Safety Day
By Councilman Matthew Danzuso

Saturday, May 14
11a to 2p
Hawthorne School
5001 Farview Drive

The Minerva Park Council, Mayor, Fire and Police Departments, Community Association, and Hawthorne Elementary School invite you to another Minerva Park Safety Day, geared toward kids. It will feature several fire and police departments, construction and work trucks, and military vehicles for kids to interact with.

The event will open with the Hawthorne Choir singing the national anthem and other songs. There will be light snacks for purchase and raffles, with all proceeds going to MP Community Association. There is no cost for the event, so please join us for a great time.

Adult Blood Drive
The MP Community Association is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive for adults 18 and older at Hawthorne Elementary to accompany the event (10a to 3p). Those who donate or attempt to donate will be entered to win a free gas for a year plus one of eight $50 gas cards from Marathon. All donors or attempted donors will get a buy-one-get-one free entry coupon to the Columbus Zoo and chance to win four Zoombezi Bay tickets. To schedule your time, call Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427, visit redcrossblood.org and use the sponsor code “minervapark,” or call 1-800-RED CROSS. If you last donated on or before March 19, 2011, you may be eligible to donate.

SUMMER MUSIC SERIES

Your Community Association again will present its Summer Music Series, featuring a variety of musical styles that can be enjoyed by all. The planned dates are Sunday, June 19; Sunday, July 17; and Sunday, August 14 ... all from 5p-6:30p. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

It is recommended that you walk or ride your bike — parking is limited. Transportation is available for MP seniors and handicapped residents.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket to the bandstand near the Community Building for an afternoon of great music beside the lake.

SHREDDING DAY
Saturday, May 21 • 10a to 2p
Columbus Metro Library
5590 Karl Road

Bring up to 5 boxes or bags of personal documents or computer disks to be shredded using Fireproof Records Center’s mobile shredding unit at no charge.

Mid-Ohio Food Bank
Also, please bring 3 non-perishable food items to donate to the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Thank you.

Plant Pick-Up
If you ordered plants during the recent Community Association fundraiser, please stop by the Community Building on Saturday, May 7, 10a, to pick them up.

MAY DATES

3 (7:30p) Planning & Zoning
7 (8a) Council Work Session
7 (10a) Plant Pick-up
9 (7:30p) Council Meeting
10 (5p) Mayor’s Court
11 (7:30p) MPCA Meeting
17 (7:30p) Green Team
18 (5p) Villager Deadline
21 (10a-2p) Shredding
23 (5p) Mayor’s Court
26 (7p) Coffee with the Chief
MPCA News

Founders Day
It’s time to start planning the 2011 Founders Day, scheduled for July 23. If you would like to be on the planning committee, please call Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427.

Discount
The Community Association has arranged for a 15% discount at Kurtz Brothers landscaping supply (6055C Westerville Road) on everything except their bagged merchandise. This includes mulch, soil, aggregates, plants, and more.

To get the discount, mention that you are a Minerva Park resident before the transaction begins. For more information ...

MinervaFlora Clean-Up
While rain prevented gardening on April 2, we had a good turnout of helpers on April 9 and got a lot done. Many thanks to helpers Tomasz & Brandy Jemczura, John from Faith Life Family Church, Janet Kohn, Garrett Rabenold, Rex Shoemaker, and Lori & Gunnar Vogel.

2nd Annual YMCA Walk - Northland Wellness & Media Fair
Saturday, May 14, 10a-3p YMCA (1640 Sandalwood Place)
Wellness fair, exhibitors, neighborhood walking routes, healthy lifestyle options, health maintenance, door prizes, kid’s activities, food exhibitors, product sales to benefit the YMCA. Free admission, Questions: 885,4252, Dawn Peterson.

Save the Date
Family Fun Night is scheduled for June 25, 7p to 10p.

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FORMER RESIDENT
I hope everyone is enjoying the much anticipated warm weather as much as I am. Many of our young residents (and older ones, too!) are looking forward to the Opening Day (May 28) of our pool. As of April 18, we already have 170 members signed up and have collected approximately $36,000 in membership fees. The renovation project is ready to begin, and plans are being made to pour and spread gravel in the pool parking lot after the renovations are completed.

Yard Waste: I have noticed that there have been piles of brush, limbs, and branches at the curbs of some homes for several weeks. Local Waste will not pick up any loose yard waste. It must be bundled and in lengths of 4’ or less.

North & South Lakes: Council approved an amount not to exceed $5,300 for treatment to prevent algae growth in the North Lake. Aqua Doc will be paid for 12 visits, one every other week from April to October. Two of the treatments will include Sonar, an herbicide that controls the growth of watermeal and duckweed. Other visits might involve applying algaeicides and other herbicides to control weeds and algae. This program also includes a blue dye that will be applied when necessary to prevent algae bloom. The aerators or “bubblers” in both lakes appear to be working well, and, in conjunction with another season of treatments, we will evaluate next year’s course of action.

Community Building: You may notice some work being done around the Community Building involving large equipment. We have experienced some erosion and drainage issues that have caused some minor flooding in the lower level of the building. The Council approved an amount not to exceed $3,000 to make the necessary repairs, clean the lines, and conduct limited excavating to remediate these problems.

Coffee with the Police Chief: Residents will have an opportunity to meet with Police Chief Kim Nuesse to discuss any safety-related concerns on Thursday, May 26, at 7p at the Community Building.

Survey Cards: As a continuation of a survey I began a little over a year ago (where does the time go?), I hope to begin visiting you or dropping off a survey card to gauge what is important to you as a taxpaying resident of Minerva Park. I will be asking how you feel about community involvement, crime and police protection, the golf course as an asset to the Village, our lakes and municipal pool, the economic climate and the impact on your property values, sidewalks and curbs, street lighting, the Village’s financial health, areas surrounding us, zoning code enforcement, and anything else that is on your mind. There will be a section for you to make comments.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting, held on April 11. Even though the meeting is summarized below, the minutes approved by Village Council and certified by the Clerk-Treasurer, are now posted on the Minerva Park website: minervapark.org/minutes. The following reports were made:

Police: Chief Nuesse hopes to begin a Block Watch Program and a National Night Out event (page 7). She continues to secure training for our police officers, is part of a group of area police chiefs drafting a county-wide mutual aid agreement, and is seeking a vehicle maintenance agreement with another municipality.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter discussed his monthly report and minor repair to the EMS vehicle.

Legal: Legal Counsel Jennifer Croghan is working on contracts.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Dave Hays has been working with area vendors about limited signage and with several residents regarding property maintenance. Three applications for...
fences, an application for a side porch, and zoning for a stairway and landing for a business on Woodley Road were all approved. The Commission reviewed a "look-see" for a possible variance at this same business. More on this later.

Minerva Park Community Association: MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff reported that the deadline for pie orders was April 13, pies should be picked up on April 23, the Community Garden is progressing nicely and reservations are being taken for plots, a plan was presented to spruce up the Village entrances, the Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for April 23; membership stands at 379 households, Founders Day is scheduled for July 23, the MPCA Scholarship Committee has received two applications for a $500 scholarship award, and the Green Team will have a quarterly rotating chairperson.

Northland Community Council: Menards will open at the former Northland Mall site on April 12, and the NCC Fourth of July Parade Committee still needs volunteers for the event.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Matthew Danzuso reported that the Spring Lake Clean-up is scheduled for April 30 at 8 a.m. and that Safety Day is scheduled for May 14 at Hawthorne Elementary School from 11 a.m to 2 p.m. He and his committee members walked the Village to conduct an audit of the trees to be trimmed, removed, or treated (p. 5). Discussions about the Veterans Memorial continue.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval for the March financials and for a separate invoice ($1,164.30) for legal services associated with the Silverman BWC claim.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter reviewed the monthly repairs to the police cruisers and read two letters of commendation into the minutes for Lt. Waldenmeyer and Officer Gross (p. 7).

Streets: Councilman Kent Stanley and his committee members conducted an audit of the areas needing pothole or more extensive repairs to the streets, curbs and gutters. Once an estimate is received from the Village's Engineer and our contractor, repairs will begin.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia hopes to schedule a committee meeting to discuss the upcoming leaf collection contract, perhaps making this a 2-year contract as was discussed last year.

Legislative: Councilwoman Sharon Biernan asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation/):

Resolution 2011-1 - Entering into a contract to provide vending machines at the pool. Third reading accepted; passed.

Resolution 2011-5 - Contracting for general liability insurance. Third reading accepted; passed.

Resolution 2011-10 - Submitting a tax budget for FY 2012. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2011-11 - Authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to request a certification and estimate of revenue from the Franklin County Auditor’s office for a 3.2-mill 5-year Replacement Levy. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2011-12 - Pursuant to ORC 5705.19(a), declaring the necessity for and submitting the question of a 3.2- mill Replacement Levy. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2011-13 - Placing the issue on the ballot for a 3.2-mill Replacement Levy for purposes of providing for the current expenses. First reading accepted.

Resolution 2011-14 - Authorizing the Village to enter into a mutual aid agreement with the Columbus Police. Three readings waived; passed as an emergency. •
Trees on Minerva Park Public Land

By Councilman Matt Danzuso and Green Team Member Greg Wittmann

Recently residents Greg Wittmann and Bob Gale, Councilman Kent Stanley, and I walked several areas of the Village public land to mark trees for trimming or dead and ash trees for removal. With the understanding that trees are an integral part of the Village’s aesthetic appeal, careful consideration was given to every tree before we marked it for removal, indicating only those trees that were considered a hazard, those that did not provide wildlife food or coverage, and those that were dead and leaning toward a house or power lines. We marked all ash trees because of the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

Now that the trees on public land are marked, we will get estimates from a certified arborist or tree company to do the work. The entire project will be completed over time as the budget allows.

The criteria we followed and will continue to follow, below, will be posted on the Village’s website for you to reference in the future.

We respect the concern of Village residents regarding removing trees, and we did not take that concern lightly. We marked only those trees that were deemed necessary for the safety of residents and visitors and for the health of the remaining trees.

Several dead trees were left standing or in the lake so as to take wildlife needs into consideration. Insects eating the dead trees attract many birds and other wildlife that make these trees and surrounding area their habitat.

Tree Removal Recommendations

The MP Village Council in cooperation with the Minerva Park Community Association’s Green Team followed through with previous efforts in recent years to mark trees on Village land that need to be removed. Very careful consideration is given to removing trees, and we make every effort to keep as many trees as possible.

Once the Committee marks the trees they believe fit the criteria for removal, the next step is to have a certified arborist or tree trimming organization give recommendations as to which trees they can remove and provide an estimate.

Criteria for Removing Village Trees

• Hazardous conditions, i.e., dead and dying trees, especially those that did not serve sufficient wildlife food or cover purposes.
• Trees that were dead or dying and precariously leaning toward power lines and or other areas (homes, etc.) were considered. The main criterion is that the tree is dying. We did not mark a perfectly live tree for removal just because it was leaning toward a house.
• In accordance with the Community Association and Village tree plan, we marked all ash trees for removal, including White Ash, Green Ash, and Black Ash, because of the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Mayor’s Court

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are May 10 & 24 at 5p. If you have questions, please call 882-1408 (Community Building).

March 2011

Citation payments .................... 57
Village General Fund ........ $2,495
Computer Fund .................... $128
Remitted to the State ............ $798
Total Court Receipts .......... $3,520
Community Garden Update
By Karen Cogley

As of mid-April, 17 of the 20 garden plots are reserved, but we have not received payment for 3 tentatively reserved plots. If you missed the deadline, there might be an opening. A 100 sq.ft. plot rents for $30 for the entire growing season, April through October. Plots are 4’ x 25’ or 10’ x 10’. To check for availability, contact Karen Cogley (899-2024) or Diane Schrimpf (890-6308).

The Community Garden was plowed April 7, but it’s been too wet to mark off the individual plots. By the time you read this, marking surely will be completed, and some gardeners may have planted early spring vegetables, such as beets, carrots, chard, leaf lettuce, onion sets, peas, radishes, and spinach. What wonderful contributions to a cool healthy summer salad!

Most gardeners love to talk about their efforts in the garden, so if you’re out walking, bicycling, or driving by, please visit with us when we’re working in our gardens.

The Community Garden at the south side of Hawthorne Elementary School at 5001 Farview Road. You’ll know it by the compost bin at the back of the gardens and the two blue water tanks at the front. •

Invasive Garlic Mustard
By Joanne Ensminger

Watch for Garlic Mustard in your garden this spring. It looks innocent enough with pretty green leaves and eventual white blossoms. Garlic Mustard will not die back naturally. After it blooms, it drops seeds that spread throughout a garden. It is invasive and will crowd out all our other desirable indigenous plants. It also can harbor an eel worm that attacks other plants.

The best way to eliminate Garlic Mustard is to pull the entire plant from the ground before it flowers in mid April. Be sure to get the entire plant from the tap root. You may need to use a trowel or dandelion puller to get down to the deep root. Using herbicides is possible, but pulling up the entire plant is most effective. Please use only organic weed control products if you decide to use this method. Because of the biannual life cycle of this invasive species, you will be pulling it in the exact same location for three years before it is eradicated from an area.

Join the Green Team meeting on May 17 at 7:30p to learn more about invasive plants from a guest speaker. You also may visit The Ohio State University Extension website for more information. •
Spring is finally here, and with it come many complaints recently to the Minerva Park Police of dogs running at large and barking continuously. We are asking everyone to be neighborly and to obey the village ordinance that requires dogs to be under the control of the owner at all times. This means pets cannot be let loose outside in unfenced yards and must be on a leash if being walked. Also, dogs cannot be left outside to bark or howl for hours and must have access to food, some sort of shelter from the weather, and water. Violations of these ordinances range from a minor misdemeanor with fines to misdemeanor arrest.

On the same theme of being a good neighbor, the Minerva Park Police are starting a block watch program for streets and neighborhoods that would like to participate. This is a simple yet effective deterrent to crime in a community and helps bring people together for a common cause. Our goal is to participate in National Night Out during August with a community-wide event. If you would like to start a block watch in your neighborhood, please call 882-1408.

Officer Jason Gross

During January through February 2011, Minerva Park Police received reports of thefts from vehicles parked on Jordan Road, Wildwood, and Lakewood. On March 1, I requested officers pay special attention to these areas in an attempt to identify and catch the perpetrators of these crimes.

On March 15, on his own initiative, Officer Jason Gross decided to target Lakewood, Maplewood, and Alder Vista for enforcement in the early morning hours. While patrolling Alder Vista, he observed a suspicious male walking on the roadway and stopped him for questioning. Officer Gross did not find any evidence of a crime at that time but transported the subject out of the Village. Moments later, the Blendon Township Police broadcast a description of a suspect wanted for thefts from vehicles, which fit the exact description of the subject Officer Gross had questioned. Officer Gross notified Blendon Township and located the suspect at a local business, detaining him until he could be picked up by Blendon Township Police.

Upon questioning from the Blendon Township detective, the suspect admitted to prior thefts from vehicles in Minerva Park but would not provide details that would close our cases and allow additional charges to be filed. The suspect also had an extensive criminal history that included prior violent crimes. Officer Gross’s diligence in extra patrol of the neighborhood thwarted any more crimes being committed by this suspect. Officer Gross is a good example to our other officers of diligent patrol tactics both in enforcement and simultaneously preventing crime in the Village.

Lt. Rex Waldenmyer

On March 14, the Minerva Park Police received a report of a felony theft involving elderly residents in the 2500 block of Lakewood. This case was assigned to Lt. Rex Waldenmyer for further investigation. He contacted pawn shops and eventually located some of the stolen property, which was identified by the victim. Through cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and persistent investigation, Lt. Waldenmyer was able to identify, locate, and interview the suspect, who confessed to the theft. A search warrant was enacted on the suspect’s residence in an effort to retrieve all of the stolen property, and an arrest was made. Lt. Waldenmyer’s investigation was thorough, persistent, and conducted with compassion for the victim, resulting in a case closure. This is another fine example of quality police service that was provided to a Village resident.
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Must present coupon at time of estimate to qualify.
March - MP Police made 2 felony arrests and 5 misdemeanor arrests; all were transported to the Franklin County jail.

3-1 ..... 1:39a, intersection of Minerva Lake Rd & Cleveland, property impound
3-2 ..... Hawthorne Elementary, 5001 Farview, inappropriate actions on Feb 11 reported
3-2 ..... 7:46p, Hawthorne Elementary, assault reported
3-3 ..... 6:19p, 2900 Berry Lane Ct, domestic violence, menacing
3-2 ..... 5p, intersection of Minerva Lake Rd & Westerville, road rage
3-4 ..... Intersection of Alder Vista & Maplewood, canine complaint & dog bite on Feb 27 reported
3-8 ..... 6:25p, Hawthorne Elementary, menacing reported
3-8 ..... 6:25p, Hawthorne Elementary, menacing on Mar 2 reported
3-9 ..... 12:30p, Hawthorne Elementary, assault on Mar 8 reported
3-9 ..... 9p, 3000 blk E. Dub-Gran, open door
3-13 ..... 12:11p, intersection of Wildwood & Westbridge, Netcare transport
3-13 ..... 10:41p, 2900 blk E. Dub-Gran, missing juvenile
3-14 ..... 2:15p, 2500 blk Lakewood, theft between Jan 27 - Feb 25 reported
3-18 ..... 5:27p, 2600 blk Woodley, theft between Mar 12-16 reported
3-21 ..... 4:45p, 2700 blk Alder Vista, suspicious person
3-26 ..... 11:24a, 2500 blk Jordan Rd, theft on Jan 15 reported
3-28 ..... 9:40a, 2500 blk Woodley, dogs running at large on Mar 26 reported

Ukrainian Eggs
By Sara Schumacher

On Saturday, March 26, appx 25 people attended the Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop at the Community Building. The many visitors commented on what a lovely Village we live in and how much they appreciated us hosting the event. Among the visitors were ladies who had driven from Dayton. The Ukrainian Cultural Association did a splendid job of explaining the rich cultural history of the Pysanka, which means “to write.” Each attendee was given personal instruction on how “to write” their own Pysanka story on their egg. The symbols or pictures placed on the egg are to tell a story of blessing, good luck, or protection. Enjoyable conversation and laughter could be heard as we made our first attempts of creating a design with wax! In the end, it was like opening an unexpected gift as the wax was melted away to reveal an amazing and colorful creation.

A special thanks to resident Mariana Klochko for bringing this event to our community.

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Welcome
Our New Neighbors!

Danie-Rae & Stephen Strohminger, 2557 Minerva Lake Rd., 571-0198, from Gahanna
Michael & Katie Skamfer, 2777 Minerva Lake Rd., 736-0323, from Worthington

If you learn of any new residents, please advise Marie Takacs, 891-2532

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).

March 2011
Beg balance general fund ........... $206,020.52
Revenue collected ...................... 282,545.63
Expenses .................................... (71,199.43)
Ending balance .......................... $417,366.72

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IN THIS ISSUE

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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:
minervapark.org/villager

Next deadline:
Wednesday, May 18, 5p

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