INCOME TAX BALLOT ISSUE

#4 in a Series - Why is the Income Tax Increase Back on the November 4 Ballot?

By Council President Ed Detwiler, Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry, Councilwoman Jennifer Pauken, Councilman John Michels, Councilman Todd Walter, Mayor Lynn Eisentrout

On November 4, residents will have an opportunity to vote on a Minerva Park Income Tax ballot issue, which if passed would increase Minerva Park’s income tax from 1% to 2%. This is the fourth in a series to help you become an informed voter. Previous articles are available at minervapark.org or for pick-up at the Community Building.

* * *

In the past few years, financial sources that helped to keep the Village afloat have been drying up. “Money from the local government fund has been cut in half since 2011, changes in personal property tax laws have eliminated hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue, and the elimination of the estate tax has ended a sporadic, but sometimes needed, revenue source for communities.”

So where else can the Village get money? Property taxes and income taxes. For every $100 of property taxes you pay, the Village receives $13.59. For every $100 of MP income taxes you pay, the Village receives $96.83.

During 2011 and 2012, Council was able to maintain existing services by tight budgeting and using cash reserves to bridge the gap. This solution was not sustainable, and a different approach had to be taken in 2013 and 2014. The Village bolstered revenues by (1) rescinding the 50% tax credit, (2) eliminating Village-paid trash collection (aprx $100,000) and leaf pick-up ($12,000-$14,000), and (3) moving code enforcement from proactive to a more complaint-driven approach to reduce hours and cost. Additionally the Police Department cut staff and hours, being no longer able to support 24/7 coverage.

Where do your taxes go? See page 5.

In February 2014, 15 votes defeated the income tax increase, but the Village still needs money, so in June, Village Council unanimously passed legislation to put the income tax increase on the November 4 ballot. If passed, the Village income tax rate would go from 1% to 2%. The money will be used for:
• Reinstating 24/7 Police coverage.

... continued on page 5

Community Assn. Officer Elections

The MP Community Association (MPCA) Annual Meeting and officer elections will take place on Wednesday, September 10, at 7 p.m., at the Community Building. Your Community Association oversees the many social events throughout the year … children’s parties, wine & cheese evenings and family fun night at the pool, the community garage sale, meet the candidates, garden awards & garden tour, Christmas carriage rides, the annual Resident Directory & the monthly Villager newsletter, and more.

Residents interested in running for an officer position (detailed on page 2) may submit their name, contact information, and reasons why they want to participate. Submissions to the Nominating Committee can be made via email to president@mympca.org or in writing by dropping off the information in the MCPA mailbox inside the Community Building door.

Also, there are several committee positions to be filled, so please reach out if you are interested or have any questions.

Deadline to step forward for one of the officer positions - September 5. Deadline to volunteer for your Community Association - none … your Community Association needs help ALL the time!

SEPTEMBER DATES
2 (7p) ............... Planning & Zoning
6 (8a) ............ Council Work Session
8 (7p) .............. Council Meeting
10 (7p) ............. MPCA Meeting
17 (6p) ............ Mayors Court
17 (5p) ............ Villager Deadline
24 (7p) ............ 7th Anny Planning
MP Community Association News

**MPCA Officer Positions**

- **President** presides over all meetings of the Executive Board, coordinate committees, and provides leadership and direction for the Association.
- **Vice President** acts as an aide to the President and performs duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- **Treasurer** keeps funds in order, provides budget and fiscal reporting, and tracks income and expenses.
- **Secretary** records meeting minutes, tracks issues, and creates meeting agendas.

**Scholarship**

The MPCA would like to congratulate Jamie Thitoff, recipient of the 2014 Nancy Fischer Scholarship. Jamie graduated from St. Francis DeSales High School in 2014. A longtime resident, she has participated in community events, has volunteered, and has been a valued member of our community. Jamie, a member of the National Honor Society, will attend Ohio Dominican University this fall and plans to study Early Childhood Education.

**Membership Drive**

MPCA representatives will be visiting soon, asking that your household become an MPCA member. Dues are only $20/year and underwrite the many events that help make Minerva Park a special place to live. This is your opportunity to update your contact information in the Resident Directory. Please contact Bonnie Townsend at 890-2427 to volunteer some of your time to help with this effort.

**Need a Night Out?**

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Staff Changes: As some of you may already know, our Clerk of Courts and Police Clerk, Sara Schumacher, has accepted a full-time position at Otterbein University. Sara has been an amazing, dedicated employee and colleague and will be greatly missed. She has graciously assisted us in the transition and training of new and current staff members and helping with Mayor’s Court. Chris Weisenberger, my Administrative Assistant and the Zoning Clerk, will be transitioning to the Clerk of Courts and Police Clerk position. Lorraine (Lori) Roblin has joined us as a part-time employee filling the Mayor’s Administrative Assistant and Zoning Clerk positions. Referring to the Legislation Committee report by Councilwoman Park-Curry, the Council passed legislation to create an administrative specialist position that can be either full-time or part-time. The same flexibility was granted to the Fiscal Officer position. The goal is to be as frugal and efficient as possible while filling staff positions, having a good pool of candidates to choose from, with the end result of possibly having one full-time position and the other positions remaining part-time. I also am interviewing for the Code Enforcement position. Filling this position with a well-motivated and decently paid individual is crucial. Because of budget cuts, we had to move to a more complaint-driven mode of enforcement. We can do better. Trying to operate a Village with the many government rules, guidelines, and regulations, being so thinly-staffed and with budget constraints has proved most challenging.

Golf Course: Well, the celebration was brief but well-deserved. The Village Council, Planning & Zoning Commission members, the golf course ad hoc committee, and our staff have worked very hard to safeguard the future and vision of our Village at the many meetings with Fischer Homes. Within less than two weeks after Fischer notified the Village that they were no longer interested in purchasing and developing the golf course property, other developers have reached out to either the owners or the Village to request meetings. Before we meet with any of these developers, I suggested they read all of the communications and material related to the negotiations with Fischer Homes that are posted on the website. I spoke with the property owner mid-August, and he has not heard anything further from any of them. We will keep you posted.

Income Tax: As stated on page 1, the income tax issue will be on the November 4 ballot again.

People have asked me about the difference of what Minerva Park receives from property taxes vs. an MP income tax. For every $100 of property taxes you pay, the Village receives $13.59. For every $100 of MP income taxes you pay, the Village receives $96.83. Voters will determine the future of the Village.

Let’s consider property values. Residents have said they value (1) a fully-staffed police department that will be proactive with high visibility, a known deterrent to criminal activities, and (2) a proactive code enforcement program instead of only responding to complaints. Speaking of property values, many of us have received our updated valuations for our homes from the Franklin County Auditor’s Office—the 2014 Triennial Update. The news is not good. My property was devalued by $6,900, meaning the Village will realize even less in property taxes. Multiply that by homes throughout the Village. If you couple that with reduced local government funding and the abolishment of the Inheritance Tax, the Village needs additional revenue if we hope to maintain a decent level of service and safety for our residents.

Let’s consider the tax base. In MP, there are income earners, retirees, and limited commercial establishments. Who pays? Property taxes ... all Minerva Park property owners, in the form of millage (for which MP receives $13.59 for every $100 of property taxes paid). MP income taxes ... MP residents who are income earners, businesses in Minerva Park and their employees (for which MP receives $96.83 for every $100 of income taxes paid). Retirement funds are not taxable for local tax purposes, i.e., Social Security, annuities, pensions, retirement funds, IRAs, payoffs on life insurance policies, etc.
Please read the articles by some of the Council members, starting on page 1. They outline projects that will be need to be funded. We will continue to keep you informed so you can make an informed decision in November.

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

Safety, Todd Walter. Nothing to report.

Service, Jennifer Pauken. As this issue goes to press, smoke testing (part of the sanitary sewer project) should be nearly completed. Results and analysis will be forthcoming. Trash bids from three vendors were received, and Local Waste was selected as service provider for residents, billing quarterly at $14.25/month. Local Waste will begin service on October 1, with its first collection date being Monday, October 6. We anticipate a smooth transition from Rumpke to Local Waste.

Streets, Ed Detwiler. The street repairs that were identified and evaluated by the Streets Committee and the Village engineering firm (CH2M Hill) are now complete. The total cost for all repairs is $24,950.

Repairs finished from the last report are the catch basin and concrete collars on the south side of Ponderosa Drive (before the service road near 161) and the drainage grate on Elmhurst Avenue.

Any residents who wish to receive a detailed account or report damage to their streets are encouraged to contact me at 895-0465 or at mp-detwiler@minervapark.org.

Community, Dave Way. No report submitted.

Legislation, Pam Park-Curry. At the August meeting, Council decided to keep Ordinance 2-2014 (Fischer Annexation and Re-Zoning request) tabled and let the process expire. As of this writing, the deadline has passed to annex and rezone the golf course property, and we will withdraw the Ordinance in August. But the legislative committee is busy preparing for any future annexation, rezoning, and development opportunities arise. We began reading legislation for Preliminary Plat Fees and Final Plat Fees. These fees will help pay for legal, engineering, administrative, and consulting costs associated with a subdivision development.

As we strive to fill administrative positions, Council passed legislation making the Fiscal Officer position either part-time or full-time, hoping the increased flexibility will help us find a highly qualified person to fill that critical role when Lynda Sudderberg retires the end of October. With the resignation of Sara Schumacher last month, Council created an Administrative Specialist position that also could be either part-time or full-time, allowing the Mayor flexibility in filling the jobs that Sara did, namely Clerk of Courts and Police Clerk. It is the intention to have a maximum of one full-time administrative staff position and other part-time positions. Other pieces of legislation presented at the August Council Meeting included the trash collection contract, a mediation services contract, a Police donation of surplus property to the Hamersville Police Dept., and beginning the process to designate a bank for Village monies, which needs to be done every five years.

The Legislative Committee continues to work closely with Planning and Zoning to adopt the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code, repeal duplicate property maintenance codes, clarify our fence code, and adopt vehicle repair zoning codes. 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. There is nothing further to report, other than referencing the Legislation Committee report, above. •

continued from page 1 ...

- Reinstating Village-paid leaf pick-up, starting with autumn 2015.
- Strengthening Code Enforcement.
- Maintaining the lakes - continued lake treatments, aerating to prevent algae growth, and dredging the North Lake.
- Replenishing cash reserves (Rainy Day Fund).
- Addressing infrastructure such as street maintenance and water lines.
- Maintaining an aging pool - replacing the baby pool and repairing or replacing the walls in the main pool.
- Complying with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Emergency Management Agency that we remediate the earthen dam.5
- Complying with the mandates from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency that we test and remediate any storm and sanitary sewer infiltrations.6
- Staying current with technology to improve communication with residents and administrative efficiency.
- Funding the future EMS vehicle replacement.

The January 2014 issue of the Villager (minervapark.org/villager/2014-01.pdf) detailed resident safety, i.e., Police and EMS. Here is another look ...

Police Department

In 2012, the Police Department was able to provide 24/7 police
Where do your property taxes go?

For every $116.97 of property taxes you pay, Minerva Park gets $15.85. Expressed in dollars and cents on each $1,000 of assessed valuation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$80.05 Westerville Schools</th>
<th>$18.47 Franklin County</th>
<th>$15.85 Minerva Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2.00 Libraries</td>
<td></td>
<td>$.60 Blendon Township</td>
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Where do your MP income taxes go?

Every dollar you pay in MP income tax goes into MP’s General Fund, less RITA’s administrative/collection fee. So if the same $116.97 were paid as MP income taxes instead, the distribution would be:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>$113.26 Minerva Park</th>
<th>$3.71 RITA’s Administrative/Collection Fee</th>
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According to RITA and based on FY2013, an additional 1% income tax will generate est. $360,000. To realize the same amount of revenue via property taxes, property taxes would have to be increased by 10+ mills (for a total of almost 26 mills).

coverage, being fully funded at $596,372. For 2014, the Minerva Park Police budget is $452,610, a budget cut of 24.1%. With that, the Police Department is short-staffed and cannot provide 24/7 police coverage. Advantages of our own 24/7 police coverage are:

- Frequent patrols and quicker response times.
- Safer streets because of proactive traffic enforcement.
- Lower crime rates than surrounding communities.
- Improved sense of community ... school patrols and outreach programs, police familiarity with families having special needs, senior watch, house watch, latchkey children programs, frequent school patrols, block watch programs, police coverage for Village events.
- Potentially lower insurance rates.

Some have suggested outsourcing police coverage. The Village has received estimates up to appx $700,000 annually, but there were many details not included. As previously reported and discussed at Coffee with Council, the Finance Committee determined that the costs associated to outsourcing police for 24/7 coverage would exceed the costs to operate our own Police Department in-house. Therefore, the Committee found no need for further consideration of outsourcing police services, as it pertains to the 2014 budget.

Fire Department, EMS

In 2012, the Fire Department responded to 437 emergency calls in MP and surrounding jurisdictions, and EMS members served nearly 5,300 hours, on a staff, supplies, and repair budget of $67,776. In 2014, the budget is estimated at $99,230. Advantages of maintaining our own EMS services are:

- Fire prevention and fire inspection services.
- Maintenance of 90 fire hydrants in the Village.
- Improved sense of community ... CPR and first aid classes, outreach programs.
- Potentially lower insurance rates.

Some have suggested outsourcing EMS and rescue services. The contract would be calculated at full-time, union-scale wages plus benefits and equipment, which have been estimated at $300,000 annually. Why is MP’s current rate so low in comparison to outsourcing? Because MP provides EMS back-up for surrounding municipalities. For that, MP gets fire coverage at no additional cost. It is a win-win.

Next Month

Learn more about mandates for storm and sanitary sewer overflow and dam repairs ... and the importance of replenishing our Rainy Day fund for unexpected expenses.

Questions?
Submit questions to mpvoterquestions@gmail.com and then attend the MP Community Association’s Candidates Night, date and time TBD.
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.

Once upon a time, a street now called Wildwood Road could have been called Santilli Road, according to Anita. There lived Anita Santilli with her family in one house, her brother-in-law with his family next door, and her mother-in-law in another. All on the same street. All built at the same time. By their cousin Iafolla Builders. 58 years ago. And with Anita’s parents building a home on Cleveland Avenue, south of Morse Road, the Santilli children grew up surrounded by a huge family.

Anita still lives in the same house on Wildwood. Of the 5 siblings, Anita is the only one left. Everyone else is gone. Today daughter Lori, with husband Jeff Howard, their 2 children, and a dog, live next door. At age 89, Anita’s memory is fantastic, and she remembers all the stories …

She graduated in 1942 from Sacred Heart Business School and worked as a bookkeeper until she moved to Washington DC in 1945, where she worked in Payroll at the Naval Research Lab while living with her sister. One of Anita’s best years was in DC, when she was 19. She had returned to Columbus and applied at Timken Roller Bearing, but the personnel boss steered her to his friend at The Ohio State University, where she subsequently worked as a secretary for Prof. Spohn until 1950 when she got pregnant. "When you got pregnant in those days, you had to quit your job." After the first child was born, she became a homemaker and raised three more children.

In 1956, when the Village was more forest than community, wild berries were plentiful throughout Minerva Park, not only on Wildwood. Kids would pick and eat them and come home covered with poison ivy.

Anita also remembers winters when the lake would be frozen for weeks and the older children enjoyed skating on it, taking breaks only for lunch and dinner.

She returned to work in 1973 for Dr. Heering in Grandview. After 14 years with him, she remembers him as “the most wonderful boss, an old-fashioned doctor, very considerate of people.”

When he retired, Anita went to work for Family Practice of Westerville, first as a receptionist and later in billing, her original trade. She was there, part-time, for the next 16 years, until 2003.

“I am Minerva Park’s biggest fan,” Anita says. “I’ve loved it here ever since we moved in, in 1956. On our 8th anniversary, Leo and I moved into the home we built.”

They married in 1948, had 2 children when they arrived in MP, and 2 more came along later. Three children graduated from Westerville schools. The oldest, Nancy, went to DeSales. All four children lived at home until they married. Now grown, Nancy and Lori have worked in a Bexley dental office for more than 30 years.

Bob is president of Tattle Tale Security in Westerville, and Leo owns Powerwash of Ohio as its president and CEO.

Anita remembers husband Leo and his next-door brother playing golf every day when it didn’t snow. The brothers owned a bar near Westerville and worked nights. Later Leo ran his own pizza shop.

Anita took up golf after taking lessons with Rino Della Flora at Ohio State. She played with the MP Women’s League, with the Riviera Ladies League, and with the MP Couples’ League. One year, Anita and Leo led all the way, only to lose by 1 stroke in the last match to the Priestas. On July 5, 1965, Anita had the first-ever hole-in-one on the Bash Driving Range in Dublin. It’s no surprise that, as an avid golfer, Anita hasn’t been happy about the possibility of losing the Minerva Lake Golf Course.

Also a devoted Cincinnati Reds fan, she still watches all their games. As newlyweds, she and Leo attended a 1948 World Series game, pitting the Cleveland Indians (4) against the Boston Braves (2). It was the first world series televised nationwide, with play-by-play called by famed sportscaster Red Barber.

Tickets to a 1990 World Series game came courtesy of Channel 28, where Leo was a courier. The Cincinnati Reds challenged the heavily favored defending champion Oakland Athletics. Anita was so exhilarated that night that she didn’t get any sleep. Her beloved Reds went on to sweep the series 4-0.

How much does Anita enjoy traveling? From 1947 to 2012, she took 40 trips to California to visit her sister. Travel hasn’t been limited to the United States. Once she and Leo vacationed in Saint-Maarten, Puerto Rico, as a result of his winning the trip. She visited Italy with Leo and the children in 1977 and again in 1986 with her two sisters. The last trip to Italy, with her sister, came in 1998 because her husband of 45 years had passed away in 1994. Leo, Welsh/Italian, had been a broker with Action Energy.

Anita proudly shares her precious MP memorabilia, one the 1998 copy of Columbus Monthly that featured Minerva...
The Villager - September 2014

Park as “A Little Oasis.” MP then was voted one of the 20 Best Neighborhoods. Today MP is rated 3rd after Westerville and Grandview Heights. She also shares two original MP swimming pool bonds that were sold in 1963 to open the pool. At one point, Anita seriously thought about moving out of the Village to get a house together with daughter Lori. Although they quickly found buyers, they never found a community like our MP, so they scrapped that idea.

Anita, the once-avid golfer, tries to stay in shape, doing a mile on the treadmill every day. She also stays current with technology, busy in retirement with an iPhone, computer, 5 grandchildren and step-grandchildren, and 4 step-great-grandchildren who keep her young! Daughter Lori with husband Jeff Howard, who is like a son to Anita, bought the house next door in 1989. The families are close, sharing meals and helping each other. Luke and Gigi Howard, born while living next door to their grandmother, visit with Anita often.

What a wonderful and close family they are on Wildwood Road, the would-be “Santilli Road”!

... 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_harl@hotmail.com.

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

Minerva Park’s 75th Anniversary Celebration
September 12, 2015. Call 890-2427 and meet at the Community Building on September 24 to help with the planning. Details on page 9.

Medic Report

July 2014
Medic 119 made 14 runs - 3 run into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and none into Minerva Park, with 10 patients transported to local hospitals. 11 members volunteered a total of 173.5 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,672.4 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Brian Bates (27 hours), Brian Horton (26.5 hours), and Marissa Kurtz (24 hours).

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mympca.org
Learn more about your Community Association and keep track of its calendar of events at mympca.org.

Underwritten by your $20 MPCA dues
July - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor arrest.
2.... Cleveland & Maplewood, hit-skip crash
4.... 1:16p, Westerville Rd & Minerva Lake Rd, warrant on file, arrest
5.... 6:08p, 2500 blk Jordan, phone harassment
7.... 9:06a, Hawthorne Elementary, criminal mischief
11.. 3:59p, 5000 blk Cleveland Ave, passing bad checks
21.. 8:33p, South Lake area, vandalism
28.. 3:48p, 2700 blk Minerva Lake Rd, warning citation •

Our New Neighbors!

Johnie Stegall, Johnie C. Stegall, Tyrone Flournoy, 5099 Maplewood, 561-4829, from Columbus
Joey & Tamesha Jones, 5276 Westbridge, 302-4066, from Columbus
Nathan & Anita Johnson, 2783 Alder Vista, 949-6622, from Gahanna

If you learn of any new residents - or if you're a new resident but haven't received your welcome packet - please contact Paul Miller, pemill@earthlink.net

Village Financials

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

July 2014
Beg balance general fund......$207,027
Receipts.............................$45,563
Disbursements......................($82,859)
Ending balance......................$169,925

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.

MP’s 75th Anniversary

On September 12 next year, Minerva Park will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of its incorporation. The Committee is in need of volunteers. See mympca.org or contact MPCA president Dani Wolf at president@mympca.org for information.

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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.
References
1. Source: Marion Star, October 20, 2013
2. Regional Income Tax Agency
3. crimereports.com/
4. Based on comparisons with other municipalities that contract with Columbus.
5. Watch for the October 2014 Villager.
6. minervapark.org
7. iso.com/

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MPCA President Dani Wolf............................... 948-2372

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, Sep 17, 5p

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