MPCA Garage Sale FUNDRAISER
Saturday, August 2
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Registration deadline: July 25, 7 p.m.
Cost: $5 plus 10% of your proceeds
$10 Late Registration Fee after July 25, 7p (you will not be on the map)

To register, please drop off or send the attached form and a check for $5 payable to “Minerva Park Community Association” to the Community Building, 2829 Minerva Lake Rd. The registration deadline is July 25, 7:00p.

Registration packets will be delivered on or before July 31. Volunteers (with an official MPCA badge) will be coming around to collect your 10% proceeds at 4:00p that afternoon, so please have your envelope ready.

As always, we need volunteers to help make this event a big success. Please contact Bonnie Townsend, 890-2427, if you would like to help with packet creation and distribution, advertising, or collecting money.

Because this is a major fundraiser for the Community Association, it is important that residents do not hold any unregistered sales on the same day.

Enclosed is my check for $5, payable to “Minerva Park Community Association,” for participation in the MPCA 2014 annual garage sale FUND-RAISER. Additionally, I will submit 10% of my proceeds.

Registration
MPCA Garage Sale FUND-RAISER - August 2, 2014

Name
Phone
Address
MP Community Association News

Wine & Cheese
July 12 • 9p-midnight
Pool
How about an adult night out? MP adults are invited to attend another great Wine & Cheese Evening at the pool. BYOW to enjoy or share. Hors d’oeuvres will be provided. $5 per person charge. Drinks by moonlight, and maybe a swim. Sounds like a great evening!

Family Fun Night
July 19
Rain Date Aug 2
Family Fun Night
Pool • 7p - 10p
Bring the kids!
Admission only $3.
Food available for purchase.

MP Residents Recognized
Two MP residents were recognized for their service to the Village at the recent Northland Community Council annual banquet. Please help us thank Lisa Craddock Thitoff for her many years of past service as the MPCA president ... and to Newcomers Committee Chair, Paul Miller, for re-energizing the welcoming committee. Check out his article on page 8.

Biking Buddies
Do you like to bike?
Join our bicycling group.
Residents meet at the Community Building at 9a on Monday mornings. On the 4th Monday, we drive to our biking destination. The other Mondays, we bike from Minerva Park for 1- to 1.5-hour rides.
This is an informal group. There is no leader. We leave the Community Building promptly at 9a. Contact Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427 for more info about the destination ride. See you there!

Resident Directory Updates
During the new few weeks, representatives will visit to ensure your information is correct for the 2014-2015 MP Resident Directory. Please help us keep this information current.

May 2014
Medic 119 made 19 runs - 3 run into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and none into Minerva Park, with 15 patients transported to local hospitals.
15 members volunteered a total of 242.3 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,310 hours.
Leading volunteers for the month were Nick Holderbaum (31 hours), Tom Balliett (30 hours), and Brian Horton (25.3 hours).

Mayor’s Court
May 2014
Citation payments.................. 40
Village General Fund........... $4,216
Computer Fund.................. $140
Remitted to the State......... $1,272
Columbus.......................... $48
Capital Recovery System...... $37
Total Court Receipts.......... $5,572

Ongoing yoga classes will continue on Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Community Building. Contact Terri, 734-308-3884, for information.

Advertise in the Villager 899-3755 and the annual MP Resident Directory
It has been astonishing how quickly we moved from spring to summer - pretty good for the pool, though. As of June 23, we have collected $39,814, compared to $42,000 at this time last year. Next month, we’ll have a breakdown of memberships and guest fees. As I say every year, if you have not had the opportunity to visit our pool, you certainly should. It is clean, not overly crowded, and well-managed with courteous and knowledgeable staff.

Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA): On June 2, the Village Council approved the Village’s participation in the RITA Delinquency Payment Program. How does this work, and why is the Village doing this? RITA will send a letter to those active taxpayers on their files who did not file an annual return. The letter will advise them that RITA’s records show that a tax return was due for the year(s) in question. They will be instructed to file a tax return or to complete the exemption section of the letter. The Village will bear no cost for this letter. The second phase of the delinquency program will be to send letters and conduct a subpoena program. RITA will send letters to non-filers. If the taxpayer fails to respond to the letter, they will be sent a subpoena for their tax records and instructed to appear at the Community Building, where RITA will provide several auditors to complete tax returns. The cost is $8 per subpoena, the amount to be deducted from the monthly income tax distribution paid to the Village. Additionally, this program offers RITA an opportunity to clean up their records. For example, if someone has moved, retired with no earned income, or passed away, RITA may update their database by removing these individuals’ names. If you have any questions about your status, please call the RITA office in Worthington at 866-721-7482. You may discuss this over the phone, go online (ritaohio.com), or schedule an appointment at their office.

I attended the RITA Council of Governments (COG) meeting on June 18. We were pleased to welcome 17 new municipalities, bringing the total membership up to 256. We received an update on the status of the Municipal Tax Bill (HB5, legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?id=130_HB_5). The Senate Finance Committee recently held its first hearings before its summer recess to hear from the sponsors of the House-passed legislation and from proponents of the bill. There will more information about this later. Last, I was re-elected as Secretary of the COG.

Golf Course Development Project: The Public Hearing held on June 8 at Hawthorne Elementary School was fairly well-attended. I would have liked to see more residents because the Council gave excellent presentations, and a lot of information was shared. When all was said and done, Fischer Homes asked the Council to indefinitely table legislation related to the annexation and the rezoning (establishing a Planned Residential District). This was done at the Council Meeting on June 9. In the aftermath of this Public Hearing and the subsequent Council meeting, I have heard that rumors are flying. To clarify … this latest activity means that negotiations are continuing between the Village and Fischer, with mid-August deadline when the annexation and rezoning process legislation are set to expire.

Public Meeting
July 14 - 6:30p
Community Building
Proposed 2015 Tax Budget
Followed by the July Council Meeting to vote on the budget. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

All Council members were present at the regular Council meeting held on June 9.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechtstetter reported the location unit is malfunctioning. It is important for announcing runs and is more efficient than listening to dispatches on a hand-held radio. He is in contact with technicians to address this issue. Fiscal Officer Lynda Sudderberg reported that she had contacted AT&T in
reference to repairing the T1 line that the location unit uses and reinstating our old contract with the City of Columbus to activate the line. The AT&T rep was optimistic we could rejoin our old contract and have a technician repair our old line. Chief Hoechstetter has contacted the Village technician to repair the leak on the damaged fire hydrant on Ponderosa Drive. The leaking hydrant was thought to be repaired but still had water coming out of it, thus delaying the second repair attempt.

**Police:** Chief Nuesse was excused but Lt. Waldenmyer reported in her absence. There was solagravated robbery on Maplewood the first week of June. Chief Nuesse has asked residents to join the MP Police Department on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/minervapark) and Twitter to receive important and updated information. The Department’s Policy and Procedure Manuals have been completed. The new Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) have been installed in the cruisers.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement:** There was no P&Z meeting this month. Code Enforcement Officer Lt. Waldenmyer reported that he had sent out this month’s violation letters and commented on the Wildwood-Westbridge property’s lack of maintenance. He has tried repeatedly to contact the owner, but she remains unresponsive.

The Village will put a lien on the property for reimbursement to the Village for mowing the lawn.

**Minerva Park Community Association:** Councilman Dave Way reported that the 75th Anniversary Committee had met, and plans continue for the 2015 celebration.

**Northland Community Council:** The Columbus Police Department is urging residents to not give money to panhandlers seen at various intersections. If anyone has any problems, please call 645-4545, or if you feel threatened, call 9-1-1. The City Attorney’s Office reported that the Red Carpet Inn will remain closed. A liquor license hearing has been arranged for the Schrock Road drive-thru for alleged bath salt sales, and Columbus Escape is not being monitored. The City of Columbus is asking residents to call 645-3111 if they observe high or overgrown grass. Final termination for membership in the NCC has been approved for Strawberry Farms, Tanager Woods, and Spruce Fields Civic Associations. The Sharon Woods - Beechcroft JC Pool has closed indefinitely. The Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) Summer Reading Program has begun, this year including adults. CML and the Ohio Consortium of Libraries will be meeting in Columbus for their 2016 Annual Convention.

Please see the Council Committee reports, following.

Residents are invited to attend and observe committee meetings ...

**Community,** Dave Way. No report submitted.

**Legislation,** Pam Park-Curry. I want to thank the many residents who attended the Public Hearing on Sunday, June 8. That Public Hearing was part of the process of annexing and rezoning the golf course property for Fischer to purchase and develop the land. As it turned out, Fischer asked us to table the scheduled third reading and passage of the ordinance to approve the annexation, rezoning, and development plan and text. At the June regular council meeting on June 9, we tabled indefinitely Ordinance 2-2014. Other pieces of legislation that were presented at the June council meeting included the third reading and passage of Resolution 2014-11, to put the income tax issue (a 1% increase for a total of a 2% income tax) on the November ballot; the second reading of Resolution 2014-13, to adopt the tax budget for 2015 to submit to the Franklin County Budget Commission; and the first reading of Resolution 2014-15, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

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Other legislative topics being discussed include the trash contract for the last quarter of 2014 going into 2015, authorizing Chief Nuesse to apply for grants for the Police Department, creating an Administrative Specialist position, amending the parking ordinance, and addressing the need to amend our nuisance/maintenance ordinances. Notices of all legislative meetings are posted around the Village and on the Village website.

All pieces of legislation can be found on the Minerva Park website, minervapark.org/legislation. If you have any questions, please contact me at mp-curry@minervapark.org or 890-5809.

Finance, John Michels. The Finance Committee (Ed Detwiler, Pam Park-Curry, and me) and Council members, in general, are deeply committed to ensuring the Village maintains a balanced and responsible budget. As we reflect on the first half of 2014, we’re pleased with the Village’s progress toward that end. At the June 9 Council meeting, May expenditures totaling $132,998.75 were approved. This brings year-to-date expenditures to $456,378.82, which is 33 percent of the total 2014 budget appropriation (source: minervapark.org/fiscal/2014_may.pdf). Thanks in no small part to belt-tightening opportunities identified by our chiefs and department heads, Minerva Park is well within budget expectations. For example, the 2012-13 audit was budgeted to cost about $15,000, but actual costs were only around $10,000.

Speaking of our team, it is with a mix of sadness and thankfulness to announce that Fiscal Officer Lynda Sudderberg will be retiring this November. While we are sad to see her go and will miss her sense of humor, we are thankful for the professionalism and organization she brought to her office. Her attention to detail helped improve the way Minerva Park does business, and her knowledge and scrutiny easily saved the Village thousands of dollars.

The Council and Mayor Eisentrout have discussed steps necessary to find a qualified replacement. In the coming months, we will be reviewing and updating the job description, posting the vacancy on several industry websites, interviewing candidates, and making a selection who will work with Lynda for a brief period to learn the ropes and gain the benefit of her institutional knowledge.

We appreciate Lynda’s work on behalf of the taxpayers of Minerva Park. We are losing a truly valuable member of the team but wish her the very best as she travels and spends more time with loved ones.

REMINDER: A public meeting is scheduled for July 14 at 6:30p at the Community Building for the purpose of presenting the Village’s Tax Budget for the 2015 fiscal year. Residents are encouraged to attend.


Safety, Todd Walter. Council received a report from Police Chief Nuesse that the MDT (Mobile Data Terminal) and the wireless modem project has been completed. These new MDTs replace older ones that were originally obtained in 2007.

The Police Department is still down to two full-time officers for the summer. The Franklin County Sheriff’s office and the Blendon Township Police have been taking calls when Village officers are not on duty.

Service, Jennifer Pauken. We’ve made progress on the Ohio EPA Director’s Finding and Orders (the sanitary sewer project). The emergency response plan has been reviewed and approved by the Ohio EPA. The sewer system survey is complete, and flow monitors have been installed.

As I reported last month, the time to secure bids for the next trash contract is fast approaching. If any residents have feedback on Rumpke’s service, please e-mail me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or call 891-5880. As we evaluate vendors for the next trash contract, price will be the primary concern, but quality of service is an important consideration as well.

Streets, Ed Detwiler. On May 24, Council approved an appropriation not to exceed $25,000 to authorize the Mayor to have Kurguz Paving begin street repair work for 2014. The proposed repairs have been identified and evaluated by the Streets Committee and the Village engineering firm (CH2M Hill).

Repairs include crack sealing for Elmhurst Avenue, Minerva Lake Road, Westbridge Road, Wildwood Road, and Woodley Road. All pot holes identified on all Village streets will be filled. Other repairs include two catch basins w/concrete collars on Ponderosa Drive (near 161), the drainage grate in the Community Building parking lot, the drainage grate on Elmhurst Avenue, a sink hole on Wildwood Road, a catch basin on Farview Drive, and a significant 20’ x 10’ dig out and repair at the entrance to Maplewood Drive from Cleveland Avenue.

To set expectations, crack sealing does not mean that each and every crack will be sealed. To accomplish that, it is more cost effective to top coat the entire...
In 2015, Minerva Park will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its incorporation. With this focus, this periodic personal-interest column will interview Village residents with the ultimate purpose of deepening our sense of community by helping us know our neighbors and our history.

* * *

We introduced Minerva Park’s de facto historian, Rob Stuart, in the March 2014 issue (minervapark.org/villager). This month, meet his wife Arlene. They moved into the Village in 1981 from New York, where Arlene was a court reporter, legal secretary, and then legal assistant to a Supreme Court Justice.

She graduated from Otterbein in 1989 with a degree in Organizational Communication and worked for a local law firm, “where attorneys made things happen.”

That eventually led to a 17-year career with Westerville’s Planning and Zoning Division. Short stints at Hallmark Cards and as a substitute employee for Westerville City Schools occupied her time before joining Minerva Park as the Mayor’s assistant and Zoning Clerk.

Arlene has contributed to the Village by also serving on the MP Civic Association, the precursor to the present Community Association, and by volunteering at Hawthorne Elementary in many capacities.

With the children out of the nest and memories of an interesting life, she and Rob now enjoy the long-deserved relaxation of occasional travel. They are both looking forward to MP’s 75th Anniversary celebration next year and will be contributing their knowledge of MP history to help make it a success.

* * *

Help us celebrate Minerva Park’s 75th Anniversary on September 12, 2015. If you wish to be featured in “Getting to Know You” or suggest a neighbor, email rose_hart@hotmail.com.

mympca.org

A reminder that the website specifically devoted to your MP Community Association is up and running. Please visit mympca.org for MPCA information. During the coming months, we will add more features to the site. Feedback from residents is welcome. •

Hello neighbors! Plans and preparations continue for Minerva Park’s 75th Anniversary celebration, scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2015. We need more people to volunteer and help us make this a great event.

First, a Fundraising Committee Chair. This person would need additional volunteers to plan and execute fundraising events for the event.

We also need someone to chair the Parade Committee. This committee would plan and execute all aspects of the parade on the day of the event.

The committee chairs would work with MPCA and 75th Anniversary Committee to make sure we have a great celebration. Volunteers would be expected to participate in 1-2 meetings per month until the event in September 2015.

Visit mympca.org for more information or contact MPCA President Dani Wolf at president@mympca.org.
Kevin R. Bacon
Attorney at Law

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Curb Appeal

By Paul Miller, Chair, MPCA Newcomers Committee

Minerva Park is a beautiful place to live. Help keep it that way by maintaining and improving your home’s curb appeal. Here are some tips by resident Paul Miller.

***

A Community Matter

When selling a house, the view from the street (a/k/a curb appeal) is one of the most important features. People drive by a prospective new home and, if they don’t like what they see, they drive on. But curb appeal is a much more important matter.

Studies have shown that neighborhoods with higher levels of beauty have decreased levels of crime against property. There seems to be a correlation between curb appeal and safety. Beautiful outdoor environments also contribute to feelings of well-being and to a sense of community.

Key elements of curb appeal include the home’s front door and the path leading to it, the condition of the landscaping, colors used for the home and plantings, points of interest, and objects that reflect the interests of residents.

Start your curb appeal improvement project in the street in front of your house. Look at your home from the perspective of a stranger seeing it for the first time. Jot down 5 words or phrases describing what you see. For example: tired, fresh, overgrown, welcoming, inviting, energized, current, or neglected. Decide which descriptive word you would like to change and begin the process of improving your curb appeal.

Examples of homes that are “inviting” are 3202 Minerva Lake Road and 2625 Jordan Road.

Your Front Door

An important part of curb appeal involves where the eye goes when glancing at the front of your home. It should go directly to the front door and linger there with a feeling of being invited in. Take a look at these aspects of your entrance.

• Clear View. Is anything obstructing the view of your front door? Is it around the corner from the garage? Are there objects on the porch that hide or block easy entrance to the door? Are there tall, overgrown shrubs? Make sure there is a clear view of the front door from the street. Keep plants trimmed back. Don’t provide hiding places for unwanted visitors. Be sure your address is clearly visible from the street.

• Color. The front door is most attractive if it is painted a color that is different from the house or trim. Pick a color that harmonizes to what is around it but has more energy. See 2871 East Shore Court for an example of a color that was taken from the brick on the front of the house. Several homes in Minerva Park have front doors with beveled glass that also attracts the eye. You may want to avoid bright red ... in the Western culture, it communicates “stay away.”

• Lighting. Check the amount of light that shines on your front door after dark. It should be enough to say “welcome” but not so much that it glares. Be sure it adequately lights your house numbers.

• Path. The ideal sidewalk to the front door is a meandering (curved) path, but few houses have this luxury. Meandering paths can be seen at 3099 Minerva Lake Road and 2739 Maplewood. A corrective for a straight sidewalk is to line the sidewalk with curved flower beds and landscaping that provides different interest points along the way.

Bring the eye to the front door to increase your curb appeal! •

May - MP Police made no arrests.
5..... 2:34p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., theft
13... 4:00p, Cardinal Ct, Wildwood Rd area, warning citation
14... 2:12p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft
14... 2:20p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft
15... 3:15p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, criminal damaging
20... 3:05p, 2700 blk Maplewood, informational report taken
28... 1:00p, MP pool, warning citation
29... 10:10a, 3200 blk Dublin-Granville, hit-skip accident •

$ Village Financials

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

May 2014
Beg balance general fund......$252,101
Receipts..................................$118,461
Disbursements....................($131812)
Ending balance....................$238,749
Welcome
Our New Neighbors!
Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues

Trevor McCool & Kenzie Valentine, 2759 Minerva Lake Road, 746-0763, from New Albany
Roland & Donna Kopecky, 2916 Kernwood Drive, 678-9889, from Columbus
Will & Lisa Cleland, 2593 Woodley, 312-7125, from Columbus
Rafael Simo & Michelle Etter, 2615 Wildwood, 424-9662, from Columbus

If you learn of any new residents, please advise Paul Miller, pemill@earthlink.net

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Grass Clippings
Grass clippings in the street wind up clogging MP storm sewers, costing the Village money. Please mulch grass clippings into your own yard or dispose of them properly. Thanks for being a good neighbor.

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Public Meeting
July 14 - 6:30p
Community Building
Proposed 2015 Tax Budget

Save the Date
Minerva Park’s 75th Anniversary Celebration
September 12, 2015
Call 890-2427 to help with the planning.

Advertise in the Villager... 899-3755
Ads start at $15 - discount on 6-month contracts

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, Jul 16, 5p

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