The first of this season’s Summer Music Series will be on Sunday, June 10, from 5p-6:30p at the lakeside bandstand. The concert will feature the Gas Pump Jockeys from Columbus OH, a 5-piece band will present a show that features great music from the 1960s and 1970s, comedy, retro attire, and props. You will enjoy the music, laugh, and feel like dancing! You can find out more about the band at gaspumpjockeys.com.

Admission is free, but donations will be accepted. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Transportation is available for MP seniors and handicapped residents. Please call Sid Townsend (890-2427) by Thursday, June 7, to arrange a ride. Bring your lawn chair or blanket to the lakeside bandstand for a Sunday afternoon of fun music by the Gas Pump Jockeys. Our thanks to the dues-paying members of the Community Association for underwriting this concert. •

June 23
Family Fun Night
Pool • 7p-10p

Bring the kids! Admission only $3. Food available for purchase.

Meet new ...
Council Member
Dick McCreary, page 6.

Garage Sale
Our thanks to Sara Schumacher and daughter Maddie for co-chairing the 2012 Garage Sale, scheduled for August 4. The registration form is on page 4.

JUNE DATES
5 (5p) ..................... Mayor's Court
5 (7:30p) ........ Planning & Zoning
9 (8a) ............ Council Work Session
10 (5p-6:30p)........... Music Series
11 (7p) .............. Council Meeting
13 (7:30p) ............ MPCA Meeting
19 (5p) .................. Mayor's Court
20 (5p) ............ Villager Deadline
23 (7p-10p) ........ Family Fun Night
MPCA News

Garden Tour
Sunday, July 1
1p-5p

Eight gardens will be open from 1p-5p on Sunday, July 1, in a free tour sponsored by the Minerva Park Community Association. This year’s tour is in memory of Judy Wright, a long-time participant in the event. For more information, call 882-8622. Included in this year’s tour are:

• 2690 Lakewood Dr., an English cottage garden combined with a shady park-like setting along a ravine with hosta, perennials, annuals, and ground covers.
• 5239 East Shore Dr., a lakeside garden with fountains, perennials, annuals, and ground cover.
• 2806 Maplewood Dr., a large garden with impatiens, pool & pool house, pond, water features, statues, figurines, secret gardens, and tropical plants.
• Lakewood at Maplewood Dr., the Mary Yost Garden, a public garden with numerous hosta and other perennials in a natural setting.
• 2585 Minerva Lake Rd., a colorful perennial garden with cozy patio in front yard, collection of ferns and hosta in a side bed, rain garden with a peaceful ravine in the back yard.
• 2829 Minerva Lake Rd., Minerva Park Community Building, a colorful shade garden with hosta, perennials, and annuals. The rear garden overlooks the south lake.
• 3071 Minerva Lake Rd., a hillside perennial & vegetable garden surrounded by mature trees in a natural setting overlooking a golf course. Look in the fenced back yard for the secret garden
• Minerva Lake Rd. at Farview Rd., a newly established Community Garden created by the MP Community Association’s Green Team with cooperation of Hawthorne Elementary School.

Four Seasons Garden Award

The MPCA needs judges for the Four Season Garden Award competition to be held in July. Please contact Bob Gale at 882-8622 to volunteer.

Thank You

Thanks go to MinervaFlora volunteers who assisted in garden cleanups and plantings this spring, most notably Rex Shoemaker, Janet Kohn, Steve & Lisa Thitoff, Garrett Rabenold, Lori & Gunnar Vogel.

Minerva Park Police

April - MP Police made 1 felony and 3 misdemeanor arrests, all transported to the Franklin County jail.

4-14 .. 12:58p, 2800 blk Maplewood Dr., criminal trespass reported
4-15 .. 1:35p, 5400 Cleveland Ave., property found
4-16 .. 10:43p, St.Rt. 161 & Highway 3, vandalism, government entity
4-23 .. 4:50p, Minerva Park Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave., theft
4-29 .. 9a, 2500 blk Wildwood Rd., property damage reported

NO Grass Clippings

When you sweep or blow grass clippings or any yard waste into the streets, it usually ends up flowing down the street and clogging the storm sewers. Either sweep up your grass clippings from the street and dispose of them properly or scatter them about your own yard where they will break down and provide nutrients for your lawn.

If you hire a lawn care company to mow your lawn, please make them aware of our rules prohibiting this practice, and thank you for your neighborliness in tending to your own property responsibly.

Help keep our storm sewers cleared!
Our pool opened on Saturday, May 26, and looks just beautiful. The 5th-graders from Hawthorne Elementary held their end-of-the-year party on May 24 and had a great time. Many thanks to Tom & Troy Shannon, Lisa & Steve Thitoff, Administrative Assistant Sara Schumacher, Fiscal Officer Nancy White, Pool Manager John Friedel, Jim Fischer, and Fire Chief Rick Hoechstetter for their hard work preparing for Opening Day. Please watch future issues of the Villager for events to be held at the pool.

Grant Funding: We received good news in mid-May. You may recall that, in December 2011, we submitted an application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for grant money from the 2011 Ash Removal and Canopy Restoration Grant Fund for a project totaling a $10,000 - $5,000 in grant money and $5,000 in matching funds pledged from the Village. We received word in March 2012 that we had not been approved. Forty-three applications were received totaling $882,000, and with only $540,000 of available in grant dollars, clearly all applicants could not be approved. This was a one-time allocation from the United States Department of Agriculture Forestry Service, but the ODNR Division of Forestry, recognizing the overwhelming need for funding by Ohio municipalities for both ash tree removal and restocking wooded areas, promised to pursue additional funding. They also promised to let us know if more funding became available, which they did. This funding may be used only on public properties where ash trees are currently growing and on private properties where these trees may negatively impact public rights-of-way or other public properties. I would like to extend my gratitude to the Green Team and former Councilman Matthew Danzuso, all of whom devoted a great deal of time and worked under a very short deadline to make our application eligible for consideration. There will be more on this later. If you have any questions, please contact me.

We need your help: I can’t begin to count the number of times we have run an article asking residents to PLEASE not leave grass clippings and other yard waste in the street. This clogs the storm drains,impeding drainage of the streets during heavy rainfall, and we have to pay our maintenance staff to clear the drains. It only takes a moment for you to sweep in front of your home. If you have a landscape company mowing your grass, please remind them to clean up the street area.

Shopping Center: The shopping center located at Cleveland Avenue and Woodley Road is currently in receivership. I have been engaged in ongoing talks with the holding bank and am very pleased with some of their plans to improve the property and attract good vendors, including sprucing up both the front and rear areas, clearing away dead brush and unsightly trees, and removing or repairing existing fences. I will keep you informed as we move along.

Community Service Day: The focus of the May service day was supposed to be cleaning the ravine. We found that the rock dam area was filled with so much debris, yard waste, and trash that we decided to concentrate on this area instead. It was very labor-intensive and messy. A few of the volunteers did walk the ravine and pick up trash. While the turnout was very disappointing and only a dozen residents signed in, we accomplished quite a bit. Thank you Ezra & Gus Angulo, Bob Gale, Chief Rick Hoechstetter, Janet Kohn, Piper Lane, Mike Pajak, Pam & Rowan Ratvasky, Dianne Schrimpf, Councilman Dave Way, and Greg Wittmann.

Special Council Meeting: The usual Council work session became a Special Council meeting to consider two issues: to interview candidates for the Council vacancy and to discuss legislation to contract for liability insurance coverage. After concluding interviews with applicants Tony Benedetti and Richard McCreary, a lengthy discussion followed about the three insurance proposals, and the pertinent legislation was tabled.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting held on May 14.

Council Appointment: The first order of business was to appoint a resident to fill the Council vacancy left by Sharon Bierman’s resignation. Minerva Lake Road resident Richard McCreary's appointment was approved by a vote of 4 ayes, 1 nay (Councilman Segovia). See page 6 for more information about Councilman McCreary.

The following reports were made:
EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechtetter reported that there were no vehicle repairs during April. He had arranged to pick up hoses to fill the pool on May 16. He is continuing to paint the hydrants for the season. He has spoken to Gahanna about their maintaining the EMS vehicle but found that there are limitations of the type of services that Gahanna can offer for a vehicle of that size. Also, their times of operation are limited.

Police: Chief Kim Nuesse reported that the police chaplain training is complete. Two chaplains have volunteered to ride with our officers and assist both police officers and residents in times of crisis, i.e., death notifications, etc. Chief Nuesse will introduce them to Council at a future meeting. Read more on page 5. The total cost (covered by insurance) for a cruiser purchase and installation of equipment was revised to be $30,000. This cruiser replaces the one totaled earlier this year, in which our officer was not at fault.

Legal: Law Director Jennifer Croghan was asked for an opinion about tree removal and the responsibilities of the Village and the property owner, specifically about a tree that was located on a walkway on Village land. She replied that typically any trees or plants in the easement are the property owner's responsibility because the easement area is supposed to be kept clear for Village right-of-way or utility work. We did conclude, however, that the particular tree in question was on the Village walkway and was the Village's responsibility. It subsequently has been removed by the Village.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays continues to address yards that are not mowed and are overgrown with weeds. Violation letters were issued to three retail centers requesting that they clean up their properties. He spoke with a HUD representative about an Elmhurst property (where we have now seen some improvement). The keno sign and the skill-based games have been removed from the Tobacco Land store. The large truck at Enocam has been removed. Complaints about a large army truck at an Alder Vista address were discussed, and Dave will report back to the Council. The subject of allowing chickens in the Village and how the code reads was raised by Councilman Segovia, a subject discussed at length at the May Planning & Zoning meeting. The consensus of those P&Z members present was that it was allowed as long as the chickens were not deemed a nuisance.

Minerva Park Community Association: MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff reported on the following events: Minerva Park's first Art Show was a successful and appreciated event. The Annual Garden Tour is scheduled for July 1 from 1-5 p.m. Garden judging will be held in mid-July. There seems to be interest in another self-defense class similar to the one conducted by Chief Nuesse in April. Four applications were received for the Nancy Fischer Scholarship. Sara and Maddie Schumacher have agreed to co-chair the Garage Sale Committee, scheduled for Saturday, August 4, from 9-4 p.m.

The following Committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman Dave Way made the following report: The Children's Safety Day is scheduled for June 30 from 1-3 p.m. at the Community Building. Resident Appreciation Day is tentatively scheduled for July 28 at the pool. There will be more details in the July Villager. National Night Out will be held on August 8.

Finance: Council President Pam

Registration

MPCA Garage Sale FUNDRAISER - August 4 • 9a-4p
Registration Deadline - August 1 • 7p
$5 Late Registration fee after August 1 • 7p (you will not be on the map)

Enclosed is my check for $5, payable to “Minerva Park Community Association,” for participation in the MPCA 2012 annual garage sale FUNDRAISER. Additionally, I will submit 10% of my proceeds.

Name
Address
Phone

RETURN to Sara Schumacher, 882-5743 or 648-0579, at the Community Building.

PACKETS will be distributed Friday, August 3, before 9a.

PROCEEDS - Volunteers will stop by your home on August 4 between 3p-4p to collect your 10% proceeds.
Park-Curry suggested that the April Financials be considered for approval at the June meeting because the Council members received the reports later than anticipated.

**Legislative:** Council President Pam Park-Curry asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation):

- **Resolution 2012-03** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract for general liability insurance, and declaring an emergency. This was tabled for future consideration.

- **Resolution 2012-06** - Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to request a certification and estimate of revenue from the Franklin County Auditor’s office for a five (5) mill five (5) year replacement tax levy, and declaring an emergency. Passed with five ayes and one abstention (Councilman McCreary).

- **Resolution 2012-09** - Opposing the State of Ohio or any other third-party central collection entity from taking control of municipal income tax collection, and declaring an emergency. Passed with five ayes and one nay Councilman Segovia.

- **Resolution 2012-13** - Authorizing the purchase a 2009 Dodge Charger police cruiser and outfit it for service at a cost not to exceed $30,000, and declaring an emergency. Rules suspended, three readings waived, unanimously passed.

- **Ordinance 03-2012** - Determining the fee to be paid by a provider offering video service in the Village, authorizing the Mayor to give notice to the video service provider of the fee. First reading accepted.

**Safety:** Councilman Todd Walter reported that the cost to replace the totaled police cruiser was because of damaged equipment and the inability of some equipment to be successfully transferred to the replacement vehicle. These monies are covered by the Village’s insurance.

**Service:** Councilman Roberto Segovia reported that the April 16 Committee meeting minutes had been sent to the Council members. He and his committee are considering the upcoming leaf collection contract. The frequency of the pick-up schedule was discussed to avoid leaves staying for too long in front of the residents’ homes. Concerns about leaves blowing into storm drains, further clogging them, were discussed. This will be one possible change to the contract.

**Streets:** Councilman Charles Legg distributed a very comprehensive report on the conditions of the streets for the pothole repairs and crack sealing project. Included in this report were some notes about the conditions of curbs, storm sewers, and drains.

**Addendum:** A Special Council Meeting was held on May 21 to further consider the three proposals for liability insurance coverage. After receiving additional information, the Council awarded the contract to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (Resolution 2012-03, unanimously passed as an emergency).

**Police Chaplains**
We have two new volunteers with our police department – Chaplain Matt Keller and Chaplain Shawn Hensley. Please join us in welcoming them to the community when you see them out on patrol with the officers.

Both men received training by Chaplain Bill Hounshell (Cincinnati area), a police chaplain serving four police agencies. He has trained chaplains for several departments throughout the State of Ohio and is writing a book for police chaplains.

Chaplain Keller lives in Westerville, and Chaplain Hensley resides in Blendon Township. Both men are looking forward to serving Minerva Park during critical incidents, death notifications, and other times of need and being a resource for our police officers. They started riding with our officers and meeting residents during the week of May 29.

**Warm weather brings more service calls for the Minerva Park Police.** As a result, officers are having difficulty locating some addresses that do not have numbers visibly posted on the front of the house or the mailbox. I encourage all residents to be certain you have reflective numbers or numbers that are large enough to be easily seen from the street, especially at night, so we can locate your house quickly in an emergency.

Our neighborhood watch groups are very active and have worked closely with our officers to prevent or intercept crime quickly on the southwest side of the Village. Our goal is to replicate this throughout the entire Village to keep our community a safer place to live. If you would like to host a meeting of your neighbors (we recommend no more than 12-20 per street) to start a neighborhood watch group in your area, please call me at the Police administrative offices, 882-1408, to set up a date and time. It is a minimal time commitment that yields great results and provides neighbors a venue to get to know one another and work together for a common cause.

On another note, if you need an officer to respond to a crime in progress, take a report, or for a suspicious person or activity, please call the 24-hour dispatch phone number at 882-1223. That number will be answered by the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office.
Dick McCreary
Appointed May 14, 2012
• 10-year MP homeowner
• 39-year OH resident
• Graduate, Electrical Engineer
• US Air Force veteran officer
• 32 years in law enforcement, retiring as a chief of police
• Thoroughly familiar with logistical planning, financial budgeting, training & staff allocation
• Well established reputation within the law enforcement community across 15 states

Born and educated in the Midwest, Dick moved around the country during his law enforcement career, settling in Ohio in the early 1970s. Despite his formal education in electrical engineering, he was “taken” by law enforcement, largely ignoring his formal education and pursuing that profession for 32 years. After retiring in 2002, he decided to take advantage of his technical expertise and founded Ohio Calibration Laboratories in Worthington. Janice, his wife of 20+ years, and he had long searched for a home in communities all around central Ohio. It took many years to find the home they had been seeking all along but didn’t realize it. When they finally their present home in the Village, they were overjoyed and vowed to stay here for the rest of their lives. They say that the neighborhood and the neighbors have made their experience here overwhelming, to say the least, and the overall community attitudes shared by so many of the residents have only reinforced their initial perceptions of what a wonderful and serene retreat the Village can be to those who live here.

After reassigning some of his daily responsibilities at his business, in part thanks to some highly skilled and competent staff, Dick decided to offer his services to the community when a council vacancy became open. He was appointed on May 14 and is looking forward to learning even more about the needs and desires of those in

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www.FreedomHomeHealth.com • David@FreedomHomeHealth.com
our community through his service as a Council member. Please feel free to contact him whenever you feel the need. His phone number is in the MPCA’s Resident Directory and is always answered.

“This position affords me one of the greatest opportunities I can ever achieve by being able to give back to a community that has been so gracious and considerate of my wife and me from the moment we first moved in. I take this responsibility very seriously and hope that together we can continue to enjoy the advantages of daily living in a secluded and beautiful community sheltered from the rest of the world’s stress. Our homes should be havens of peace and tranquility and, with your help, I will pledge to you my very best to see that this community endures well into the future.” •

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Dog Walking
Pet Sitting

Hannah Szlapak
890-4113

Our New Neighbors!
Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

Cara Chatfield & Nick Rohrbaugh, 2525 Jordan Rd, 216-268-9545, from Columbus,

Don & Jen Root, 5353 East Shore Dr., 657-2467, from Bethel Rd, Columbus

Timothy & Elizabeth Wagner & family, 2734 Alder Vista Dr., 498-0367, from Elgin IL

Jessica Kaynes, 2706 Wildwood Rd., 266-2109, from Gahanna

Kiel Stephens, 2558 Lakewood Dr., 307-6156, from Westerville

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

Mayor’s Court

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are June 5 & 19 at 5p. If you have questions, please call 882-1408 (Community Building).

April 2012

Citation payments .................... 60
Village General Fund ........$3,716
Computer Fund ....................$130
Remitted to the State ......... $1,069
Total Court Receipts .........$4,933

The Villager prints 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.” •
A.B.C. Home Care and Nursing Services
5362 Cleveland Ave. • Minerva Park

We are a Medicare-certified agency, in the business of servicing Central Ohio residents who require home health-care. We have been in business since 2000 and have had an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau because of no complaints, since we opened. We are deficiency-free.

We offer the following services
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2. Physical Therapy 7. Cardiac Management
3. Occupational Therapy 8. Fitness Program
4. Diabetic Care 9. Home Health Aide
5. COPD Management 10. and much more ...

We accept the following insurance
1. Medicare 4. PASSPORT
2. Medicaid 5. Senior Options
3. MRDD 6. MOLINA

882-3320
Call us for an in-home evaluation.

Backyard Wildlife
By Greg Wittmann

Recently I rounded the corner on my side yard and startled a very large female turkey. She took off into the ravine, and I’ve not seen her since. I regularly see frogs, snakes, and turtles. I have seen red fox, coyote, skunks, groundhogs, deer, raccoons, hummingbird moths, opossum, and more, some in my own yard and others in the Village.

Here is the point: “If you build it, they will come” ... wildlife, that is. The following is taken from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) website. About five years ago, I certified my yard as a back yard wildlife habitat and purchased a $30 sign that tells visitors that this yard has met the criteria for providing an ideal habitat for Ohio wildlife. It’s really much easier than you might think. NWF says that there are 5 basic elements of a certified wildlife habitat. These are:

• Food - Native plants provide wildlife with nectar, seeds, berries, and more. Feeders can be used to help supplement natural food sources.
• Water - All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing and breeding. I installed a small garden pond and some birdbaths in my yard.
• Cover - Wildlife need places to find shelter from the elements and hide from predators. Nesting boxes, holes in trees, and manicured stick or rock piles can help meet this need for wildlife.
• Places to Raise Young - Wildlife need special habitat for bearing and raising young. By learning just a little about the wildlife you want to attract, you can have loads of fun visiting nests of baby birds, rabbits, owls, and more.
• Sustainable Gardening - How you manage your garden can have an effect on the health of the soil, air, water, and habitat for native wildlife. I have gone organic in my yard, incorporating composting and rain barrels and replacing invasive exotic plants with indigenous ones.

The MPCA’s Green Team will hold workshops and seminars to help move us toward becoming a certified wildlife community. To learn more, visit the National Wildlife Federation at nwf.org/gardenforwildlife.
Service Day

Our thanks go to the too-few people who helped with Service Day on May 19. Greg Wittmann did an excellent job of getting trash out of the South Lake with his kayak! Others focused in getting the trash off the rock dam.

There are many opportunities to give back to your Village. Call David Way at 895-9963 to learn more.

MEDIC 119 ...

Where are you?

April 2012

In April, Medic 119 made 41 runs - 3 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 6 into Minerva Park, with 35 patients transported to local hospitals. 25 members volunteered a total of 610 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 2,574 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Brian Horton (53 hours), Jodi Lewis (53 hours), and Frank Meredith (48 hours).

MP Runs

4-9 ...... Ill person
4-10 .... Chest pains
4-12 .... Chest pains
4-12 .... Difficulty breathing
4-22 .... Ill person
4-26 .... Unconscious diabetic

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### Save the Dates

- Jul 1 - Garden Tour
- Jul 14 - Wine & Cheese at the pool
- Jul 15 - Summer Music Series
- Jul 17 - Birds & Butterflies Habitats
- mid-Jul - Garden Judging
- Aug 4 - Garage Sale
- Aug 8 - National Night Out

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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](http://minervapark.org/villager)

Next deadline: **Wednesday, June 20, 5p**