In mid-December, my grandpa Paul Miller (East Shore Court) saw a pair of ducks that appeared to him to be unlike your average Mallard. He spotted the ducks in the North Lake, right in his back yard. When he saw the, immediately he got out his bird book and searched to see if any of the birds looked close to the ones in his back yard. When he got to page 82, he knew right then that it was the Tufted Duck. He could tell in the book that it was definitely the Tufted Duck because it obviously had a tuft, and it was the same colors. The book also showed the males and females. Over a 2-week period, my grandpa saw them swimming almost everyday out in the lake.

One afternoon I received a call from my grandpa saying that he had seen them again. He wanted me to see them so badly! The next day, I went over to his house for dinner. My grandpa was so eager for them to show up. While everyone was sitting the table, I was on the couch looking out at the lake, when all of a sudden I saw a pair of chicken-looking creatures sitting on a log out in the water! I knew they had to be the ones that my grandpa was telling me about, so I called him over, and he said, “Nope, those aren’t it. They were much different.” I asked him to get out the bird book and turn to the page that the Tufted Duck was on. Indeed, I was right! The ones that I spotted were the female Tufted Duck. I just knew I was right!

The Tufted Duck is found in Europe and Asia - not the U.S. That is what makes them extremely rare here. It is smaller than a Mallard, and a male is black with a white circle on its back. The female is a brownish color with different shades of brown, yellow, orange, and tan. They both have bright orange webbed feet. The male has a black tuft, and the female doesn’t have a tuft at all. One of the most interesting facts about the Tufted Duck is that it swims under water! It will dive under and come up in another spot! It was really cool to see it happen!

Still, we did not know what the unusual bird was for sure, so we decided to ask some people about it. Marcia Howden is a birdwatcher, and we told her everything we saw and all that we knew about the bird. She said, “It has to be a Merganser of some sort. If it were truly a Tufted Duck, you

continued on page 2 ...
MPCA News

Matt Danzuso Receives “Citizen of the Year” Award

In January, the Community Association recognized Resident Matt Danzuso with the Citizen of the Year Award for 2011 (a/k/a the “Duck Award”). Matt, a former Council member, was acknowledged for expanding Safety Day, organizing Lake Clean-up Days, helping repair the playground, and conducting a Village tree survey and inventory on Village property. Pictured l-to-r are MPCA Past President Bob Gale, Matt, and MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff.

Scholarship

MP High School Seniors ...
The deadline for the Nancy Fischer Memorial Scholarship is March 31. Applicants must be 1st-year college students under age 21 (prospective or accepted) and submit their own original materials. Visit www.minervapark.org/scholarship/ to download the application.

Getting to Know You

The Villager will begin a periodic personal-interest feature about MP residents to get to know people in our special Village and to deepen the sense of community. We believe that safety is in numbers, and the more neighbors we know, the safer we are. The feature will be personal in nature and not a business advertisement.

If you want to be featured (or you want to suggest another MP resident), email your full name (and/or resident’s name) and your contact information to Rose Hart, rose_hart@hotmail.com. Please make the subject of your email “Getting to Know You.” The features will appear in the order in which they are received and as allowed by the timing of interviews.

Rose Hart • 895-7522

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7 • 11:00a
Hawthorne School
Bring your camera and Easter Basket.

Ukrainian Easter Egg Workshop

Saturday, Mar 10 • 11:30a - 2:30p
Registration required.
Nominal materials fee.
740-417-3131
klochko@earthlink.net

continued from page 1 ...

would have birdwatchers from other states coming just to get a look at it.” After what Marcia said, we decided to look up the Merganser. The moment we saw the images of the Merganser, we knew it wasn’t it! It didn’t have any of the characteristics of the Tufted Duck. After we talked to Marcia, we went to Birds Unlimited in Westerville and spoke with one of their managers, who said, “It sounds like the Tufted Duck, but that would be very rare in Ohio. There have been many birds from Europe and Asia sighted in Ohio this year, but I haven’t heard of any Tufted Ducks being seen.” Several people said it would likely be a Grebe because of the swimming underwater, but the color and size description did not match. Still this mystery continues.

My grandpa and I can’t say for sure that this unusual duck is indeed the Tufted Duck. By looking at many pictures and reading much about it, we are convinced that it is. We would love to hear from you if you have seen this unusual bird … contact my grandpa, Paul Miller, at 563-5150 or pemill@earthlink.net. You may contact Mayor Lynn Eisenreout, too.

Editor’s Note. To learn more about Tufted Ducks and other ducks in mid-Ohio, visit ducks.org.

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues
It has been a busy month for meetings. Here are just a few:

**Pool:** We had our first pool meeting on February 6 to plan the 2012 season. Our Discount Pool Membership Day will be held on April 15 from noon to 3p at the Community Building. Weather permitting, the pool will open Saturday, May 26, at noon.

Upcoming events include one or two Wine & Cheese events, a Family Fun Night and perhaps a Resident Appreciation Day or Night (a new concept suggested by our Pool Manager, John Friedel). Dates and times are yet to be confirmed, so watch future issues of the Villager.

**Coffee with Council:** As I promised last year, an Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) speaker, Gary Comer, addressed those who attended the January 23 Coffee with Council about controlling the Canadian goose population. Numerous programs and techniques were presented, such as harassment to discourage geese from nesting, habitat modification (planting tall vegetation along the shoreline), passing legislation prohibiting feeding of the geese, and posting signs indicating as such, erecting barriers around the lakes such as pond grids, noisemakers, dogs as deterrents, addling (egg shaking), nest destruction, and a goose round-up. These are all options the Council is considering. We will keep you informed and continue to seek input from the community.

**2012 Street Project:** Streets Committee Chairman Charles Legg, Village Engineer Mike Flickinger, Fiscal Officer Nancy White, and I met on January 24 to discuss the upcoming street repair project schedule. Please see Councilman Legg’s report under the Streets Committee report.

**March Council Meeting Speaker Scheduled:** Lori Gischel from the Regional Income Tax Agency’s (RITA) Worthington office will speak about income tax issues relevant to our Village, i.e., filers and non-filers, steps that can be taken to collect taxes from residents, and commercial vendors who are not paying, revenues collected. She also will cover RITA’s customer service, the possibility of privatized and central collection by the state of income tax revenues, and how this may impact municipalities.

**Playground:** A representative from our liability insurance company arranged for a safety inspection of our playground equipment on February 6. I will share this report with you once I have received it.

All Council members except Roberto Segovia, who was absent due to illness, were present for the Regular Council meeting, held on February 13.

**Speaker:** Amelia Costanza from the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) made a brief presentation about the 2012 Metropolitan Transportation Plan and talked about MORPC’s role as a federally mandated Metropolitan Planning Organization. The 2012 Plan will address issues such as traffic congestion, air quality, and mobility challenges through long-range planning. MORPC will coordinate planning with local governments to identify these needs and direct state and federal funding. Additionally, the 2012 Plan will be instrumental in setting objectives, mapping strategies, and measuring how goals are to be met. Areas included are all of Franklin and Delaware Counties and portions of Licking and Fairfield Counties. I will investigate any possibility of funding any future projects we may have.

The following reports were made:

**Police:** Chief Kim Nuesse was excused because she was at a training session. Council received her monthly reports.

**EMS/Fire:** Chief Rick

To learn more, visit these websites:

For the tax levy ... www.westerville.k12.oh.us/program_page.aspx?pid=32

Against the tax levy ... www.levyfacts.com

Look up your property to see how proposed tax levy would impact you ... http://franklincountyoh.meta cama.com/
Hoechstetter reported that their new Mobile Data Terminal (MDC) is up and working. He had included his monthly report in the Council packet.

**Law Director:** Jennifer Croghan had nothing to report.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement:** Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays was excused. There was no P&Z meeting in February.

**Minerva Park Community Association:** Councilman Dave Way reported on behalf of MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff. Northland Community Council - the 2012 NCC election of officers took place at the February 7 meeting with the following results: Emmanuel Remy was elected as President; Gerry O'Neil as Vice President; Brandon Boos as Secretary; Sandy LaFollette as Treasurer. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on March 23 at Villa Milano. The Rapid Bus service on Cleveland Avenue is being studied. Brandon Boos asked for a community profile for each association and for each representative to NCC.

The following committee reports were made:

**Community:** Councilman Dave Way had nothing further to report.

**Finance:** Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for the December financials totaling $101,041.93 and the 2011 financials totaling $1,462,049.27. A Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for February 27 at 7:00 p.m.

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


Resolution 2012-4 - Pool Vending Machines contract, 1st reading.

Ordinance 1-2012 - Garage Sales, 1st reading

**Safety:** Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

**Service:** There was no report.

**Streets:** Councilman Charles Legg reported on the 2012 Street Repair Project meeting. A tentative schedule was agreed upon. Engineering will begin on May 1 with advertising for bids during the weeks of June 11 and June 18, and acceptance of bids on June 29. Council will discuss the bids at the July 7 work session, award the contract at the June 9 Council meeting. A pre-construction meeting with the contractor will be held on July 16. Construction will begin July 23. We hope to finish the project before school begins on August 15. As with past projects, the residents most affected will be kept informed as we progress.

2011 Year-in-Review Reports. We anticipate these will be in the April issue of the Villager.

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**Olde Time Sing-along & Pot Luck**

Wednesday, Mar 28, 11a-1p
Community Building

Especially for seniors and families, but all are welcome.

Bring your favorite lunch dish to share ... drinks and desserts will be furnished by the MPCA.

Reminisce with favorites like “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree,” “Mr. Sandman,” “Ain’t She Sweet,” and more. Featuring song leader and pianist Janet O’Brien.

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

**January 2012**
In January, Medic 119 made 28 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 6 into Minerva Park, with 22 patients transported to local hospitals.

24 members volunteered a total of 644 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 644 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Cory Hutchinson (76.2 hours), Timothy Lockard (65 hours), and Todd Monroe (48 hours).

**MP Runs**
- 1-11 .... Difficulty Breathing
- 1-19 .... Possible Stroke
- 1-19 .... Ill Person
- 1-24 .... Chest Pains
- 1-26 .... Auto Accident
- 1-31 .... Unconscious Person

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**Fiesta Jalisco**
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Fri. & Sat. 11am to 11pm

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Minerva Park’s Ballot

Below is a representation of the ballot you’ll see at the polls this election. You may make your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls.

ISSUE
#10 Proposed Tax Levy (additional) Westerville City School District
Shall a levy be imposed by the Westerville City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the School District in the sum of $16,540,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside the ten-mill limitations estimated by the county auditor to average 6.71 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to $0.671 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2012, first due in calendar year 2012?
☐ For the tax levy
☐ Against the tax levy

U.S. Senator
☐ David W. Doty
☐ Donna K. Glisman
☐ Eric LaMont Gregory
☐ Josh Mandel
☐ Michael L. Pryce
☐ Write-in ______

Representative to Congress (3rd District)
☐ John Adams
☐ Chris Long

Justice of Supreme Court
☐ Terrence O’Donnell

Justice of Supreme Court
☐ Robert R. Cupp

Justice of Supreme Court
☐ Sharon L. Kennedy

Member of State Central Committee, Man (3rd District)
☐ David Goodman
☐ Roland I. Lane

Member of State Central Committee, Woman (3rd District)
☐ JoAnn Davidson

State Representative (19th District)
☐ Anne Gonzales

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Guy Reece

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ David E. Cain

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Valoria Hoover

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Charles A. Schneider

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Jim Mason

Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Chis Geer

County Commissioner
☐ James M. Pfaff

Prosecuting Attorney
☐ Ron O’Brien

Sheriff
☐ Michael K. Herrell

County Recorder
☐ Daphne Hawk

County Engineer
☐ Dean C. Ringle

Member, County Central Cmte
☐ Lynn Eisentrout

DEMOCRAT
Delegates-at-Large & Alternates-at-Large for National Convention
☐ Barack Obama

U.S. Senator
☐ Sherrod Brown

Representative to Congress (3rd District)
☐ Joyce Beatty
☐ Ted Celeste
☐ Mary Jo Kilroy
☐ Priscilla R. Tyson

Justice Supreme Court
☐ Robert W. Price

Justice Supreme Court
☐ William M. O’Neill
☐ Fanon A. Rucker

Justice Supreme Court
☐ Yvette McGee Brown

Justice Court of Appeals
☐ Gary Tyak

Justice Court of Appeals
☐ Peggy Bryant
Take your ID to the polls... driver’s license, Ohio photo ID, bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, any government-issued document showing your current address. 

Caveat Emptor - This recap is provided here so you can become familiar with our own particular ballot before you arrive at the polls. MPCA is not responsible for any errors! Study the issues. Make up your own mind. And then GO VOTE!

LIBERTARIAN

U.S. Senator
☐ Write-in_______
Representative to Congress (3rd District)
☐ Richard Ehrbar
State Representative (19th District)
☐ Write-in_______

Member of State Central Committee, Man (3rd District)
☐ Joseph P. Rugola
Member of State Central Committee, Woman (3rd District)
☐ Veda Rugola
State Representative (19th District)
☐ Al Donahey
Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Kim Brown
Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Stephen L. McIntosh
Judge of Court Common Pleas
☐ Elizabeth Gill
County Commissioner
☐ Paula Brooks
County Commissioner
☐ John O’Grady
Clerk of Court of Common Pleas
☐ Maryellen O’Shaughnessy
Sheriff
☐ Zach Scott
County Recorder
☐ Terry J. Brown
☐ Cortez Lee Bogard
County Treasurer
☐ Edward Leonard
Coroner
☐ Jan M. Gorniak
Member County Central Cmte
☐ Edwin England

GREEN

U.S. Senator
☐ Write-in_______
Representative to Congress (3rd District)
☐ Bob Fitrakis
Member County Central Cmte
☐ Thomas Burgess
☐ Bob Fitrakis
☐ Connie M. Hammond
☐ Suzanne Patzer
☐ Tekla Taylor-Lagway

Jan 2012

Citation payments .................... 30
Village General Fund ........$1,852
Computer Fund ...................... $69
Remitted to the State ............ $400
Total Court Receipts ............$2,469

Minerva Park Police

January - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor arrest, transported to the Franklin County jail.
1-3 .... 9:32p, 2500 blk Minerva Lake Rd, burglary
1-4 .... 4:10p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr, missing juvenile
1-13 .. 10:58p, Dub-Gran Rd at Farview, receiving stolen property reported
1-17 .. 12:50p, 2700 blk Alder Vista Dr, grand theft reported
1-20 .. 9:31p, Dub-Gran Rd at Farview, contraband impound
1-23 .. 6:57p, 2500 blk Woodley Rd, recovered property
1-24 .. 11:10p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr, missing person •

Red Cross Certified BABYSITTER
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Taylor Fickes
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746-9121 cell
taylor.rene.babysitting@gmail.com

Community Garden Kick-Off
March 11 • 4p

Last year’s gardeners who want to continue gardening this year and residents who are interested in learning more about the gardens and possibly renting a plot for the season should attend this meeting. A 100 sq.ft. plot rents for only $25 for the entire growing season, April through October. Available sizes are 4’ x 25’ or 10’ x 10’, but availability is limited. Gardeners are required to pay their fee and sign the 2012 MP Community Association Garden Guidelines and Rules to reserve a plot. •
Minerva Park Community Association
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus OH 43231

March 6
Tuesday
6:30a to 7:30p
Community Building
MP’s Ballot on Page 6

Joshua’s Mowing & Trimming
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL

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• Landscaping
• Leaf Clean-up
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the Villager Staff

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bizeefam@att.net

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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:

minervapark.org/villager

Next deadline:
Wednesday, April 18, 5p

Dated material.
Deliver by Mar 1.

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.