Historic Posters - Fundraiser

Residents John & Sue Hard (profiled on page 7) recently donated to the Community Association several reprints of the early plat of Minerva Park, suitable as posters or for framing. Double-sided (17” x 23”), they show the plat on one side and a brief history on the other. They are being offered as an MPCA fundraiser, for $10 each, 2 for $15, $15 each if laminated, add $35 for optional 2-sided Plexiglas framing. Please contact Rose Hart with your interest (rose_hart@hotmail.com).

Garden Railroad Open House

New in Minerva Park this year, join residents Bob and Pat Waddell, 2791 Alder Vista, as they open their garden railroad as part of the Columbus Garden Railway Society annual garden railway tour. The event, September 9, 1p to 5p, features tours of 18 garden railways in Central Ohio (thecgrs.org/2012_Open_Garden_Tour.php).

Their “Back in Time” Railroad was started in spring 2012. The Emmet Kelley Jr. circus train travels past a talking toad, singing birds, a gnome village, and a lighthouse with waterfall. Included are a pond with fish, a small village with a drive-in movie with real movies playing, a drive-in restaurant with car hops, a car wash, many 1950s and 1960s cars, a tunnel, a small farm, miniature circus (big top, animals, calliope, performers, etc.), carnival, and more. Gardeners will appreciate the wide variety of landscaping plants.

MP Mayor’s Court Magistrate Passes Away

We are saddened to report that Attorney Damon “Chip” Wetterauer, Jr., passed away suddenly while on vacation in Myrtle Beach SC, on August 22. He had a long and distinguished career of service to the City of Westerville, beginning in 1989 with four terms on its City Council. He most recently chaired the 2010 Charter Review Commission, helped establish a successful recycling program, approved major infrastructure improvements to advance the economic development of Westerville, helped set fiscal standards, and more. He had served as Minerva Park’s Mayor’s Court magistrate since May 2009.
From your MPCA President

On September 8, a portion of Minerva Lake Road will have its first annual block party. This party has been discussed off and on for 2-3 years, but things always got too busy.

In early August, neighbor and Village councilman Dave Way hosted Minerva Lake Road’s 1st block watch meeting at his house. This 30-minute meeting was attended by a few residents, Mayor Lynn Eisen Trout, and Police Chief Kim Nuesse, who was there to fill us in on the particulars of a block watch. The next step is for Chief Nuesse to meet with all of the residents in our “block” to get more in depth about what to look for and what steps to take if there is a safety concern. Her suggestion is to make the meeting a bit of business and a bit of socializing, so we decided to have the block party we had been wanting to have and add a little block watch meeting.

The first step was to decide where to have it (notify the police) and pick a date. After that, what houses to invite. We delivered “save the date” flyers to those addresses, and once we get the rest of the particulars figured out, we will deliver a second flyer with the “who, what, when, where, and why.” We will have a few families bring the meat and split the desserts and sides among the rest, requesting them to bring these to the party.

I am writing about this to perhaps inspire others in our Village to do the same - to get to know your neighbors and enlighten yourselves about safety in our neighborhood. I know there are a few other streets that have been hosting THEIR block parties for a few years, and I always hear great things about them. Soooo, enjoy the rest of your summer and have a great block watch party!

Lisa Craddock Thitoff

MPCA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

September 12 • 7:30p
Community Building

Nominations are being accepted for the positions of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Contact Tina Cates (776-1459) with your nominations by September 10.

Halloween Party

Volunteers and bakers are needed for this year’s Halloween Party. Please call Glenda Morris at 882-2359 to help.
Sunday, October 28, 1-3 p.m.
snacks, costume prizes, crafts, games, activities

NABA Golf Outing

Join the Northland Area Business Association for its annual golf outing on September 20 at the York Golf Club, 7459 North High Street. Information: Dave Cooper (888-2201, dave@inkwellcolumbus.com) or Lisa Fravel (882-6616, lisa.fravel@pnc.com).
With summer coming to a close, I want to thank all of you who patronized the pool and also for the referrals you sent this way. While we don't have any final revenue numbers, this looks like a more profitable year than last. We hope to close out the books (pay any outstanding bills and receive our final check from our vending machine company) by the end of October and then will provide a report to you.

Aftermath of June 29 Storm:
On August 1, I attended the Joint Franklin County Preliminary Damage Assessment meeting with representatives from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to submit our expenses along with the other municipalities that incurred clean-up costs after the June 29 storm. The purpose of this meeting was for each of us to meet individually with an agent from either EMA or FEMA to assess our applications and send all of this data to Washington to seek a disaster declaration, experiencing a storm of such magnitude that we qualified for federal aid. We received notice from the EMA on August 24 that Franklin County received a federal disaster declaration.

What happens next? I will be attending a Public Assistance Applicants’ Briefing on September 4 where we will receive documentation and instructions for our Village to apply to the Public Assistance Program for reimbursement of our expenses. After the briefing, I plan to attend a Cost Documentation class hosted by the Ohio EMA that will instruct us how to better track our costs for future incidents. The classes, briefing, and parking are offered at no charge. You may recall that we were successful in 2008 in recouping expenditures totaling about $11,000 for our chipping program, tree and stump removal, and purchasing a generator for the Community Building.

Residual Brush and Debris:
Driving around the Village, I see that there are still some piles of branches, logs, limbs, and debris at the curb in some residents’ yards. As indicated in the flyer distributed earlier, the chipping program was a one-time sweep through the Village in an effort to help us all get rid of debris from the June 29 storm. What is left is the responsibility of the homeowner to dispose of. You can do this by either by cutting the branches and limbs into lengths no greater than four feet and bundling them for Local Waste to pick up as part of the yard waste recycling program or take any yard waste to either Kurtz Brothers or Ohio Mulch. Kurtz Brothers is located at 6055 Westerville Road (882-0200). Ohio Mulch is located at 4665 Westerville Road (891-3242). There also are several landscaping companies and tree companies that can assist you.

Coffee with Council:
You are invited to sit and chat with your Village Council members and the Mayor on Monday, September 24, at 7 p.m. This get-together generally lasts 1 to 1.5 hours.

Benefit/Appreciation Concert:
Wildwood Road resident Harry Toy has scheduled a free concert to be held at the Community Building on Sunday, September 23, from 3-5 p.m. This concert is being held to recognize the service of our veterans to our country and the ongoing service to our community by our firefighters, EMTs, and police officers. Donations toward our Veterans Memorial will be gladly accepted and much appreciated.

2012 Street Project:
It is behind schedule, as so often happens with such projects. As I write this report, our hope is to complete the milling and filling and curb and gutter repairs on Jordan Road, Park Lane Court, and Park Lane Drive by the end of the first week of September.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting on August 13. Minutes were approved with five ayes and one abstention.

The following reports were made:

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported that the EMS vehicle has been repaired and is back in service. He thanked the Police Department, in particular Chief Nuesse, for finding the insurance provider of the individual who struck the vehicle. Some landscaping and grass cutting issues will need to be addressed during the current hydrant painting.
Police: Chief Kim Nuesse was excused, and Councilman Todd Walter reported in her absence. Cruiser# 3 should be in service by August 15. The Police Department will be reimbursed through a grant for the purchase of three vests totaling $680. Franklin County Homeland Security has approved a grant to purchase two new digital radios, a new digital portable radio, chargers, and extra batteries. A traffic engineer from our engineering company (CH2M Hill) approved the locations of the stop signs at Briar Rose Avenue and Lakewood Drive and will be making additional recommendations for traffic control devices and striping in other areas throughout the Village. One Block Watch group met on the evening of National Night Out. Two other street reps are planning neighborhood meetings to form Block Watch groups.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays reported that three fence permits were approved at the P&Z meeting on August 7. Clean-up along the fence line of the Jordan Road shopping center is progressing. A resident commented that he would like to see the Planning & Zoning Committee engage in more planning for the future of the Village.

Minerva Park Community Association: MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff reported that the Annual Garage Sale was successful. Scheduling the Volunteers of America (courtesy of a resident) to pick up unsold items after the sale was great idea and much appreciated by participating residents. The Summer Concert and the first Great Minerva Park Community Campout were canceled because of inclement weather. Meijer contributed a gift card worth $100. The Community Garden is doing well, and the MPCA purchased a picnic table for the garden area. The last Wine & Cheese event for the season was scheduled for August 18.

Northland Community Council: There was no report because the August meeting was to be the Annual Picnic on August 14. The following committee reports were made:

Community: Councilman David Way scheduled a committee meeting on August 22 to review drawings of the proposed Veterans Memorial and to discuss the project. There will be a Coffee with Council on September 24 at 7 p.m.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval for the July Financials totaling $187,785.85. She scheduled a committee meeting on August 20 at 7 p.m.

Legislative: Councilman Richard McCreary asked the Council to consider the following...
Ordinance 4-2012 - Adopting MP Code §230.02 regarding sale, trade-in, or other disposition of surplus material. Second reading accepted.

Ordinance 5-2102 - Wildlife feeding. Second reading accepted. Please note that this ordinance was drafted with the intent of prohibiting the feeding of geese on public lands in an attempt to control the geese population. The wording published in my report last month was a first attempt at drafting such an ordinance. I was in error for not being clearer that this policy would exclude private property. The Legislative Committee will be meeting on August 27 to continue their work on this piece of legislation for presentation at the October Council meeting.


Safety: Councilman Todd Walter provided a six-month expense report for vehicle maintenance for the Police Department. A few street light issues were brought to the Mayor’s attention.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia received approval to award the 2012 leaf collection contract to McKinney Landscaping for the sum of $10,000.

Streets: Councilman Charles Legg reported that his committee met on August 8 to discuss various street repairs separate from the 2012 Street Repair Project. These repairs will include crack sealing, repair of a collapsed catch basin on Maplewood, pothole repairs throughout the Village, pothole and asphalt repair in front of 2655 Minerva Lake Road, and milling and filling a portion of the alley behind the shopping center at Woodley and Cleveland Avenue, for an amount totaling $15,700. The Council approved an amount not to exceed $16,000 for the above-mentioned repairs.

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2nd Annual Minerva Park Health Fair

September 20th, 2012
10 am – 1 pm
Community Building
2829 Minerva Lake Road

Vendors include:
1) Freedom Home Health
2) Oakleaf Village of Columbus
3) Edgewood Manor of Westerville
4) HomeWell Senior Care
5) Columbus Prescription Pharmacies
6) Forest Hills Center
7) Southland Hearing Aids & Audiology
8) The Pine Box Agency
9) Solis Women’s Health
10) Dynamic Resource Insurance Group

$500 in Gift Card Door Prizes
Green Team Update

By Jennifer Pauken

After deciding that pursuing village-level Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation was not feasible, the Green Team is exploring other prospects that support our overall goals and mission. One option is the Tree City USA program through the National Arbor Day Foundation. The City of Columbus also has a Green Spot program that includes partnerships with various neighboring communities. Details about these opportunities will be forthcoming as we learn more. As always, we encourage residents to come to the meetings.

The Community Garden is in full, late-summer swing. Tomatoes are abundant, and most plots seem quite productive. Joann Ensminger presented information about making herbal bug repellent using essential oils. She’s had good success with this formula, and it smells lovely!

The group also discussed plans for additional projects and educational events throughout the year, including topics such as fracking, Canada goose issues, more on backyard wildlife, and more. If there is a topic you’d like to see the Green Team address, contact Jennifer Pauken (891-5880, jennifer.pauken@gmail.com).

Editor’s Note. The Green Team is a committee of your MP Community Association, consisting of concerned residents who work to create an environmentally friendly and sustainable neighborhood. All MP residents are invited to the next meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 7:30p, at the Community Building.

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By Rose Hart, Resident

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.

This month we feature John and Sue Hard, representing...

Four Generations in Minerva Park

1. How long have you lived in MP? What is your occupation and your most interesting job? “We’ve lived in Minerva Park since 1982. Our business is cooking, and we are known as the hot sauce & spicy food entrepreneurs. CaJohn is the name of our business. This is the most interesting job for both of us. We both had several other jobs before.”

   For John, fire protection was the family business. “The fiery foods business was a hobby, which, at first grew legs, then learned to run, and eventually started to fly.” Sue and John belong to the Chili Pepper Institute that has international representation. In 2010, New Mexico State University hosted the world conference. Sue said, “It’s interesting to learn how other countries grow peppers and deal with their bugs, diseases, planting styles, harvesting techniques, and the equipment they use. We learn from students when they ask us questions.”

2. What do you like and dislike about living in MP? John: “It’s been interesting to watch Minerva Park grow and develop during the last 45 years and now see the decline in the surrounding area. I’ve seen almost three generations of residents and am amazed at the number who return or stay. The only problem is the general decline of the area around us. I worry about the decline of home prices in MP.” Sue: “I like all the village activities and have watched the village go from many kids to no kids and back to many kids again.”

3. What is interesting about you that your neighbors may want to know? What are your hobbies? Sue was born on Long Island NY. “An Air Force brat, I lived in CA, ME, NY, and MS. I grew up mostly in Mississippi, and I am a GRITS, a Girl Raised In The South. In Columbus, I used to be a transcriber at Chemical Abstracts. We had flex time that allowed me to go to work early and pick my favorite scientists’ work, which was easiest to transcribe. Some of them could be difficult to understand.” Sue and John met in a softball league – he was a coach and she was one of the players. John’s hobby used to be fishing and Sue’s bowling. Now their hobby is the business of cooking. John finds it interesting that he can cook interesting ethnic foods. “I’m the current world champion hot-sauce maker as determined by the International Fiery Foods Challenge championship in Irving TX in 2012. I’m a two-time Cajun Hot Sauce Festival grand champion, beating Tobasco, Red Hot, and all others. The Golden Chili is the Oscar in our industry, and I have 79 of them, by far the most of anyone. I earned them in all available categories. I’ve been featured on 8 Food Network shows. I’ve been on the Travel Channel, featured on the History Channel’s “Modern Marvels,” and on the Cooking Channel. I’ve traveled to 42 states. I have more than 400 regional, national, and international awards. They are on display in our Westerville factory where we offer drop-in tours and where we sell our products.

   From our factory we ship to all 50 states and foreign countries as far away as Japan and Australia. Foreign sales comprise 20% of our business. We have another store in the North Market where we also have a cooking school with Experience Columbus.”

4. Are there other ties to MP in your family? Here the multi-generational details get interesting. The Hards’ house at the end of Jordan Road was built by Mampieri in 1968, and that is when John, the youngest of three boys, moved in with his parents. In the early 1970s, the middle boy, Tom, built a house on Park Lane Drive. During the next 30 years, he raised four children in it. In 1982, John and Sue moved into a house on Jordan Road that was built by Blackie Hartley who built all the ranch houses on that street in the 1950s. Eventually they moved in with John’s father as caretakers. Their children have taken turns living in the other Jordan Road house that Sue and John vacated. Now their children have children, so Sue’s and John’s grandchildren comprise the fourth generation of Hards in Minerva Park.

   In addition, John’s nephew used to live the village. John said, “Once upon a time our family wanted to rename Jordan Road to Hard Road.”

5. What would you like to add? “On Labor Day weekend, we are hosting the Buckeye Regional and Ohio State Chili Championships in Westerville, for the world qualifiers.”

   With a twinkle in his eyes John added, “I am known as The Godfather of Hot Sauce.”

   If you wish to be featured in “Getting to Know You” or nominate a neighbor, send an email to rose_hart@hotmail.com.
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Minerva Park

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9. Home Health Aide
10. and much more ...

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

July - MP Police made 4 misdemeanor arrests, transported to the Franklin County jail.
7-1 .... 4:33p, 2900 blk E. Dub-Gran Rd, vehicle abandoned in roadway
7-8 .... 2:19p, 2700 blk Minerva Lake Rd, criminal mischief reported
7-14 .. 8:57a, 5200 blk Elmhurst, criminal mischief reported
7-17 ... 4:19p, 2800 blk Lakewood, information report
7-21 .. 1:02a, 2500 blk Woodley, domestic dispute
7-29 .. 10:31p, 5000 blk Maplewood, cruelty to animals
7-31 .. 9:36a, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft reported •

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July 2012
Citation payments ............... 80
Village General Fund .......... $5,134
Computer Fund .................. $220
Remitted to the State .......... $1,744
Cap. Recovery System ......... $84
Franklin Co Muni Court ...... $55
Total Court Receipts .......... $7,236

Village Financials

If you have questions about the information provided here, please call the Fiscal Officer at 882-5743.

July 2012
Beg balance general fund ...... $343,546.06
Revenue collected ............... 47,120.14
Expenses .......................... (143,152.03)
Ending balance ................ $247,514.17

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

July 2012
In July, Medic 119 made 22 runs - 3 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park, with 19 patients transported to local hospitals.

20 members volunteered a total of 421.5 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 4,390.8 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Tim Lockard (48 hours), Norm Jones, (36.7 hours), and Todd Monroe (36 hours).

MP Runs
7-1 ...... Possible stroke

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Save the Dates

Oct 18 - Candidates' Night
Oct 28 - Halloween Party
Oct 31 - Beggars' Night

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, September 19, 5p

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