Light the Village on Christmas Eve

Your Community Association would like to “Light Up the Night” on Christmas Eve, starting at 8p until the candles burn out on their own. The MPCA will place luminaries at each of the entrances and would like you to participate at your homes, placing luminaries across your yard so the chain of light will continue throughout the Village. Luminaries are easy to make ...

- White paper lunch bags (available at Target)
- Votive candles (available at Target)
- Sand (available at Lowes, Mennards)

1. Determine how many luminaries you’ll need. Plan on one for every 10 feet of street frontage.
2. Purchase items, maybe sharing supplies with a neighbor.
3. Pour appx. 2 cups of sand into each bag.
4. Place a bag every 10 feet in your yard, next to the road, and secure a candle in the sand.
5. Light the candles at 8p on Christmas eve.
6. Take a walk throughout the neighborhood and enjoy the Christmas spirit.
   Want a more long-lasting, reusable option? Many websites offer electric or battery-powered luminary kits.

Please park in driveways so the luminaries can be fully enjoyed from the street.

Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 8 • 10a to noon • Community Building

Ornament making ... Christmas crafts ... a special treat for our little feathered friends ... something for the little ones. Bring the kids to the Community Building for games, snacks, and crafts. And we anticipate a special visit from Santa, who will bring a small gift for each child. Bakers are much appreciated. Volunteers may call Glenda Morris (882-2359) to help. Parents are encouraged to bring their own cameras for pictures.

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

DECEMBER DATES
1 .......... Carriage Rides Deadline
3 (7p) ........ Council Work Session
4 (7:30p) .......... Planning & Zoning
5 (8:30a) ............ Mayor’s Court
8 (10a-noon) ........ Christmas Party
10 ............ Last Leaf Pick-up
12 (7p) .......... Council Meeting
12 (5p) ............ Villager Deadline
12 (7:30p) .......... MPCA Meeting
16 (5:30p-8:30p) ...... Carriage Rides
19 (8:30a) ............ Mayor’s Court
24 (8p) .......... Village Luminaries
From your MPCA President

To all Minerva Park Community Association members and residents of Minerva Park ... may you find much to be thankful for and may your holidays be great.

The MPCA will be lighting luminaries at the entrances to the Village on Christmas eve. We hope residents join in and light their own yards with luminaries that evening. See pg. 1 for information.

Also, MPCA members, come and enjoy at the Christmas Carriage Rides on December 15. This is a benefit of your membership - please come and enjoy munchies and carriage rides.

Lisa Craddock Thitoff

Festival of Lights

December 16-22

If you are looking for creativity and artistic expression during the holidays, now is your opportunity to decorate your property and celebrate this beautiful community by making it a winter wonderland. If you won a first place in last year's contest, you are not eligible to win anything this year, but your talents as judges would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in judging, contact Bob Gale at 882-8622:

- Best Outdoor tree
- Best Entranceway
- Best Religious Theme

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

Historic Posters - Fundraiser

Residents John & Sue Hard 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 ... 1 for $10, 2 for $15, 3 for $18, or 4+ for $5 each; $15 each if laminated. Please contact Rose Hart with your interest (rose_hart@hotmail.com).
Before I begin my report, I would like to thank all of you for your overwhelming support of the Replacement Levy on the November ballot. As you will see in this and subsequent monthly reports and in the 2012 Year-in-Review, we have and will continue to make every effort to use your tax dollars wisely. We are aware of the challenging times ahead of us with Local Government Funds cuts and the abolishment of the Estate Tax. We must plan ahead, cut our expenses, and look for any sources of new and continued revenue.

This will be a relatively short report because there does not seem to be a lot of news for November, and this is a busy time of year for everyone.

Golf Course: The potential developers of the golf course property, Fischer Homes, has an Option Agreement in place with the golf course owners. We are pleased to be working with them because they are open to discussing the possibility of the Village purchasing enough land to support a 9-hole course, annexing the eight parcels that comprise the golf course into the Village, and establishing a Preannexation Development Agreement. What does all of this mean? The purchase and partial development of this golf course property is moving forward. We continue to work closely with the developers to ensure this will be an asset to the Village by offering a quality home product, with an acceptable density and amount of park and green space that will be a good fit with our lovely village. We hope to have a town meeting in January or February to introduce all of you to the developers, their plans, and types of homes they will be offering. If the Village is going to move in this direction, your elected officials will want your input by asking you to vote on a bond levy to purchase the land and to continue to operate the Minerva Lake Golf Course. This issue would most likely be on the May 2013 ballot. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Leaf Pick-up Program: The last day for leaves to be picked up (weather permitting) will be Monday, December 10.

December Council Work Session: The Council has graciously agreed to move the December 8 Work Session to Monday, December 3, at 7 p.m. to accommodate the Christmas Children’s Party on December 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, hosted and underwritten by the MPCA.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting on November 12. The following reports were made:

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter attended the November 7 Blendon Trustee meeting to present the 2013 renewed and ongoing Mutual Aid Agreement, for the same amount as last year, $13,000. The Blendon Trustees expressed reservations about paying the full amount when signing the Agreement this year until the Village has implemented EMS billing to raise additional revenues. Chief Hoechstetter is investigating those options. He has spoken to several companies that provide this service to other local municipalities. Minerva Park residents would NOT be billed, nor would Blendon Township residents, as long as Blendon continues to participate in our Mutual Aid Agreement. He plans to make a presentation of various options at the December Council meeting in the effort to implement a Council-approved EMS billing policy by January 1, 2013.

The Ohio State Pharmacy Board has started inspecting both fire departments and private ambulance services, specifically how all prescription drugs (including IV solutions) and oxygen are tracked. Log books are now required to document drug receipt, storage, utilization, and any waste and to tie it all to the patient run reports. Chief Hoechstetter is creating Department IDs for his staff with Administrative Assistant Sara Schumacher’s help. This is all being done in-house very inexpensively.

Police: Chief Kim Nuesse was unable to provide a monthly report because the records management server was down. She will distribute the reports as soon as possible. The recent burglaries and attempted burglaries remain under investigation. Our Police Department is coordinating with
other agencies and departments experiencing similar crimes. It is unknown if these crimes are related. Please see Chief Nuese’s report on page 8 about tips to protect yourself and your home. A resident who had been attacked by a dog last month expressed her gratitude to Mayor Eisentrout and Chief Nuese for their prompt response to the incident and for having the dog removed from the Village.

Engineer: Mike Flickinger was excused.

Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Dave Hays reported that he, the Mayor, and Council President Pam Park-Curry toured the Village to assess code compliance. The tour resulted in approximately 15 code violations being noted and notices issued. Most individuals have responded positively and complied with the zoning orders. He continues to work with Econocam at Cleveland & Woodley concerning various issues. The Planning & Zoning Commission plans to submit updated legislation to the Village Council Legislative Committee Chairman. They have been working on this legislation and hope to submit it for consideration in the very near future.

Minerva Park Community Association: Mayor Eisentrout reported for MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff. Don & Jane Miller on North Bay Drive won the summer garden contest. The Green Team does not plan to meet in November or December. The Children’s Halloween party held on October 28 was fairly well-attended. Many thanks to Glenda & Andy Morris and all of their wonderful helpers. The Children’s Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The 2012-2013 Resident Directories are being delivered. Complimentary yoga lessons will be offered during a 6-week period. See page 10 for details.

Northland Community Council: Mayor Eisentrout reported for the NCC. New NCC members include the Village of Preston Woods Condo Association and Blendon Chase Apartments. Doug Moore from the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) spoke at the November meeting regarding the proposed bus route/transit project along Cleveland Avenue. If COTA receives federal funding, the project plans to begin in 2016. The former Olive Garden Restaurant site on 161 has been purchased and will now be a jazz supper club. Volunteers are needed for the 2013 annual Northland Fourth of July Parade. The NCC Holiday dinner is scheduled for December 4 at a location yet to be determined. The President’s Board Meeting had been rescheduled for December 15.

Community Committee: Councilman Dave Way had nothing to add to the MPCA and NCC reports.

Finance: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval for the October 2012 financials totaling $85,503.48. Fiscal Officer Lynda Sudderberg responded to an inquiry about electronic payments being listed separately and said that she would provide that information separately in future meetings. Chief Hoechstetter thanked the Fiscal Officer and the Mayor for assisting him with some budget issues relating to his department.

Legislation: Councilman Richard McCreary asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation):

- **Resolution 2012-17** - Adopting a job description and setting forth a pay range for a maintenance worker. 3rd reading and passage.
- **Resolution 2012-20** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into an agreement with Blendon Township concerning the continued emergency medical aid service to the residents of Blendon Township by the Minerva Park Volunteer Fire Department for 2013. 3rd reading and passage.
- **Resolution 2012-21** - Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the General Fund, EMS Capital Area, into the EMS Vehicle Fund. 3rd reading and passage.
- **Resolution 2012-22** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract for the services of a Village Engineer for 2013. 3rd reading, passage tabled.
- **Resolution 2012-23** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with the Franklin County Public Defender’s Office for legal services for 2013. 3rd reading and passage.
- **Resolution 2012-24** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into contract for health insurance for Village of Minerva Park full-time police officers and the Mayor for 2013. 3rd reading tabled.
- **Resolution 2012-25** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal officer to enter into contract with the prosecuting attorney, to provide prosecution of certain cases before the Franklin County Municipal Court for 2013. 3rd reading and passage. Ayes - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Abstain - Segovia.
- **Resolution 2012-26** - Authorizing the Mayor and the Fiscal Officer to enter into contract for the services of a Director of Law before the Franklin County Municipal Court for 2013. 3rd reading and passage. Ayes - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry, Walter, Way. Nays - Segovia.
- **Resolution 2012-28** - Authorizing the Mayor and the
The Villager - December 2012

Fiscal Officer to enter into contract with the District Advisory Council of Franklin County General Health District to provide for plumbing inspections for 2013. 3rd reading and passage.


Resolution 2012-30 - Submitting a temporary appropriations budget for the first three months of 2013. 3rd reading tabled.

Resolution 2012-35 - Authorizing the sale during the calendar year 2013 of municipally-owned property that is not needed for public use, or which is obsolete or unfit for the use for which it was acquired, by Internet auction, pursuant to ORC §721.15(D). 3rd reading and passage.

Resolution 2012-37 - Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to expend funds to settle a claim by Lisa Craddock Thitoff and Steve Thitoff. This legislation addresses a moral claim to partially reimburse the Thitoffs for damage done to their garage roof and gutters as a result of Village trees that fell onto their property during the June 29 storm. 3rd reading and passage. Ayes - Legg, McCreary, Park-Curry. Nays - Segovia, Walter, Way. Tie broken by the Mayor, aye.

Resolution 2012-39 - Affirming the final appointment of Officer Anna Tomaro. 2nd reading.

Resolution 2012-40 - Supporting the Upper Scioto Watershed Balance Growth Plan. 2nd reading. 3rd reading waived and passage. Resolution 2012-41 - Transferring funds. 3 readings waived, passed as an emergency.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter had nothing to report.

Service: Councilman Roberto Segovia reported that he thought that the Leaf Pick-up Program was going well and that John McKinney was doing a good job.

Streets: Councilman Charles Legg reported that the 2012 Street Project punch list is compiled, and the work should be completed. The Mayor and the Fiscal Officer will process the paperwork for reimbursement from the OPWC. Councilman Legg is seeking proposals to have the streets swept.

Old Business: Councilman McCreary reported about the efforts that he, Councilman Legg, and Administrative Assistant Sara Schumacher have made to correct and improve our phone system without investing in a new and expensive one. At some point, we may have to convert to a virtual system with potential savings as a goal. There will be more about this later. You may recall, about a month ago, our dispatch number stopped functioning because of an accidental and unknown prefix change. A call to the vendor (Wind Stream) quickly rectified the situation.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year. I also would like to thank all of you who have volunteered to make our lovely Village what it is today. I know it may sometimes feel as if your efforts are not recognized or appreciated, but they really are. My job would be much more challenging without you.

Welcome

Our New Neighbors!

Kelly Boone, 2863 Lakewood Dr., 828-593-1574, from Clyde NC
Sef DeChristopher, 2570 Maplewood Dr., 452-2392, from Harrison West
David Goggin, 3237 Minerva Lake Rd., 484-995-1238, from Boston MA
Carol Overfield, 2730 Maplewood Dr., 882-4825, from Forest Park
Douglas Sherwood & Julie Everhart, 5332 East Shore Dr., 202-9307, from Westerville

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

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Taylor Fickes
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746-9121 cell
taylor.rene.babysitting@gmail.com

Joshua’s
Mowing & Trimming
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
joshuasmowingtrimming@yahoo.com
890-5316
890-5316 fax
The annual Children’s Halloween Party hosted children in a variety of wonderful costumes! Fiona was deemed “Most Lethal” in her ninja outfit, Tess R. was given “Sweetest” award for being a Hershey’s kiss, and her brother a great spaceman who got the “Most Out of this World” award. The little Pumpkin Princess, Kailey, won “Cutest” costume, and two adorable witches, Valerie and Julianam won “Most Traditional Costumes.” Our “Movie Star” category winner was Austin in his Incredible Hulk outfit, and Kiara won “Most Unique” as Alice in Wonderland.

The event was indoors because of the cold weather, and the kids make sensory balloon balls with rice, a sticker scene, and bottle cap monster faces with googly eyes ...

and some did pumpkin mat weaving. The preschool area had a sensory bin with beans and small pumpkin buckets to scoop and fill. Storyteller Joyce spun some Halloween tales, and we had many delectable treats to cap off the party.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped: Erin Walsh, Andy Morris, Linda Natali, Shae & Sydni Johnson and friends, Nicki Rigg, and Ginny Burt. Thanks to Melinda Mullen for added decorations and all the bakers for their time and talents: Jody Stahr, Barbara Cloud, Paul Miller, Denise Mehlo, Katie Castle, and Bonnie Townsend ... and others who dropped off treats. It was a fun community event! •

Our thanks to Sara Schumacher and Jim Nuesse for maintenance repairs to the bridge.
Herbs - Basil

Basil is native to India, the Middle East, and some Pacific Islands. It has been cultivated in the Mediterranean for thousands of years, but the herb came to Western Europe only in the 16th century with the spice traders and to American and Australia with the early European settlers.

Keep it in a pot in the kitchen to act as a fly repellent, or crush a leaf and rub it on your skin, where the juice repels mosquitoes.

It is one of the few herbs to increase its flavor when cooked. For best results, add it at the very end of cooking. Here are some hints and ideas.

- Tear the leaves rather than chop. Sprinkle over green salads or sliced tomatoes.
- Basil combines very well with garlic. Add it to French salad dressing.
- When cooking pasta or rice, heat some olive oil in a saucepan, remove from heat, add some torn purple basil, toss the pasta or rice in the basil and oil, and serve.
- Use lemon basil to accompany a fish dish - it has a sharp lemon-spicy flavor when cooked.
- Mix low-fat cream cheese with any of the basils and use in baked potatoes.
- Sprinkle on fried or grilled tomatoes while they are still hot, as a garnish.
- Sprinkle on pizzas.
- Basil makes an interesting stuffing for chicken. Use sweet basil combined with crushed garlic, bread crumbs, lemon peel, beaten egg, and chopped nuts.
- Basil is very good with French bread and can be used instead of herb butter.
- Add to a cold rice or pasta salad.

The last leaf pick-up will be December 10. Please remember, leaves only, onto the front of your property (not into the street). Thank for helping facilitate this year’s leaf pick-up efforts.

October - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor arrest.
10-6 3:39p, Gordon Food Services, 5400 Cleveland Ave, forgery
10-10 4:30p, 2800 blk Alder Vista, dog bite, dangerous dog at large
10-16 3:50p, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd, grand theft
10-19 9:15a, 2800 North Lake Ct, identity fraud
10-14 9:30a, 2700 blk Minerva Lake Rd, dog at large
10-26 2:49p, 3100 Minerva Lake Rd, breaking & entering
10-29 4:34p, 2900 Minerva Lake Rd, burglary reported
10-30 9:28a, 2800 blk Wildwood Rd, burglary reported
10-30 6:27p, 2800 blk North Bay, burglary reported

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Thank you to all our residents for passing the replacement levy in November. Part of the General Fund from the levy proceeds is used for the Police Department to continue to provide important police services to our community. We appreciate your continued support.

’Tis the season for increased thefts from vehicles and burglaries. Here are a few tips to make your holiday season safer:

• When shopping, be aware of your surroundings. Be alert that you can be followed by thieves to your vehicle or to your home after a shopping trip, so report suspicious activity immediately to the police. Follow your instincts.
• Place packages and bags in the trunk of your car, out of sight. Don’t leave purchases in your car overnight.
• Be cautious when using an ATM after-hours, especially at night.
• Make sure to lock your car doors when your car is parked, even in your driveway.
• Turn on outside lights at night. It is a good crime deterrent.
• If you just “don’t feel right” about a situation or someone in your neighborhood, don’t second-guess yourself. Call police to check it out at 882-1223, our dispatch phone number.

On another note, Minerva Park Police are sponsoring our annual COPS FOR KIDS (information on pg. 1), requesting new or gently used toys, books, and other items for younger children and presents suitable for pre-teens and teenagers. This is a wonderful opportunity to help those in our community who are less fortunate and are financially struggling. The donation box is located in the entry hallway of the Community Building. We will accept donations until Saturday, December 17.

We have had an increase in complaints about barking dogs and dogs running at large. The Minerva Park Police do enforce local ordinances regarding these issues. Dogs must be on a leash or in a fenced yard and cannot be left outside to bark continuously. These violations can result in charges being filed, with large fines and possible jail time. Please be courteous of your neighbors and observe the law. Please join us in welcoming our newest part-time officer, Shawn Hensley, when you see him on patrol this month.

Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday! •

Kevin R. Bacon
Attorney at Law

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Mayor’s Court

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next sessions are Dec. 5 & 19, 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please call 882-1408.

October 2012
Citation payments ...................... 76
Village General Fund ........... $4,275
Computer Fund ....................... $201
Remitted to the State........ $1,421
Cap. Recovery System ............. $65
Franklin Co Muni Court ......... $45
Total Court Receipts ......... $6,006

Village Financials

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

October 2012
Beg balance general fund (adj) ...... $375,650
Receipts ................................ $34,316
Disbursements ........................ $85,503
Ending balance ............... $324,463

Medic 119 ...
Where are you?

October 2012
In October, Medic 119 made 43 runs - 5 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park, with 32 patients transported to local hospitals. 21 members volunteered a total of 470 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 5,752 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Frank Meredith (63.3 hours), Scott Logsdon (62.3 hours), and Tim Lockard (55 hours).

MP Runs
10-7 .... Seizure

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The current series of yoga sessions ends December 18. Please let us know if you are interested in another series of classes... Lisa, 891-2166.