10th 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 event, again the maximum is 8 per household. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This year, we are offering desserts, so before arriving, enjoy a light dinner with friends & family at your home and then meet at the Community Building for a wonderful array of desserts, hot chocolate, a bonfire, and Christmas caroling.

Written reservations are required – phone reservations cannot be accepted.

Important - You must be a paid MPCA member participate in this event. If you are unsure of your MPCA membership status or need to pay your dues, please contact Marilyn Herboltzheimer at 882-0455.

DEADLINE Dec. 9, 7:00p. Mail or deliver WRITTEN reservations to: Lynn Eisentrou (882-5743) 2829 Minerva Lake Road

Sunday, December 18
5:30p - 8:30p

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

Names & Ages of Minerva Park Community Association Member Household & Limited Guests

Preferred Times (not guaranteed)

Email & Phone #

DECEMBER DATES
6 (7:30p) .......... Planning & Zoning
9 (7p) .... Carriage Rides Deadline
10 (8a) ...... Council Work Session
12 ......................... Last Leaf Pick-up
12 (7p) ............... Council Meeting
13 (5p) ............... Mayor’s Court
14 (5p) ............... Villager Deadline
14 (7:30p) ............. MPCA Meeting
14-23 .................. Festival of Lights
16 ......................... Toys for Tots Deadline
17 (2p-4p) ............ Christmas Party
18 (5:30p-8:30p) .... Carriage Rides
27 (5p) ............... Mayor’s Court
MPCA News

Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 17 • 2p to 4p • Community Building

This year’s theme is “Cookie Fun.” We will have a Play-Doh party and make a gingerbread house card, Christmas craft, and a gift to give a special grandparent or neighbor. School-age kids will like a fun Christmas tree game, and we will have something for the little ones, too. Bring the kids to the Community Building for games, snacks, and crafts.

And we anticipate a special visit from Santa, who will bring a small gift for each of the children. Bakers are much appreciated. Volunteers may call Glenda Morris (882-2359) to help. Parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras for pictures.

From your MPCA President

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
On a Tuesday morning in early November, after nearly a year of preparation including email and phone correspondence, a lot of discussion, and requests, I got the call I had been waiting for: Oakland Nursery’s landscape designer Bryan Joyce telling me Oakland's associates were here to start landscaping six of Minerva Park's entrances plus the spillway area. By Thursday they were complete - minus a tweak or two at a couple of the entrances and the spillway.

As I was biking to have a look at the first bed to be started, I noticed 3-4 new roofs being replaced and many people doing various maintenance to their homes - a sure sign that we care how our homes and our neighborhood look. I hope you like the new appearance of the entrances and spillway.

December brings our annual Christmas Carriage Rides, fully supported this year by the MPCA. With this change, we have decided to bring a new, fresh idea to the Carriage Rides ... DESSERT!

Outside we'll still have the horses and carriages, the bonfire, the hot chocolate served up by the EMTs, but inside it'll be all about how sweet it is with a selection of desserts that will satisfy the sweetest of sweet tooths. So have a little dinner before you come, but save the dessert for the Community Building.

Our goal is to keep things fresh and exciting. New ideas are always welcome! Have a lovely Christmas season and a great New Year's eve.

Lisa Craddock Thitoff
MPCA President

Festival of Lights
December 16-23

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.
Many thanks to all of you who voted in support of our 3.2-mill Replacement Levy. The Village faces many challenges in the years to come, but we will continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars.

Yard Waste & Christmas Trees: I met with our Local Waste representative, and he anticipates that the last yard waste pick-up will be on December 12.

Local Waste has found that most Christmas trees are put out during the weeks of January 9 and 16. Please be assured that trees will continue to be picked up even after those dates. If you're like me, I usually put my tree in a plastic bag to remove it from my house to avoid needles being scattered on the floor, but please remove the trees from the bags once you place them at the curb.

All Council members were present for the Regular Council meeting held on November 14. Council President Park-Curry conducted the meeting because the Mayor was excused because of illness. The following reports were made:

Police: Chief Kim Nuesse reported that her department's $2,000 grant application for a Rapid ID Unit through the Bureau of Criminal Investigations and the State of Ohio was approved. The Rapid ID Unit allows officers to quickly identify individuals in the field. The Department should receive the unit in December, and the training will begin as soon as possible.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported that the problem with the EMS vehicle mentioned last month was not computer-related after all. It was a bad transmission wiring harness. The cost for repairs will be about $500. Fire hydrants on Cleveland Avenue at Woodley and on Berry Lane Court have been repaired. His Department will be conducting a study of the older hydrants (more than 40 years) to determine the cost of installing weather seals on all of them to prevent rainwater incursion, which can cause corrosion. The newer hydrants already have this feature. More on this later.

Engineer: Nothing to report.

Legal: Nothing to report.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays reported that he has addressed trucks and trailers parked in the Village and will continue to monitor them. The grass issue at a Ponderosa property is on hold until he receives a response from the bank that now owns the property.

Minerva Park Community Association: MPCA Vice President Dave Way reported for President Lisa Craddock Thitoff. The Green Team sponsored a presentation about bats and bat houses on November 5. Currently 330 homes have paid their dues. Signs have been purchased to announce the monthly MPCA meetings in the hopes of attracting more attendees. Most of the landscaping work at the entrances has been completed. The Candidates' Night held in October was very well attended. The Children's Christmas Party will be held on December 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Christmas Carriage Rides will be on December 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Matthew Danzuso reported that the tree removal work is finished. Donations to the Veterans Memorial Fund total $2,605, and Newcomer Funeral Home has given an estimate of between $5,000 and $6,000 for the memorial. More on this next month.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for payment and fund summaries through October 31 expenditures totaling $86,618.68.

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

Resolution 2011-23 - Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract for the services of a Village Engineer for 2012. 2nd reading accepted.

Resolution 2011-28 - Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into contract for the services of a Law Director for 2012. 3rd reading accepted, passed (ayes were Bierman, Danzuso, Park-Curry, Stanley, Walter; nays were Segovia).

Resolution 2011-29 - Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal
Officer to enter into contract for the services of a Mayor's Court Magistrate for 2012. 3rd reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2011-31 - Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into contract with the District Advisory Council of the Franklin County General Health District to provide for plumbing inspections in 2012. 3rd reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2011-32 - Adopting the 2012 Rules of Council. First reading accepted (ayes were Bierman, Danzuso, Park-Curry, Stanley, Walter; nays were Segovia).

Resolution 2011-33 - Submitting a temporary appropriations budget for the first three months of 2012. 2nd reading accepted.

Note that several of the year-end resolutions for contracts governing 2012 were tabled.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter reported that the oldest police cruiser is being decommissioned. Chief Nuesse has placed both the cruiser and the confiscated jeep on an online auction: www.govdeals.net. The new decals and motto, chosen by the officers, is “Keep Our Community Safe.” Councilman Walter discussed the possibility of installing engine clocks on the cruisers to measure engine hours, not just mileage. This would help us better monitor maintenance. We already have an engine clock installed on the EMS vehicle.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia continued the discussion of the trash contract. If the Council wishes to make a change to the contract, Legal Counsel suggested the Council do so by resolution to amend the contract. Councilman Segovia plans to schedule a Service Committee meeting.

Streets: Councilman Kent Stanley had nothing to report.

Old Business: None

New Business: A motion was approved to accept Council Matthew Danzuso’s resignation, effective November 15. See page 9 to apply for the vacancy.

Holiday Wishes: On behalf of my fellow elected officials and the Village staff, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been an honor to serve you as your Mayor for the past eight years, and I am looking forward to another exciting and productive four years.

Note: There was a short Special Council meeting on November 21 before Coffee with Council to continue with the year-end resolutions for contracts governing 2012:

Resolution 2011-22 - Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the General Fund, EMS Capital area, into the EMS Vehicle Fund. 3rd reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2011-27 - Authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into contract to provide prosecution of certain cases before the Franklin County Municipal Court during 2012. 3rd reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2011-33 - Submitting a temporary appropriations budget for the first three months of 2012. 3rd reading accepted, passed.

Resolution 2011-36 - Amending the trash contract. 1st reading (Ayes were Bierman, Park-Curry, Stanley; nays were Segovia, Walter). •

October 2011

In October, Medic 119 made 33 runs - 4 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 3 into Minerva Park, with 27 patients transported to local hospitals. 27 members volunteered a total of 680 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 6,047 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Tim Lockard (61 hours), Tony Williams (49 hours), and Rick Hoechstetter (48 hours).

MP Runs
10-9 .... Ill person
10-26 .... Medical alarm
10-27 .... Ill person

Reduce Stress

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David VanScoy
giving a chair massage at Founders Day 2010
Editor's note. Volunteer Coordinator Bonnie Townsend oversees the efforts of appx 30 street reps, each responsible for connecting with appx 15 MP homes. They help spread the word about various events, conduct the annual Community Association membership drive, and distribute the MPCA Resident Directories. If you would like to become a street rep (we need about 15 more), please contact Bonnie at 890-2427.

I just started into my second year as a Minerva Park street representative, and I was recently encouraged to share my experience. I take care of my street and the neighboring street behind me, and I have really enjoyed getting to meet my neighbors.

I really admire the Minerva Park Community Association in its attempts to maintain the true feeling of community within the Village. Being a street rep has allowed me to be part of encouraging participation in the positive events in our community. It also has allowed me to be a voice for my neighbors who sometimes have concerns that they share with me, and I encourage them to attend the various council and MPCA meetings to express themselves.

I love that our community here in Minerva Park cares about others and continues to provide forums for discussion. The Minerva Park Community Association also provides various enjoyable events that create an even deeper community atmosphere, such as the music series, children's parties, founders day, and carriage rides, just to name a few.

I really enjoy being a street rep, because it allows me to give back to our community in volunteering my time and because knowing those who live close to me has enriched my life. I encourage the residents of Minerva Park who are able to get involved in a positive way. Get to know your neighbors, volunteers, street reps, elected officials, police officers, etc.

For me getting to know others in the community has given me extra support, stronger sense of security, and helps maintain the importance of community that Minerva Park was founded on. Attend the fun events that are provided to get to know the neighbors who are right next door and those who live in various parts of the Village ... and have some fun doing it!

Support your elected officials, the Police and Fire department personnel, attend meetings to voice concerns and suggest ways that together we can promote a positive atmosphere in our community. Volunteer your time if you are able, whether it is on a larger scale or not. Any help is appreciated at events, such as helping out, baking/cooking, and even just attending!

Pay your Community Association dues (only $20/year) so the Minerva Park Community Association can continue to provide positive, fun activities, and can work to keep our Village truly different from the surrounding communities.

Seeking More Street Reps

By Street Rep Christy Danzuso

Welcome

Our New Neighbors!

Mark & Terri Ladwig, 3137 Minerva Lake Rd, from Michigan
Christopher Denz, 5305 Westbridge Rd, 937-5309, from Westerville

If you learn of any new residents, please advise Marie Takacs, 891-2532
Children’s Halloween Party
By Glenda Morris
MPCA Children’s Committee Chairperson

About 35 children and their parents enjoyed a beautiful fall day at the Community Building for this year’s Halloween Party. On the patio, we learned about owls with Mrs. Van from the Ohio Nature Education Center. She introduced us to 2 screech owls, a barn owl, and a great horned owl. All were rescued with injuries and now live at the Center. A special thanks goes to Chris, one of the parents who agreed to dress up like an owl so we could learn important owl facts.

Indoors, the children made small lighted jack-o-lanterns using orange ping pong balls and made various pictures. There was a tree set up for pretend play with owls and marble shoots, in addition to a few pumpkin-themed games.

The children had many delightful and imaginative outfits this year. Prizes for costumes went to Shae the Flamingo dancer, Mia the Disco Dolly, Isaac the Ford Pick-up F150, Giavanna as Captain American’s daughter, Rowen the puppy dog, and the Jack Sparrow pirate. And we also had several honorable mentions for costumes.

We thank all the families who brought a table full of yummy baked treats ... Buckingham, Danzuso, Eisentrout, Gallager, P. Miller, Presson, Thitoff, Vogel, Walsh, and Walter. Thank you to the many adults who assisted in a variety of ways ... Sharon Bierman, Karen Cogley, Carolyn Conrad, Lynn Dosky, Lynn Eisentrout, Andy Morris, Kathy Peters, Marnie Schultz, Lisa Thitoff, and Dave Way. •
MinervaFlora
Clean-Up
Our thanks to all of the residents who helped with MinervaFlora garden clean-ups in the Village during October and November ... Janet Kohn, Hal Howard, Jennifer Pauken, Rex Shoemaker, the Rosenzweigs, and Dave Way!

Leaf Pick-up
Leaf pick-up will be throughout the week, from 8:00a to 6:00p.
• No foreign materials, please, such as brush, twigs, or grass clippings. Objects such as stones, bricks, or large rocks can cause severe damage to the vacuum collection equipment. Please be a responsible neighbor and keep your curb and street area free of this debris.
• Rake leaves to the curb area only – not into the street. Leaves left on the grass may cause discoloration, but yellowing is not long-term and grass recovers quickly. Leaves placed in the street become wet and may block storm sewers.
• Refrain from on-street parking during collection. Collecting leaves from behind parked vehicles significantly inhibits ability to provide timely pick-up.
• On cul-de-sacs or circles, please park in your driveways, so the leaf collection machinery can navigate the tight turns on the street.

If you have questions, contact mp-segovia@minerva-park.org. We hope you enjoy the wonderful changing of the seasons!

Minerva Park
Police
October - MP Police made no arrests.
10-1 .. 4:20a, 2800 Lakewood, runaway.
10-5 .. 4:09p, 2800 blk Maplewood, criminal mischief reported
10-10 . 4:03p, Lakewood & Alder Vista intersection, assault
10-12 . 12:18, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr., missing person
10-14 . 8:45p, 2800 blk Maplewood, aggravated menacing reported
10-17 . 6:00a, 2500 blk Woodley, child abuse
10-21 . 3:37p, 2800 blk Lakewood, death.
10-21 . 9:45p, Hawthorne Elementary, 5001 Farview, menacing reported
10-31 . 3:38a, Yasmin Market, 5444 Cleveland Ave., breaking & entering, vandalism, theft •

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890-5316
890-5316 fax

Village
Financials
If you have questions about the information provided here, please call Nancy White at 882-5743.

September 2011
Beg balance general fund ........... $377,271.76
Revenue collected ..................... 80,291.89
Expenses .................................. (93,010.93)
Ending balance .......................... $364,552.72

October 2011
Beg balance general fund ........... $364,552.72
Revenue collected ..................... 81,132.54
Expenses .................................. (82,718.68)
Ending balance .......................... $362,966.58

Minerva Flora
Clean-Up
Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues
Recycling Review
By Jennifer Pauken,
Green Team Member

With the holidays upon us, we may find ourselves cooking, baking, and entertaining more. With that, we inevitably generate more trash and recyclables. One great way to reduce the environmental impact of this busy, festive season is to find ways to increase recycling efforts. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, more than 60% of what is thrown away is actually recyclable or compostable. Here in the U.S., approximately 25% of methane emissions—an extremely potent global warming agent—comes from decomposing garbage in landfills.

Simply increasing recycling rates by a small amount will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Recycling also helps the economy, because recycling facilities require more workers than landfills and incinerators. Simply put, more recycling can mean more jobs. In fact, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources notes that "almost 100,000 jobs in Ohio were directly dependent on recycling."

So, what's the best way to begin or improve recycling efforts? First, try to buy products made from recycled materials. It takes much less energy and fewer resources to make products with recycled materials than raw materials. This a more efficient use of resources, and buying recycled products increases demand for recyclables, which in turn can have a positive economic impact.

Next, make sure you have an adequate recycling bin for curbside pick-up with the regular trash service. Bins are available free of charge at the Community Building. All recyclables can be placed together in a bin-sorting will be done at the facility.

Know what can be recycled, because acceptable materials vary from facility to facility. Our local recycling program, administered by the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO), accepts the following:
• Plastic bottles (#1-#7). Caps and labels do not need to be removed. Please empty all bottles.
• All glass food and beverage containers (clear, brown, blue, green). Labels do not need to be removed, but jars and bottles should be rinsed.
• Carton containers such as those used for milk, juices, foods, fabric softeners, etc.
• Metals, including beverage and food cans, aluminum foil, and empty aerosol cans. Again, labels do not need to be removed, but food cans should be rinsed.
• Paper products, such as newspapers, brown bags/craft paper, advertisements, junk mail, envelopes (with and without windows), magazines, phone books, food boxes, cardboard (including paper towel and toilet paper rolls), office paper. Please flatten boxes.

SWACO does not accept the following, even if these items have the recycling symbol on them:
• Miscellaneous plastic containers that do not have a "bottle neck." This includes yogurt cups, carry-out food containers, plastic bags, bubble wrap, lids, etc.
• Light bulbs, window glass, drinking glasses, ceramics.
• Styrofoam of any kind, including food trays and egg cartons.
• Metal objects such as wires, scraps, paint cans.

Items not appropriate for curbside pick-up may still be recycled, but the process will take more effort. Information about recycling or disposal options for various items, such as electronics, chemicals, and other household hazardous wastes, is available at swaco.org. The Residential Recycling Information page also contains a link to a recent column by Joe Blundo of the Columbus Dispatch that provides handy suggestions for recycling various things that shouldn’t go in the regular bin (including plastic products).

For additional questions about recycling or trash pick-up, the Minerva Park website contains contact information for our service provider and more trash collection information: minervapark.org/recycling/.

Mayor's Court

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are December 13 & 27 at 5p. If you have questions, please call 862-1408 (Community Building).

October 2011
Citation payments .................... 66
Village General Fund .......... $3,133
Computer Fund ................. $170
Remitted to the State .......... $930
Total Court Receipts .......... $4,356
Council Vacancy

If you are interested in being appointed to fulfill the remaining 2 years of Matt Danzuso’s term (thru 12-31-13), please submit your letter of interest and qualifications (resume) to either the Mayor (mayor@minervapark.org) or Council President (mp-curry@minervapark.org) by December 8.

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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, January 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.