Trash Collection Contract Awarded to Rumpke

By Council Member Jennifer Pauken

Because the Village’s contract for trash, yard waste, and recycling with Local Waste expires at the end of September, the Village requested proposals from five local waste removal vendors. Four vendors responded, and, after reviewing their submissions, the Village plans to award a one-year contract for trash, yard waste, and recycling to Rumpke. While we have been very happy with Local Waste’s services, Rumpke was able to offer a more competitive monthly rate to residents. The base rate that residents can expect is $13.90 per month. Note that permissible regulatory fees may be added. Residents will be billed on a quarterly basis.

There are some other key items to know about this change in service providers:

• Trash, yard waste, and recycling collection will continue to be on Mondays. Please have all items at the curb not before Sunday evening and remove bins from the curbs by Monday evening.
• Place yard waste in properly labeled, rigid plastic containers OR brown paper yard waste bags. The weight should not exceed 50 pounds. Limbs should be bundled in lengths no greater than 4’.
• Rumpke will provide new recycling bins at no cost to residents. Please visit rumpkerecycling.com/residential_recycling/acceptable_materials.aspx to learn more about Rumpke’s recycling program.
• Items appropriate for pick-up will not change. For hazardous waste or large, bulky items, contact Rumpke at 800-828-8171.

Rumpke is preparing a mailing for Village residents that will include additional information, especially information about the transition to its service. Please watch for this in your mailboxes.

Our hope is that this change in service provider will have little impact on Village residents. If you have concerns about the trash, yard waste, and recycling services, please contact Council Member Jennifer Pauken at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5880.

Public Hearing

September 9, 6:30 p.m.
Community Building

Considering Chapter 1253 of the Codified Ordinances regarding a Planned Residential District.

Leaf Pick-up

See the Mayor’s Report starting on page 3.

SEPTEMBER DATES

3 (7p) ............... Planning & Zoning
7 (8a) .......... Council Work Session
9 (6:30p) .......... Public Hearing
9 (7p) ............... Council Meeting
11 (7:30p) ........ MPCA Meeting
17 (7:30p) .......... Green Team
18 (5p) .......... Villager Deadline
18 (8:30a) .......... Mayor’s Court
30 (7p) .......... Coffee with Council
MP Community Association News

From Your MPCA President

This will be my last MPCA president’s letter. My question for you is, “What three words would you use to define yourself?” They could be words that are of importance to you, not necessarily descriptive of you. Do you like these words? Are you happy with who you are and how you are? I believe we are all works in progress. Today, my words would be responsibility, apathy, and peace. I believe we should all be as RESPONSIBLE as we can for ourselves and our families, our lives, environments, and our world. I don’t like APATHY - I see it much too often these days, and I wish for responsibility to overtake the apathy in the world. I fight apathy myself. It is passion and responsibility that halt the apathy. PEACE comes to me when I have been true to myself, to those around me, to God, and to my world.

We on the MPCA board are concerned about our Village. We can’t remember when apathy has been so prevalent. We have an association that is currently looking for 2 executive officers (president and secretary) and 1 committee chair (Green Team), with no one presently offering to fill these vacancies. We are such a small group of hard workers responsible for too many things. Some of us do multiple things, and some of us do one event. Every bit of help is appreciated. YOU can decide what happens to YOUR association and YOUR village. If you want an association and all that it offers, then support it - physically and financially. Money isn’t everything; we also need folks to get involved.

Because of a lack of interest and volunteers, the Minerva Park Community Association is at a crossroads. At the last MPCA meeting, the subject of apathy came up. Are you, as residents, willing to step up and become involved? Without your help and involvement, you risk losing many things, such as the Villager newsletter, children’s parties, MinervaFlora activities, Wine & Cheese nights, Candidates Nights, Christmas Carriage Rides, Summer Music Series, the Village Directory, scholarships, the Duck Award, newcomers greetings, Sunshine Sympathy Committee, the Green Team, annual Garage Sale, and the Publicity Committee. These are events that make Minerva Park a great place to live. Are you willing to keep it going or just let it go?

God bless and be well,
Lisa Craddock Thitoff

Biking Buddies

Do you like to bike?
Join our bicycling group.
Residents will meet at the Community Building at 9a on Monday mornings. On the 4th Monday, we will drive to our biking destination. The other Mondays, we will bike from Minerva Park for 1-1.5-hour rides.

This will be an informal group. There is no leader. We will leave the Community Building promptly at 9 a.m.

Contact Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427 for more info about the destination ride. See you there!

Save the Dates

October 17 - Candidates’ Night, Hawthorne School, 7 p.m. We will hear from MP Council candidates only.

October 27 - Children’s Halloween Party. Please volunteer your help by contacting Glenda Morris at 882-2359 or morrismanor@columbus.rr.com.

MPCA Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

September 11 • 7:30p
Community Building

Nominations are being accepted for the positions of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Contact Lisa Craddock Thitoff, 891-2166, with your nominations by September 9. Note also that the Green Team needs a leader.

Advertise in the Villager
899-3755

VOTE
Lakes: If you are wondering about the water level of the lakes being so low, here's what happened. On Monday, July 22, when we had a heavy rainfall (about 1½ to 2 inches in about 45-60 minutes), our earthen dam overtopped. That means that the South Lake spillway discharge capacity was insufficient to pass or accommodate the flood waters, and water flowed over the walking path. I met with two Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Dam Safety Engineering reps and four Emergency Management (EMA) reps on site that morning and into the afternoon. We were ordered to monitor the lake and dam all night to ensure it drained consistently and, in the event of more rain, didn't overtop again.

We had another meeting early Tuesday (July 23) morning to allow them to further study the entire spillway but, more importantly, all of the areas designated the “earthen dam,” which includes the entire walking path along the South Lake and property considered both the Village’s and the golf course’s. (I have been including the golf course staff for obvious reasons and they have been most helpful.) After the rain stopped, we found that the lake drained satisfactorily and at an acceptable rate. At that time, ODNR ordered us to remove two of the boards at the spillway to allow for storage capacity in the event of another unexpected heavy storm. After the rapid flow of water dissipated, Jim Nuesse was able to safely remove the two boards. (These boards are periodically removed and replaced to control the levels of the lakes for our spring and fall Lake Clean-ups.) We also were required to clear the branches, limbs, and trees extending over the mini-trash rack and bridge so no debris would fall into the lake and block the spillway.

The following Thursday (July 25), we experienced another unexpectedly heavy rainfall, so I called the ODNR dam safety reps, asking them to inspect the site and give any additional guidance. They ordered us to remove a third board to increase the flow capacity. While discussing these orders, I apprised them of the algae issues we have experienced, especially in the North Lake, and my concerns about a recurrence if the level of the lakes becomes too low, exposing the bottom of the lakes to light and encouraging new algae growth. We agreed that the Village would monitor the water levels closely, given that August is traditionally hot and dry. As I am writing this report to you, North Lake residents and I have observed some algae growth along the shoreline. I have asked ODNR for permission to replace one of the boards and am waiting for them to conduct another on-site visit and render a decision.

An additional factor to be considered in our lake issues and flooding is the lack of attention to the retention basin behind Northland Plaza and the basin between the Meijer store and Teakwood Apartments. On the night of Monday, July 22, I asked the 3rd-shift police officers to take pictures of both of these basins to document the neglect. I contacted the owners of Northland Plaza in New York and sent them pictures of their basin along with a letter requesting them to address the overgrowth that is completely blocking the grate. I have heard nothing, nor have I seen any progress. I am working on the Teakwood basin. Additionally, ODNR has given me another resource to assist with this.

Speaking of the 3rd-shift officers, I want to thank Officers Anna Tamaro and Curt Kelly for periodically checking the dam all night on Monday, July 22, and Sgt. Boyers and Officer Sean Hensley for doing the same on the following Thursday, July 25, so I could get some sleep.

Why is this happening now? In addition to the catch basins, the answer I was given is that there are more paved surfaces, i.e., streets and parking lots, run-off from roofs, and less permeable or grassy areas to absorb the unusual amounts of precipitation we have seen this summer.

What are we doing about this? We will be contracting with Buckeye Engineering to prepare an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and an Operations, Maintenance, and Inspection (OM&I) Manual in compliance with ODNR Standards. At the August 12 Council meeting, the council members approved an amount not to exceed $7,325 for its approval. The Village Council also approved an amount not to exceed $2,500 for these first two tasks. Once compiled, this information will be submitted to ODNR for its approval. The Village Council also approved an amount not to exceed $7,325 to remove trees along the spillway and one tree by the Community Building.

ODNR and EMA officials have been most helpful. I will be attending a conference on Dam Safety at the Strawberry Farms EMA office the end of August and will continue to seek funding sources for the necessary remediations of the dam.

1% Income Tax Increase: You may have read the article in the August 17 issue of the Columbus Dispatch that we did not meet the deadline to file the necessary paperwork with the Board of Elections to place this issue on the ballot. That is correct. You will not see an income tax
issue for Minerva Park on the November 2013 ballot. What is not true is that the reporter stated that I did not return any of his calls. I did not receive any messages from him nor did he return my calls, but he did speak to Council President Pam Park-Curry (she alerted me that I needed to call him), and she did a great job answering his questions.

A Special Election will be held on February 4, 2014, to vote on this issue. The cost of this election will be between $600 and $800. Because it will be held in an even year, it will be less expensive than if we had put it on the ballot this year. Also, because we are single precinct municipality, there is a chance that the Board of Elections will be able to staff the polls without paying poll workers, keeping the costs down. There will be more about this later.

**Leaf Pick-up Program**: This is a reminder that, because of fiscal constraints, we will not be able to provide this service in fall 2013. I have the names of several landscaping companies at my office that may be able to assist with your leaves, if you want to hire for that service. While we do not make any recommendations, we are familiar with these companies and are happy to provide you with their contact information. We hope to reinstate this program in fall 2014. Please be assured that Rumpke, our new trash hauling company, will be picking up yard waste.

All Council members were present for the Regular Council meeting held on August 12. Four sets of minutes were approved unanimously: June 24, June 27, July 8, July 15.

**EMS/Fire**: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported on EMS billing for calls made by non-residents. The last few documents have been signed and completed, and the Medicare application has been submitted. Billing documentation classes (at no charge) will be held in in August. Run sheets will be submitted, along with a patient signature page that Medicare requires as a part of its federal fraud prevention measures. Budget issues will be considered for a future vehicle purchase.

**Police**: Chief Kim Nuesse reported that a 3rd-shift officer prevented a burglary at a Minerva Park business on Cleveland Avenue. She mentioned that the Solicitation Ordinance may need to be updated, and the Law Director will look into this. The Police Department’s Facebook page has been received favorably by the residents. NO PARKING signs will be installed at the Maplewood and Lakewood Drive & walking path area for safety reasons. The Kernwood & Ponderosa stop sign (with continuous right turn) has been changed at the recommendation of the Village Engineer and to comply with Ohio Traffic Engineering regulations. Drivers must now come to a full stop.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement**: Councilman Charles Legg and Mayor Eisentrout reported that two fence permits were approved. There was a joint Village Council and Planning & Zoning Commission meeting to discuss the Planned Residential District (PRD) Zoning Ordinance. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the PRD to the Village Council.

**Minerva Park Community Association**: MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff reported that approximately $1,100 was collected from the annual Garage Sale. The MPCA donated $100 to the pool for flowers. The Council thanked the MPCA for offering to purchase and install a bike rack at the Community Building; a motion was made by Pam Park-Curry and approved unanimously. The Membership Drive is underway and should be concluded in August. Candidates’ Night will be October 17. The place and time were announced later, that being Hawthorne School at 7:00p. We will hear from only the candidates for Minerva Park council.

The following committee reports were made.

**Community**: Councilman David Way received a quote from Columbus Art Memorial for $5,000 for the Veterans Memorial. Councilman Way will approach the MPCA to see if they want to contribute up to $1,000 toward the monument.

**Finance**: Council President Pam Park-Curry received approval from the Council for the July financials with monthly expenses totaling $107,312.13.

**Legislation**: Councilman Roberto Segovia asked the Council to consider the following legislation (minervapark.org/legislation). His motion to remove Ordinance 9-2013 from the agenda was approved.

**Resolution 2013-17** - Authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for the collection and removal of rubbish, trash, recyclables, garbage, and yard waste from residences. Third reading accepted, passed, awarding the contract to Rumpke.

**Resolution 2013-19** - Authorizing the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, and Police Chief to enter into an agreement supporting Franklin County’s DUI Task Force goals,
from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014, by allowing the Minerva Park Police officers to participate in check points for their DUI Task Force. Second reading accepted.

Resolution 2013-22 - Amending the 2013 Permanent Appropriations Resolution 2013-09 by authorizing the transfer of funds. First reading.

Resolution 2013-23 - Providing for the submission to the electors of the Village of Minerva Park, at a Special Election, to be held on February 4, 2014, an ordinance to enact an increase in the Village income tax rate from the current rate of one percent (1.0%) to a rate of two percent (2.0%) to become effective March 1, 2014, for the purposes of general municipal operations and services, including but not limited to police services, street maintenance, capital improvements, and related Village costs. First reading approved.

Resolution 8-2013 - Adopting Chapter 1253 of the Codified Ordinances of Minerva Park regarding Planned Residential District (PRD) and amending Section 1238.04(A) to designate a PRD District. First reading accepted.

Safety: Councilman Todd Walter submitted a 6-month vehicle maintenance report. A Safety Committee meeting will be held on August 12. A motion made by Councilman Walter to continue the HSA-type health coverage was approved by the following votes: Ayes – Park-Curry, Pauken, Walter, Way. Nays – Segovia. Abstentions – Legg.

Service: Councilwoman Jennifer Pauken reported that four bids were received for the trash contract, and she recommended Rumpke as the lowest and best. Please see her article on page 1.

Streets: Councilman Charles Legg submitted his Streets Committee meeting report from July 22. The Committee recommended that $300 be approved to reconnect a storm water drain pipe, $6,160 be approved for cutting and repairing pot holes on Maplewood, Wildwood, North Bay and Minerva Lake Road, and $4,600 be approved for crack filling on Maplewood, Lakewood, Alder Vista, Briar Rose, Wildwood, and Woodley. The Council unanimously approved the expenditures.

Walnut Trees Threatened

Thousand Cankers Disease (TCD) of walnut has been confirmed in Butler County OH. The disease is caused by a fungus (Geosmithia sp.) that is carried from tree to tree by the Walnut Twig Beetle (Pityophthorus juglandis), a type of bark beetle. Here is a quote from the news release from the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA): “Walnut Twig Beetle was first confirmed in Ohio in late 2012 in traps set by ODNR’s forestry officials in Butler County. Scientists from the Ohio Plant Diagnostic Network, a cooperative partnership between ODA and The Ohio State University, recently isolated the TCD fungus from walnut branches from the Butler County area, marking the first time TCD was confirmed in Ohio.”

Keep a sharp eye out for the signs and symptoms of TCD on walnut: chlorotic and wilted leaves, twig and branch dieback, thinning canopy, and epicormic growth. Unfortunately, the current leaf chlorosis and leaf drop from walnut anthracnose may confuse the issue. Review the report at http://bygl.osu.edu/.

Please report suspicious walnut trees to the ODA at 855-252-6450 or plantpest@agri.ohio.gov.

MP Runs

July 2013

Medic 119 made 17 runs - 1 into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park, with 10 patients transported to local hospitals.

13 members volunteered a total of 255.9 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 2,590.6 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Scott Logsdon (43 hours), Frank Meredith (34.5 hours), and Tim Lockard (30.7 hours).

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 17, 7:30p
Community Building

Residents are invited to attend an organizational meeting of the Green Team to discuss ongoing plans, ideas for future events, and new leadership for the group.

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.
3rd Annual Minerva Park Health Fair

Thursday
September 19
10 am - 1 pm
Community Building
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus, Ohio 43231

Reps from
Alzheimer’s Association
and
Social Security Administration

Freedom Home Health

$500 in Door Prizes
Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next session is September 18, 8:30 a.m. If you have questions, please call 882-1408.

**July 2013**

Citation payments............... 92
Village General Fund............. $6,089
Computer Fund...................... $275
Remitted to the State.......... $2,074
Cap. Recovery System............. $92
Columbus ............................. $63
Total Court Receipts .......... $8,593

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

**July 2013**

Beg balance general fund........ $112,946
Receipts............................. $54,981
Disbursements...................... ($97,141)
Ending balance.................... $70,787

**July - MP Police**

July 2013

- Citation payments ...................... 92
- Village General Fund ............. $6,089
- Computer Fund ...................... $275
- Remitted to the State .......... $2,074
- Cap. Recovery System .......... $92
- Columbus ............................ $63
- Total Court Receipts .......... $8,593

**July 2013**

Beg balance general fund ....... $112,946
Receipts............................. $54,981
Disbursements...................... ($97,141)
Ending balance.................... $70,787

**July - MP Police**

MP Police made 1 felony arrest and 4 misdemeanor arrests.
7-4 ......6:57a, 2600 blk Woodley, domestic dispute, suicide attempt
7-4 ......10:32a, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft reported
7-4 ......10:18p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake Rd, possession of fireworks
7-9 ......10:09a, Minerva Park Nursing Home, 5460 Cleveland Ave, menacing
7-10 ...11:56a, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, possession of drugs & contraband
7-11....4:17p, 5000 blk Maplewood, criminal mischief reported
7-15 ...2:47p, 3000 blk Minerva Lake Rd, theft reported
7-15 ...5:31p, 3300 blk Minerva Lake Rd, theft reported
7-19 ...7:30p, 2600 blk Wildwood, domestic dispute •

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MPCA President Lisa Craddock Thitoff ................. 891-2166

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 18, 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.