2011 in Review

In addition to monthly reports presented in the “Villager,” Mayor Eisentrout has requested that the various Village departments and the Community Association provide annual wrap-ups. Here is a summary of 2011 ...

**MP Community Association**
By Lisa Craddock Thitoff, MPCA President ... In 2011, many events and activities were made possible by your Community Association (MPCA) dues, only $20/year from each household. Thank you for helping make Minerva Park a great place to live!

In early 2011, some members of the Community Association met to brainstorm new ideas for events, fundraising, and service projects. We succeeded in completing 3 of the ideas: a sing-along, discount mulch sales (available from Kurtz Brothers), and landscaping the spillway and 6 of the 7 entrances into Minerva Park. The MPCA paid for the hardscape and labor, and monies from the late Mary Yost fund paid for perennial plant material. This project is a perfect example of your Community Association and Village government working together for the good of our community. If you would like to help maintain these beds, please call Bob Gale (882-0622) or Lisa Craddock Thitoff (891-2166).

Marilyn Herboldzheimer, our outgoing Membership chair, reported that our membership for 2010-2011 was 68% or 380 homes. In 2011, after 13 years of chairing the Membership Committee, Marilyn handed the reins to Sid Townsend. Marilyn didn’t do just membership ... you will find her helping at many of our events. My goal for membership in 2012 is more efficiency among all parties involved (membership, street reps, Villager, and printer) for a more expeditious turn-around, from taking your information to delivery of your Resident Directory.

Newcomer Committee chair, Marie Takacs (actually, she IS the committee) did a great job greeting 17 new residents in 2011.

In September, your MPCA officers were re-elected for their previously held positions. I had reported in error that our term limits are 2 years. Apparently at some point the bylaws had been changed to have no term limits. In November, Village Councilman Matt Danzuso stepped down from his seat and as liaison to the Community Association. Newly elected Councilman Dave Way began his post as MPCA Council liaison in January 2012.

Bonnie Townsend, the head of the Street Rep group, may be revamping the program, but she reports that we have 29 of our 42 street rep zones covered.

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See page 6 for details and the order form.

MPCA Plant Sale
See page 2 for details.

Council Vacancy -
See page 3 for details.

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**APRIL DATES**

3 (7:30p) .......... Planning & Zoning
7 (8a) ........ Council Work Session
7 (11a) .... Easter Egg Hunt - Pool
9 (7p) .......... Council Meeting
10 (5p) ............... Mayor’s Court
11 (7:30p) .......... MPCA Meeting
14 (9a) .... MinervaFlora Clean-up
15 (noon-3p) .... Pool Discount Day
17 (7:30p) ............... Green Team
18 (5p) .......... Villager Deadline
20 ............... Plant Order Deadline
21 (9a-11a) .......... 5k Run-Walk
24 (5p) ............... Mayor’s Court
28 (8a-noon) .......... Service Day
28 (9a) .... MinervaFlora Clean-up
29 (noon-5p) .......... Art in the Park

[continued on page 7]
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7 • 11:00a
NEW LOCATION
Minerva Park Pool

Join us for one of the more popular children’s events of the year. Please bring your own Easter basket and a camera to capture pictures with the Easter Bunny! For ages 1 year+

As always, we need volunteers to help with the set-up and running the event. Call Glenda Morris at 882-2359 if you can help in any way.

Art in the Park

Sunday, April 29
noon - 5p
Community Building

Just in time for Mother’s Day...

Here’s your chance to find that special one-of-a-kind gift. Shop among several local vendors: jewelry, floral design, photography, handmade Kindle covers, purses, aprons, garden art, goat’s milk soaps, and more.

Service Day

Saturday, April 28
8a-noon

Breakfast and a light lunch will be provided for workers.

We fill focus on the lakes and surrounding areas. Please bring labeled rakes, clippers, chain saws, gloves, etc., and join us at the Community Building.

David Way
895-9963

MinervaFlora Clean-ups

Saturday, April 14
Saturday, April 28
9a • Community Building

Meet at the Community Building, with your gardening tools, rakes, clippers, etc., to help with Minerva Park’s gardening tasks. If you can help at other times or have questions, call Bob Gale at 882-8622.

Pool Discount Day

Sunday, April 15
noon - 3p
Community Building

Download a registration form at minervapark.org/pool.
MAYOR’S REPORT
Lynn Eisentrout

What an unusual winter we have had! While it has been lovely to see the daffodils and other spring flowers so early, the weeds in my yard and flower beds have made an early appearance, too. Additionally, the grass is really taking off, so please, once you start mowing your lawns, remember to keep your grass clippings out of the street to avoid clogging the storm sewers.

Yard waste pick-up formally begins Monday, April 2. Please make sure that your yard waste receptacles are clearly marked with a sticker. We have extra stickers at the Community Building. Local Waste will not pick up yard waste in any container that is not clearly marked. Also, please do not mix trash and yard waste after April 2. It is confusing to the trash haulers as to whether it is trash or yard waste. Trash haulers think it is yard waste and don’t pick it up, and the yard waste haulers think it is trash and don’t pick it up.

Delayed Trash Collection:
Memorial Day, May 28, is a recognized holiday in our contract with Local Waste, meaning that trash will be picked up on Tuesday, May 29 instead. The Community Association’s Resident Directory lists of holidays that affect trash pick up.

Recycling Bins: We have a shipment of new recycling bins at the Community Building, if you need to replace your old ones.

5K Run-Walk: We will hold our first ever 5K run/walk – April 21, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - to benefit a little girl named Jassmine, who has sickle cell anemia. She has undergone a bone marrow transplant and seemed well on her way to recovery when she suffered a series of strokes. One of her siblings has been diagnosed with sickle cell, too. As you can imagine, the family’s medical bills are staggering. The benefit is sponsored by the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA) and Team Jassmine. It was initiated by Alder Vista resident Marnie Schultz (schultzmc@hotmail.com, 288-4011) and her friend Deborah Murphy (deborahkmurphy@att.net, 899-0667). This is a new event for the Village, so please take special care when driving. The route will be clearly marked. To register or contribute to this worthy event, see page 4 or visit http://www.premier races.com/viewevent.asp?eventID=372. Read about Jassmine’s story at cotaforjassmine.com/.

Council Vacancy: I sadly accepted Councilwoman Sharon Bierman’s resignation, effective May 13, due to increasing obligations related to her career. If you are interested in the position, please send a letter of interest and a resume to either the Mayor (mayor@minervapark.org), the President of Council (mp-curry@minervapark.org), or to any Council member ... or to 2829 Minerva Lake Road, Columbus OH 43231 by May 7. Interested parties will be interviewed at the May 12 work session and appointed at the May 14 Council meeting.

Sanitary Sewer Back-ups: While they are rare, sewer back-ups still happen, particularly in a village such as ours with so many tree roots that can work their way into the lines. What should you do if this happens to you? First, do not call the City of Columbus – the lines are the Village’s responsibility and you will waste valuable time talking to someone who simply cannot help you. Second, call a plumber to determine if the problem is in your tap (the line leading from your home to the main line). While we do not recommend any particular company, here are three companies that I have had good experiences with during these sorts of emergencies: Chuck’s Septic Tank, Sewer and Drain Cleaning Company (614-875-9508), Flowline LLC (614-491-7788), and Miller Ranney, Cantrell Plumbing (614-890-2130). If the problem is in the main sanitary lines and not confined to the tap leading from your home to the main line, then the work will need to be approved by me or a designee from the Village, because this can cost several thousand dollars. In the event you have a sanitary sewer back-up, please try to contact me immediately at mayor@minervapark.org (I check my email often) call my cell or text me at 668-8240, or call me at home at 891-0895. Another person to call would be the Streets Committee Chairman Councilman Charles Legg at 580-9891 or email him at mplegg@minervapark.org.

As a homeowner, it is probably wise to periodically televise the tap leading from your home to the main line to check for tree roots.

MAYOR’S OFFICE HOURS
M – 8a-1p and 4p-6p
Tu – 4p-6p
W, F – 8a-noon
Th – by appt
Sat, Apr 7 – 10a-noon
particularly if you have many trees on your property. I am currently looking into the possibility of a group televising program at a discount rate. If you are interested in participating in this program, please call the Community Building at 882-5743 or email me or my Administrative Assistant Sara Schumacher at mp-schumacher@minervapark.org. Thank you, Sara, for presenting this idea. If you are interested, you may want to consult your insurance agent about sewer back-up coverage that can be purchased as part of your homeowner’s insurance policy.

Employment Opportunity:
The Village is in need of a part-time maintenance worker. Duties include but are not limited to maintaining and repairing the physical structures of buildings & playground and some grounds maintenance. The person will be under the direct supervision of the Mayor. Hours should not exceed 20 per week, and the hourly wage ranges from $10-$20, based on experience and skills. For further information (minervapark.org/jobs/), call the Mayor’s office at 882-5743 or email me at mayor@minerva park.org. Please submit your application and/or resume by April 23, 5 p.m.

Pool: We have sent out mailings for pool memberships and have received a few completed forms back. The Discount Membership Day (20% off the regular price) is scheduled for Sunday, April 15, at the Community Building from noon to 3:00 p.m. To receive this discount, membership forms and payment must be received by 3:00 p.m. on April 15. For more information, please go to minervapark.org/pool/.

2011 Building Services Annual Report: The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department send us this report that provides data of the total number of permits pulled and inspections made, new builds, and construction valuation. It also discusses the nuisance abatement demolition program and trends such as neighborhood stabilization program updates. This report is available for public view at the Community Building.

All Council members except Todd Walter, who was excused, were present for the Regular Council meeting, held on March 12.

Guest Speakers: The Public Entities Pool of Ohio made a presentation concerning the Village’s liability coverage. Speaking for the insurance pool was Steve Miller of Palmer, Miller, and Nelson. Ed Barber also attended, representing the Burnham and Flower Group. Two other groups, the Ohio Municipal League pool and Selective Insurance, made presentations at the March Council work session.

Lori Gischel from the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) spoke to several issues. She is working closely with the Ohio Municipal League (OML) regarding the potential of state-controlled local tax collection. No formal bills have been introduced in the House or Senate, but discussions are ongoing. Approximately 150 municipalities have passed resolutions in opposition to this idea, and MP had its first reading of Resolution 2012-

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5k Run-Walk
Saturday, April 21, 9a-11a
Start at Minerva Park Community Building

... to benefit 12-year-old Jassmine Cobb, a former Hawthorne student with Sickle Cell Anemia who has endured two major strokes.

Thanks to the nonprofit Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA), Jassmine received a life-saving bone marrow transplant in 2010. COTA’s priority is to ensure that no child is denied a transplant or excluded from a transplant waiting list because of lack of funds.

Please join us for a fun-filled morning, live entertainment, and a great raffle. 100% of funds raised will go to Jassmine’s medical expenses.

• Register or donate ... premier races.com/viewevent.asp?eventID=372
• Read Jassmine’s story ... cotaforjassminec.com/
• Information ... Alder Vista resident Marnie Schultz (288-4011, schultzmc@hotmail.com) or Deborah Murphy (899-0667, deborahkmurphy@att.net)
9. MP income tax revenues collected for 2010 totaled $238,000 (RITA’s administrative costs were $10,458.00). The 2011 report from RITA is not yet completed. Efforts such as the 2008 subpoena program for collecting from non-filers and those who are delinquent in paying their taxes was discussed.

The following reports were made:

**EMS/Fire:** Chief Hoechstetter reviewed his monthly report.

**Police:** Chief Kim Nuesse reported that there have been thefts at the storage unit site on Westerville Road, the used car lot on Old 161 and Westerville Road, and from unlocked cars in the Village, specifically on Jordan Road, Woodley Road, and Cardinal Court. Once again, please remove items from your vehicles, lock your vehicles at all times, and set the alarm system if you have one.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement:**

**Enforcement:** Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays reported that two sign permits - a deck zoning compliance and a home occupation - were approved at the March P&Z meeting. Econocam on Cleveland Avenue has been asked to enclose the dumpster properly and to avoid double-parking cars. Now that the weather has warmed, requested repairs to their parking lot should be completed. Officer Hays will be checking behind all of the shopping centers for trash and debris.

**Minerva Park Community Association:** MPCA President Lisa Craddock-Thitoff reported that the Community Garden group has met and that one plot has been designated for students as part of the Westerville Area Resource Ministry program. The Green Team would like the Village to be recognized as a Wildlife Habitat and is working toward that goal. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 7 at the Pool. The Garage Sale committee needs a chairperson. The Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award (a/k/a Duck Award) was awarded to former Councilman Matthew Danzuso for all of his hard work with both the Village Council and the MPCA. There will be two MinervaFlora clean-ups: April 14 & 28. The Annual Plant sale deadline is April 20 (page 6).

**Northland Community Council:** Councilman Dave Way reported for Bob Gale. Mayor Coleman’s plan for reporting vacant or abandoned homes & properties was presented at the March meeting. The theme for the Northland Fourth of July Parade is Celebration of History. The Presidential Awards Banquet is scheduled for March 23.

The following committee reports were made:

**Community:** Councilman Dave Way reported that the April 28

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Freedom Home Health was founded by professionals who realized there was a better way to provide home health care services. With over 15 years of home health field experience, we work with senior living communities and residents throughout Franklin and the contiguous counties. Our Medicare-certified agency has been deficiency-free with the Ohio Department of Health since its inception, placing best practices as a top priority for Freedom Home Health. Let us show you what we mean when we say, “Good enough isn’t good enough!”

Call 614.336.8870 for a free assessment of you or your loved one’s healthcare needs.

[www.FreedomHomeHealth.com](http://www.FreedomHomeHealth.com) • David@FreedomHomeHealth.com
Community Service Day will concentrate on cleaning up around the lakes. There is a 5K run-walk planned to raise funds for an ill child (a former Hawthorne Elementary student) on April 21 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. A children’s Safety Day will be held on June 30 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. A National Night Out is scheduled for August 7 with times to be announced.

**Finance:** Council President Pam Park-Curry received the Council’s approval for the January financials totaling $97,358.74.

**Legislative:** Councilwoman Sharon Bierman asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation/):
- Resolution 2012-3 - General Liability Insurance for May 2012 - May 2013, 2nd reading.
- Resolution 2012-4 - Pool Vending Machines contract, 2nd reading.
- Resolution 2012-5 - 2012 Permanent Appropriations Budget, 1st reading.
- Resolution 2012-6 - Requesting an estimate of revenue for a 5-mill Replacement Levy, 1st reading.
- Resolution 2012-7 - Submitting the question on the ballot for a 5-mill Replacement Levy, 2nd reading.
- Resolution 2012-8 - Placing the issue on the ballot for a 5-mill Replacement Levy, 1st reading.
- Resolution 2012-9 - Opposition to state-control of local tax collection, 1st reading.
- Ordinance 1-2012 - Garage Sales, 2nd reading tabled.

**Service:** Councilman Roberto Segovia had nothing to report.

**Streets:** Councilman Charles Legg reported that he will begin his annual road inspection and will put a list together of areas that need pot hole repairs and crack sealing.

**Addendum:** At the March 19 Special Council Meeting, the following legislation was presented:
- Resolution 2012-5 - Permanent Appropriations Budget for 2012, 2nd & 3rd readings, passed. •

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**MPCA Plant Sale**

**10" Hanging Baskets - $18 each**
- Calibrachoa yellow purple pink $ 
- Wave Petunia blue rose purple pink $ 
- Impatiens mixed $ 

**10" Hanging Baskets - $20 each**
- Ivy Geraniums blue red white pink $ 
- Fuschia purple/pink pink/red $ 

**Flower Flats - $15 each (36 plants)**
- Green Leaf Begonia red white pink $ 
- Impatiens lavender red white pink $ 
- Coleus carefree mix wizard mix $ 
- Marigold orange yellow mix $ 
- Zinnia giant mix dreamland mix $ 

**Flower Flats - $8 each (6 plants)**
- Wave Petunia blue rose purple pink $ 

**Vegetables - $3 each (3" pot)**
- Pepper sweet banana better belle $ 
- Cucumber $ 
- Tomato beefsteak early girl roma cherokee purple sweet 100 cherry $ 

**Herbs - $3 each (3" pot)**
- Italian basil dark oap basil Tuscan blue rosemary mother of thyme cilantro flatleaf parsley dill $ 

**Optional** - $5 delivery within Minerva Park $ 

**TOTAL** $ 

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**Deadlines**
Apr. 20 - Orders & Payment
May 11, 5:30p - Pick-up at 3071 Minerva Lake Rd.

Plants are based on availability. We will call you if substitutions become necessary. The vendor is DeMoyno’s. Contact Lisa at 891-2166 with questions. •
... continued from page 1

We had two residents apply for and one receive the revised $500 Nancy Fisher Scholarship. The MPCA’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year (a/k/a the Duck Award) was awarded to ex-Councilman Matthew Danzuso. The Northland Community Council’s President’s Award for 2011 went to Marilyn Herboltzheimer for her years as Membership chair and her other various volunteering. Glenda and Andy Morris also receive the NCC President’s Award for their work with the Children’s Committee (Glenda is its chair), being street reps (Glenda was the rep, and Andy has taken over her post), and for the many ways they help out.

The Children’s Committee, under the leadership of Glenda Morris, had 3 large events in 2011. The Easter Egg Hunt hosted 75 children looking for 1,000 eggs. There were prizes, seedlings provided by the Green Team, and line dances with the Easter Bunny. For Halloween, the Ohio Nature Center presented some owls and owl history to 35+ kids, snacks were had, crafts were made, and costume prizes were given out. The Christmas Party had 25+ kids doing ornament crafts, grandparent gifts, greeting cards, a Play-Doh party, and visiting with Santa Claus. The committee also helped at the annual Family Fun Night at the pool with games and a raffle and at Founders Day with games, contests, and activities. Glenda says many volunteers helped out at all parties and helped with baking and prepping.

MinervaFlora, chaired by Bob Gale, had its usual garden contest, garden tour, Festival of Lights, and service days with the help of 25 people. Bob, as Sunshine Committee chair, continues to send notes to those in our community who may need words of encouragement during difficult times. As NCC rep, Bob brings us the news from the Northland Community Council. Dave Way is the alternate NCC rep.

Karen Cogley reported that the Green Team was busy in 2011, hosting speakers about backyard bird feeding, organic gardening, invasive plants, organic lawn care, and bat conservation, with related articles about bats, the Asian long-horned beetles, garlic mustard, invasive plants, recycling, and organic lawn care. Their team leader, Greg Wittmann, stepped down in 2011, and now the Green Team is changing its lead person quarterly. In 2011, they started a Facebook page. Janice Windborne reported that the Community Garden had 20 plots used into November 2011. The garden has remained organic, even through an invasion of squash bugs. The MPCA thanks Hawthorne School for their support of the garden.

With Sid Townsend at the helm, the Summer Music Series presented 3 concerts - light jazz in June, bluegrass & gospel in July, and Dixieland in August.

The December 2011 Christmas Carriage Rides, organized by Mayor Lynn Eisenhout, were fully sponsored by your MPCA, presenting desserts instead of the usual light supper. The change seemed to be well received.

All of our other traditional events were put on as usual, including the annual Garage Sale chaired by Dianne Poncinie, Family Fun Night at the pool, Founders Day chaired by Bonnie Townsend, a Wine & Cheese event at the pool, and Candidates night, a lengthy but important event this past year. Our couple in charge of sign distribution, Alan and Nayda Hipolite, are doing a spectacular job, as is Sharon Bierman, producing the Villager and annual Resident Directory.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to all those who have helped this past year (even the littlest bit of help is helpful and welcome). As you certainly have read many times before, all of these events take people to drive them, to make them a success. If you are interested in helping out with anything mentioned above or if you have fresh ideas for events, please let us know. Contact Bonnie Townsend (890-2427) or Lisa Craddock Thitoff (891-2166).

Fiscal Officer

By Nancy White, Fiscal Officer

... I am honored to serve as your newly appointed Fiscal Officer. Having been a Fiscal Officer at another municipality for 28 years, the responsibilities and duties of this position are not unfamiliar to me... the village form of government is only slightly different.

Returning to Minerva Park is somewhat déjà vu because I grew up not far from here, attended Hawthorne, and graduated from Westerville High School when there was only one. I spent many nights at slumber parties and ice skating, sledding, and visiting friends here in the Village. So I do have some history here, even though it is not recent. Life does come full circle.

Having joined the Village at the beginning of October, it was necessary for me to get up to speed. I am impressed that the staff so diligently tries to serve the residents, but as required by law, the Village must respond to all public records requests, the sheer volume of which has required numerous hours of staff time to fulfill, taking valuable time from their everyday duties. This in turn costs the Village money that could be better spent in other areas.

As you have seen in the news, the state legislature has reduced the Government funds by 25% during the last half of 2011 and will
reduce it by an additional 25% in 2012 (with an estimated loss in 2012 of $26,650). In 2013, the Inheritance Tax will be eliminated. Typically, the Village does not receive a large income from Inheritance Taxes, but when these monies are received ($66,677.19 in 2011), they can be used to offset Village expenses. The governor also is looking to reduce the number of municipalities for a "skinny Ohio," meaning that small municipalities will be encouraged to consolidate with larger municipalities. Additionally, the state is considering centralizing and taking control of collecting local income tax away from small municipalities like Minerva Park.

Your Council is being proactive in addressing this issue, with legislation voicing opposition to such a move (minervapark.org/legislation/2012/2012-9_control-tax-collection.doc). These and other challenges obviously mean there will need to be continued reductions in expenses to offset these reductions in funding, and some projects may need to be pushed back until the funds are available.

The Police Department has completed its first year under the supervision of the newly hired Chief Nuesse. She has made numerous changes and trimmed the operating expenses while continuing to provide the service that the residents expect. In 2011, Chief Nuesse led the Police Department to more that $26,000 under budget.

The Pool had another year of operating in the black. The profit for 2011 was $3,295.02, slightly down from 2010. During the early part of 2011, the Village completed a project at the pool that was funded by an ODNR grant under the NatureWorks designation. The total project was $27,000, with the Village receiving $19,500 toward installing a second handicap ramp, laying concrete in the triangle adjacent to the children’s slide, and extending the deck at the southeast corner of the eating area to accommodate a few more tables.

In 2011, the Village was awarded a 100% Ohio Public Works Commission grant for a paving project on Jordan Road, Park Lane Court, and Park Lane Drive, in the amount of approximately $223,756, with work to be done in 2012. This represents the final phase of resurfacing all of Minerva Park’s streets starting in 2004. Mill & fill has an average lifespan of 16 years, so this should allow MP an opportunity to replenish the Street Fund, anticipating that the cycle will start again in 2020.

The new year will present challenges in trying to keep the Village operational costs down. The staff makes every effort to spend Village funds in a responsible manner while continuing to provide service to the residents. I have met many new people who work in various capacities for the Village as both employees and volunteers. It is truly a close-knit community that all should be proud to be a part of. 2011 General Fund

| Total Revenue | $1,427,606.52 |
| Property Tax | $488,958.33 |
| Income Tax | $275,403.07 |
| Inheritance Tax | $66,677.19 |
| Expenditures | $1,462,049.27 |

**Police Department**

By Chief Kim Nuesse ... 2011 was a transition year for the Minerva Park Police Department. In January 2011, I began my term as police chief. In February, we began coordinating our investigative services with Blendon Township Police Department. We also did some internal assessment and restructuring within our department. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office conducted an independent internal audit of our property and evidence room, and we received a good report.

I also conducted an equipment audit, requested a LEADS audit, and reviewed our grants, which resulted in good findings. In March, we began a service sharing arrangement with Gahanna’s fleet maintenance service and IT departments to provide repairs to our police cars and computers. The transition has been seamless and beneficial for both communities.

April and May resulted in a new centralized records management system for our police department that eliminated taking paper reports and provided us with access to information in the police cruisers in a timelier manner. This system was provided to us at no cost from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. Similar systems range from $100,000 or more to implement. Our records management system also allowed us to better track property and evidence. We were one of three agencies chosen statewide by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office to beta test a new citation module for the records management system.

In June, we received new radios from a Homeland Security grant, valued at approximately $10,000. We also received free scheduling software from a federal grant program and federal grant assistance for ballistic vests for officers that will reimburse the Village up to 50% of the purchase cost.

There have been new officers added to the department this year. Officers Ian Willis, Barry Harp, Curt Kelly, and Thomas Baughn have made a great addition to our policing team. Promotions also occurred with Matt Fenstermaker being promoted to Lieutenant and Jim Boyers promoted to Sergeant. Lt. Rex Waldenmyer was reassigned from patrol to detective and has assisted in solving several cases successfully.

Our supervisors received
Our 2011 statistics ... Calls for service .................... 1,347
9-1-1 Calls ............................... 22
Animal Complaints ....................... 31
Assault ................................. 8
Assist Other Agency .................. 156

Burglary ................................ 16
Complaints ............................. 120
Contact Citizen ......................... 83
Deaths .................................. 2
Disabled Vehicle ................. 14
Disturbance ............................ 8
Domestic Violence ............... 17
Drunk Person ......................... 1
EMS Needed ........................... 2
False Alarm - Burglary ............ 87
Felony Warrant ......................... 1
Fight .................................. 2
Fire - Vehicle .......................... 1
Follow-up investigations ........... 46
Hit-Skip Accident ..................... 1
Injury Accident ......................... 2
Investigate Open Door ............. 54
Juvenile Complaint .................. 8
Mentally Ill Person .................. 2
Misdemeanor Warrant .............. 5
Missing Person ......................... 28
Missing Person Returned-Found ... 20
Narcotics Complaint ............... 2
Neighbor Complaint ................ 1
Property Damage Accident ...... 25
Rape ................................... 1
Reports ................................. 16
Robberies .............................. 1
Robbery Alarm ......................... 6
Shots Fired ............................ 4
Stolen Vehicle ......................... 3
Suicide Attempt ....................... 6
Suspicious Activity ................. 103
Theft .................................. 29
Threats/Harassment ................. 8
Traffic Jam, Road Blocked ....... 3
Traffic Violations ................. 386
Unknown Trouble .................. 4
Vandalism .............................. 12

The MPPD received 176 hours of federal and state grant-funded training at no cost to the department. In addition, our officers received another 270 hours of varied training, ranging from Ethics, Search & Seizure Law updates, CPR/first responder training, and other important topics.

In July, we revived the bicycle patrol, which was welcomed by our community.

In the fall, we began our neighborhood watch programs and currently have two very active groups - one on Alder Vista and another on Lakewood. Our goal is to have neighborhood watch groups throughout the Village for better communication between the police department and residents. We already have begun to see good results from our partnership with these two groups.

In December, we were awarded another equipment grant, a RAPID ID fingerprint unit, to use while on patrol to assist us in identifying criminals and wanted persons more quickly. Lt. Waldenmyer organized a very successful Cops for Kids toy drive, as a result of the generosity of our Village residents, for which we are grateful. We received enough donations to help local families and provide gifts to Franklin County Children’s Services and to a domestic violence shelter for the children there who were in need. Thank you to our residents for making a wonderful holiday possible for all these children and for your continued support for our police officers. We are looking forward to continued progress in 2012.

Our new police chief, Kim Nuesse, has implemented new guidelines for ticketing procedures in our Village. This year we transferred only 45 cases to Franklin County Municipal Court as compared to transferring 421 cases in 2010, a reduction of 89%. These cases help support our Mayor’s Court and allow the Village the opportunity to collect this money instead of Franklin County Municipal Court.

The public is invited to attend Mayor’s Court, held on every other Tuesday at 5p. Our 2011 statistics are as follows:

Citation Payments .................... 677
To MP General Fund ............... $35,654.98
To MP Computer Fund .............. $1,444
Paid to the State ..................... $9,897.52
Total ................................ $47,317.10

Fire Department - EMS

By Chief Rick Hoechstetter ...

The Fire Department responded to 377 emergency calls in 2011, representing a slight decrease from 2010 but slightly above the average annual number of runs during the decade. While this number may fluctuate a bit, the one thing that doesn’t is the complete 9-1-1 Fire-Rescue-EMS coverage the Village enjoys because of our participation in the Franklin County Automatic Response District. Nine percent of our calls came from Minerva Park, 16% from Blendon Township, 70% from Columbus, and 5% from Westerville and other areas.

Members served a total of 7,248 hours in 2011, with 76% of this total paid medic hours and the rest volunteer time. I would like to recognize the efforts of the entire Department in this important area. I also would like to express the Department’s appreciation of the Mayor, Council, and the Community for their continued support.

Many officers and members of the Fire Department participated in community outreach programs, including providing food service at...
the Village Garage Sale in May, participating in Safety Day, holding fire safety programs during Fire Safety week in October at Hawthorne Elementary School, and the continuation of the File of Life Program that is free to Village residents. It consists of a card you affix to your refrigerator door, listing your emergency information in case the squad is called to your house. Quick access to your doctor, prescription information, allergies, etc., can make a difference when someone is unable to speak for themselves during an emergency. Please call the Station (882-3375) or email firechief@minervapark.org if you would like us to drop off some File of Life cards at your home.

The Fire Department did not make any major capital expenditures this year, although the medic vehicle needed one relatively major transmission repair. The monitors, radios, and all the rest of the equipment appear to remain in proper working order. The Columbus Fire Alarm Office updated their Computer-Aided Dispatching (CAD) system to include a data channel. This will permit them to include information other than the call data, such as specific route maps or staging information, with each emergency call. They also upgraded their dispatching software, which required us to upgrade our Mobile Data Console (MDC). We are in the process of doing so.

The Nextel rebanding effort (exchanging our existing radios for new digital radios in exchange for the rights to our existing 800 Mz band-width) continues. That's the good news. That it should be complete in a few years (and always will be), remains the other side of the story.

Fire inspections continued at the usual pace this year, and there were no major issues to report. We are waiting for the Bureau of Underground Tanks and Regulations (BUSTR) to issue an administrative order that will require the Payless Quick Stop tenants (5620 Cleveland Avenue) to take the necessary action to remediate the contamination issues that remain following the removal in 2007 of the fuel storage tanks on the property. The Tier I testing, due to have been completed by October 2008, was never done. I wish to again recognize Fire Inspector Tom McIlvainahen this year for his efforts.

The 2011 run data are as follows. We very proudly serve Minerva Park.

- Illness ....................................... 151
- Injury .......................................... 82
- Vehicle-related ................................ 37
- Difficulty breathing ................. 32
- Chest pain .................................. 26
- Fire ...............................................0
- Other ...........................................49

**Zoning**

By Sara Schumacher, Zoning Clerk ... When thinking ahead to home improvement projects, remember to call the Village, and our staff will help you determine whether your project requires a permit from the Village or Franklin County. The Planning & Zoning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Building.

Please note the following schedule for filing applications for hearings before the Planning & Zoning Commission for 2012:

- by January 15 ............ for February 7
- by February 15 .......... for March 6
- by March 15 .............. for April 3
- by April 15 ............... for May 1
- by May 15 ................ for June 5
- by June 15 ................ for July 10*
- by July 15 ................ for August 7
- by August 15 .......... for September 4
- by September 15 ...... for October 2
- by October 15 ......... for November 13*
- by November 15 ...... for December 4

* Rescheduled because of a holiday and election day.

The following hearings and/or permits were heard in 2011, totaling $1020 in fees:

- Commercial Daycare ...............1
- Commercial Fence Variance ........1
- Commercial Plumbing ...............6
- Commercial Signs .....................5
- Deck ............................................2
- Fence ..........................................5
- Home Occupation .....................1
- Residential Plumbing .............. 3

**Mayor's Office**

By Mayor Lynn Eisentrout ...

2011 was a year of progress and some changes.

In January, we hired Kim Nuesse as our new Police Chief. In the nearly 14 months that she has been with us, the Department has benefited greatly from her experience in securing grant funding, networking, partnering with neighboring agencies, initiating numerous training opportunities for our officers, and supporting two active block watch groups.

Also in January, Minerva Lake Road resident Dave Hays was appointed as our new Code Enforcement Officer. Dave also serves as the City of Bexley's Code Enforcement Officer and brings a wealth of knowledge to the position.

Like many other communities, we saw the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and the effects they had on our beautiful trees. Residents Bob Gale, Greg Wittmann, and then-Councilman Matthew Danzuso spent many hours conducting an inventory of our tree population to assess the extent of the infestation. While attending a seminar on the EAB, Greg found that there was grant funding available to municipalities from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to treat and remove trees on government-owned land. Green Team members Karen Cogley, Bob Gale, Jennifer Paulken, and I completed and submitted a grant application requesting $5,000...
from ODNR and pledging $5,000 from the Village. Unfortunately, we received word in March that our application was not approved. We continue to work on the problem.

Many thanks for generously supporting our two replacement levies in 2011: a 4.0 mill levy in May valued at $115,010.32 and a 1.9 mill levy in November valued at $73,630.40. We diligently strive to manage your tax dollars wisely in these trying times.

Also in November, residents re-elected me as your Mayor for a third term. I am most grateful for your support and will continue to work on your behalf.

Our 2010-2011 Street Repair Project was completed on schedule and came in under budget by approximately $58,000.

Wildwood Road resident Harry Toy spearheaded a fundraising effort for a Veterans Memorial to be erected near the Community Building. It will recognize veterans who have served in all branches of the military and those who remain missing in action. While a model of the memorial has not yet been finalized, contributions are still being accepted. The goal is to have the memorial installed by Veterans Day. If you wish to make a contribution, please contact Harry at 890-0141.

We continue to monitor both lakes, particularly the North Lake’s algae issues. In April, the Council approved $5,300 for 12 chemical treatments of the North Lake.

These treatments, in conjunction with the aerators running 24/7, seem to be very effective in keeping the algae problem under control. We will continue to monitor the situation and in all likelihood will treat the North lake again this year.

In June, long-time Clerk-Treasurer Suzanne Coulter tendered her resignation and became our Acting Fiscal Officer until Fiscal Officer Nancy White was appointed. Nancy comes to us with 28 years of experience as Mifflin Township’s Fiscal Officer. She has been working closely with my office and the Finance Committee to ensure the financial health of the Village both now and in the future. This is in part because we must prepare for Local Government funding cuts and the elimination of the Inheritance Tax in 2013.

An application was submitted in September to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) to mill and fill Jordan Road, Park Lane Court, and Park Lane Drive. After several revisions and many hours of work on this application, we received word that we were approved for a 100% grant totaling $223,756, meaning that these roads can be milled & filled in 2012 at no cost to the Village. It was a wonderful way to end the year!

Thank you for your support, suggestions, and assistance throughout this past year. As your Mayor, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you.
The Villager is beginning 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 there is safety in numbers, and the more neighbors we know, the safer we are. The feature is personal in nature and not a business advertisement.

If you want to be featured (or you want to nominate a MP neighbor), send your full name (or neighbor’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 first interviewee is David VanScoy of Minerva Lake Road.

David VanScoy

I have lived in MP for 7 years and previously lived in Lancaster and Carroll.

Since 1986, I've worked in medical massage therapy and reflexology (currently with Farabaugh Chiropractic Clinic), which has been my most interesting job. Before that, I worked at Ohio Bell, Anchor Hocking, Kroger, and US Cargo and Carrier.

I like that MP doesn't have cookie-cutter homes, and they are all different. I love all my neighbors. They are amazingly nice people, and I’ve never had such luck before. Among my favorite things about MP - the streets get plowed, there are many activities for children (I have an 8-year-old daughter), Christmas Carriage Rides with desserts, our own EMS, and my house backs up to the #1 green. My one wish is for underground electrical lines!

I earned a Black Belt in taekwondo in 2011 at age 56, and I was the oldest man ever trained by Greg Baker, the bronze medalist in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea. It took me 4 years of training, 3 hours a week. Now I train my daughter in self-defense. I've played the drums since age 10, and I love golf. I want to learn to play the harmonica and to cook ... I am always looking for good recipes.

Ohio is the only state that licenses massage therapists through its Medical Board. My new neighbors researched and learned that MP is the safest area in central Ohio. I love my neighborhood. I am never leaving. I hope they bury me in my back yard. •

Fiesta

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Columbus, OH 43231
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February - MP Police made 3 misdemeanor arrests, transported to the Franklin County jail.
2-7 .... 7:30p, 2800 blk Lakewood Dr, runaway juvenile
2-9 .... 9:02p, 2500 blk Jordan Rd, identity theft reported
2-23 .. 11:41p, 5300 blk Park Lane Dr, phone harassment
2-23 .. 4:34p, 5000 Maplewood Dr, dog bite
2-25 .. 12:32p, Enocam Motors, 5216 Cleveland Ave, criminal trespassing reported •

Minerva Park Police

BABYSITTER
Red Cross Certified
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
Minerva Park Community Association
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus OH 43231

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.

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