fickes
794-1256 or 948-2298 home
746-9121 cell
taylor.rene.babysitting@gmail.com
November - MP Police made 3 misdemeanor arrests and 1 felony arrest; all were transported to the Franklin County jail.
11-4...4:40a, GFS Food Service, 5400 Cleveland Ave., false alarm
11-4...10:30a, Hawthorne Elementary School, 5001 Farview Rd., student assaults since Oct 29 reported
11-5...6:30a, 2900 blk Kerrwood Dr., DOA
11-7...9:13a, 5100 blk Westerville Rd., recovered stolen vehicle
11-7...7p, 5200 blk Elmhurst Dr., petty theft reported
11-9...7:10a, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., DOA
11-9...3:32p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., assault
11-10...9:07p, 2500 blk Lakewood Dr., grand theft & safe cracking since Nov 4 reported
11-11...12:58p, 2900 blk Berry Lane Ct., domestic violence, assault
11-12...4:41p, 5300 blk Cleveland Ave., grand theft & criminal damaging reported
11-18...8:01a, 2700 blk Minerva Lake Rd., theft & criminal trespassing reported
11-18...12:31p, 5300 blk Park Lane Ct., false alarm
11-23...6:36p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., theft & criminal mischief since Nov 20 reported
11-24...10:34a, Business Professionals of America, 5454 Cleveland Ave., theft & vandalism reported
11-26...11:50p, 5400 Cleveland Ave., DOA
11-27...5:15p, 2800 Lakewood Dr., criminal damaging
11-30...8:22p, Newcomer Funeral Home, 3047 E. Dub-Gran, false alarm •
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

the Villager Staff

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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, Jan. 19, 5:00p

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