INCOME TAX BALLOT ISSUE

#6 in a Series - Candidates Night Recap

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

Read previous articles at minervapark.org

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 sixth 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.

On Thursday, October 16, your MP Community Association sponsored its annual Candidates Night, with a focus on the proposed MP 1% income tax increase that will appear on the November 4 ballot.

Council met with more than 30 residents to present facts, answer questions, and explain how revenues have decreased nearly 20% since 2010, resulting in significant reductions in spending and services (e.g., police staffing) and streamlined operations.

Council presented its primary spending priorities and associated cost estimates if the income tax increase passes, including:

- Providing for a fully-staffed, fully-equipped police force and 24/7 coverage with dedicated Minerva Park officers.

- Initiating engineering studies on critical infrastructure projects (mandated dam repair, North Lake dredging, mandated sanitary sewer repairs).

- Addressing deferred maintenance and projects, some of which are:
  - Community Building - ADA compliance, water in the lower level, parking lot repairs.
  - Village-paid leaf pick-up.
  - Strong code enforcement.
  - Pool repairs - baby pool, walls, pump house.
  - Removal and maintenance of trees on Village property.
  - Trash rack & dredging the silt pit in the South Lake.
  - Codification of ordinances.

Additionally, Council responded to very thoughtful questions from residents about:

- Income tax vs. property tax.
  - An income tax means that businesses and non-residents (those working in the Village) pay their fair share for utilizing Village services.

- Property taxes would need to

... continued on page 2

Merry Christmas!

Cops for Kids

Please support our Police Dept. by donating new & gently used toys for children of all ages. Donations will go to families in Minerva Park and surrounding areas. Donations accepted Mon - Fri, 9a to noon, Community Building. Deadline - December 13. If you have any questions, contact 882-1408. Thank you!

Infants - rattles, small stuffed animals, playpen toys.
Toddlers - board books, age-appropriate toys.
Children - books, coloring books, paint sets, age-appropriate toys.
Teens - music CDs, books, arts and craft sets, electronics, nail polish or hair styling for girls, gift cards.
Additional - Any new clothing items, such as coats, jackets, gloves, hats, scarves, sweaters.

NOVEMBER DATES

4 (6:30a-7:30p) ...................... VOTE
5 (7p) .......................... 75th Anny Planning
6 (7p) .......................... Block Watch
8 (8a) .......................... Council Work Session
8 (9a-noon) ...................... Fall Clean-up
10 .................. Rumpe Container Pick-up
10 (6p) ...................... Public Hearing
10 (7p) .......................... Council Meeting
11 (7p) ...................... Planning & Zoning
12 (7p) ...................... MPCA Meeting
19 (5p) .................... Villager Deadline
19 (6p) ...................... Mayor’s Court
The MP Community Association News

The MPCA’s MinervaFlora Committee is committed to helping with various landscaping responsibilities in the Village. Preparing for MP’s 75th Anniversary and beyond, we are looking for individuals and/or families to help with a variety of responsibilities.

- Garden Tour participants (last week in June) - nominate your own tour-worthy garden or a neighbor’s
- Judging the 4-Season Garden Contest - rotating seasons annually
- Growing a butterfly garden or two
- Continuous care of a MP public garden bed (Community Building; entrances at Minerva Lake Rd, Maplewood Rd, Woodley Rd, Wildwood Rd; Maplewood playground area; spillway area; pool. Responsibilities include weeding, trimming plants, possibly edging, mulching, watering if necessary.
- Supporting the Village Clean-ups - tiding public garden spaces

Please contact Lisa Craddock Thitoff (891-2166) to give of your time.

Save the Date

Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 13
10a to noon
MP Community Bldg.
Games, activities, ornament making, snacks, crafts, a special visit from Santa!

MPCA dues

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

continued from page 1

be increased by approximately 10 mills, for a total of nearly 26 mills, to raise the same amount of revenue.
- Income tax revenue would start being collected in 2015, but property tax revenue would start being collected in 2016.
- Plans if the income tax issue fails.
  - Most budget items would hold at 2014 levels.
  - Possible additional cuts and/or suspended services, including further cuts to the Police and EMS services.
  - Determining whether areas such as the pool should be funded at all.
  - Discretionary projects, such as lake dredging and Community Building maintenance, could continue to be deferred.

- Mandated projects, i.e., the dam and sewers, would require a shift of funds from other areas to meet these obligations.
- Possibility of reinstating an income tax credit (at this time, there is no credit for income taxes paid to other municipalities).

These topics are available for viewing in the detailed presentation slides online at minervapark.org and in the print-out available at the Community Building.

Take a moment to read ALL of the material on the website. Be informed and please vote on November 4. Remember, Minerva Park residents vote at the North Park Church of Christ, 4938 Westerville Road. Call 890-2427 if you need assistance getting to the polls.

Council would like to extend its appreciation to our gracious hosts Pastor Dan and Kim Casciolli of the Faith Life Family Church on Jordan Road who provided an excellent venue. Thanks also to the sponsor, your MP Community Association (MPCA), especially MPCA President Dani Wolf and her husband Brian.

And a very special thanks to all the residents who attended Candidates Night. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to hear your questions and concerns directly. The issue on the ballot is important, and Council does not take this lightly. Now through November 4, you will vote with your hearts, minds, and your wallets. Yea or nay, please vote and let your voice be heard so this is decided by a majority of registered voters.

There are other items on MP’s ballot, reproduced on page 9.
The Police Department is phasing out old radios, switching to digital radios in December to come into compliance with the regulations of the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office and the City of Columbus Police Department.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported that the vehicle is running fine for now. There was a brief discussion about the billing process and how delinquent payments are handled. The Safety and Finance Committee will discuss this further.

Southwest Minerva Park Block Watch Meeting: There will be a combined block watch meeting for the Alder Vista, Briar Rose, Lakewood, and Maplewood residents on November 6 at 7 p.m. at the Community Building. There has been quite a bit of interest in setting up block watches in these areas. We are hoping that there will be interest in the northern and central portions of the Village also.

Income Tax: For those of you who were unable to attend the MPCA-sponsored Candidates Night on October 16, you missed a very good presentation by the Village Council. It can be downloaded from the Village website (minervapark.org), and I would encourage you to take a look at it. Hard copies are available at the Community Building. Take a moment to read ALL of the available material on the website. Be informed and please vote on November 4.

Rumpke Recycling Bins and Trash Containers: On Monday, November 10, our former trash hauler, Rumpke, will pick up its empty recycling bins and trash cans that belong to them. Just place them at the curb, empty. We appreciate your cooperation.

All Council members were present for the regular Council meeting on October 13.

Minutes from the August 11 and September 8 meetings were approved.

Public Hearing

Variance Request
6p, November 10
Community Building

Nicky Mehta, 5360 Cleveland Ave., rezoning from R3 Suburban Residential to Suburban Office and Institutional District … addition of 3 hard-surfaced parking spaces.

Ordinance 12-2014 to adopt a section to 1272.04 of the codified ordinances regarding motor vehicle service and repair.

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If you are interested in hosting a block watch meeting to set up a block watch on your street (it’s very easy), please call Chief Nuesse or Lt. Fenstermaker at 882-1408.

**Legal:** Law Director Jennifer Croghan had nothing to report.

**Planning & Zoning and Code Enforcement:** Councilwoman Pam Park-Curry reported that two fence permits were approved at the October 7 meeting. Code Enforcement Officer Scott Doellinger reported that he has toured the Village, documented some infractions and written letters to property or business owners. He also has responded to some complaints received from residents. He has taken photographs of storefronts (to regulate signage) and will follow up with the vendors.

**Northland Community Council:** Mayor Eisentrout reported for Bob Gale. The City Attorney’s office reported that the Super 8 and Best Western motels, both located on 161, will be permitted to reopen on December 1 per a strict plea agreement and with the Fire Marshall’s approval. A representative from the Columbus Metropolitan Library reported that the Northern Lights Branch is in its final design phase for their new addition. COTA’s Bus Rapid Transit has moved their planned transit center from the Columbus Square or Northland Plaza sites to Meijer on Cleveland Avenue.

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

**Streets,** Ed Detwiler. Nothing new to report. Any residents who wish to 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.

**Finance,** John Michels. At its October 13 meeting, Council approved September expenditures totaling $75,561.45. As of September 30, year-to-date Village spending in the General Fund totaled $748,837.75. It is important to note that General Fund expenditures are down approximately 12% compared to this same period in 2013. This can be attributed directly to service cuts to police and code enforcement, reduced maintenance spending for parks and the pool, and reduced salaries and benefits for Mayor’s Court and Fiscal Office staff. In addition, most Council members receive no pay, reducing costs in this area.

The Finance Committee would like to extend a special thanks and heartfelt goodbye to Fiscal Officer Lynda Sudderberg who attended her last official Council meeting this October. She is off to enjoy retirement and has left the Fiscal Office in the capable hands of her replacement, Wade Steen. He has a distinguished career in government accounting & finance, having served in the State Auditor’s Office, President of Council for Upper Arlington, Franklin County Treasurer, and most recently as fiscal officer for Cuyahoga County. Welcome to the team, Wade!

As always, if there are any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at jmichels@minervapark.org.

**Legislation,** Pam Park-Curry. A public hearing on proposed zoning ordinances and changes will be held on November 10, starting at 6 p.m. One item for the public hearing is a rezoning on Cleveland Avenue, while the other is the motor vehicle repair/service ordinance. The Legislative Committee has been working closely with the Planning & Zoning Commission to more clearly define sections of the fence ordinance. If you would like to see Council make changes in our zoning ordinances, consider coming to one of the Planning & Zoning meetings to address your concerns. The process begins with Planning & Zoning.

In October, Council had the second readings for various 2015 contracts. One piece of legislation is adopting the Rules of Council for 2015. In those Rules, Council is seriously considering having two regular meetings each month instead of the one regular meeting council has currently. Council would keep the meeting that is scheduled for the second Monday of each month and add a meeting on the fourth Monday of the month. Watch the Villager for more information about this.

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

**Safety,** Todd Walter presented Council with a spreadsheet of police vehicle expenses for the first six months of 2014, showing that operating and maintaining the three cruisers cost $8,057, including $2,885 on repairs and $5,172 on gasoline.

**Service,** Jennifer Pauken. The transition from Rumpke to Local Waste seems to have gone smoothly. In an effort to recover their orange-red recycling bins, Rumpke will pick up their empty bins on November 10. If you still have any of Rumpke’s bins, please set them at the curb so they can be recovered, reused, and recycled. As always, please feel free to contact me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5808 with any questions or concerns.
$ Village Financials

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

September 2014
Beg balance general fund......$353,725
Receipts..........................$96,123
Disbursements...............($72,053)
Ending balance...............$377,795

Christmas Carriage Rides - Sunday, December 14, 5:30p-8:30p
Reservation deadline December 1, 5 p.m.
Register online at my-mpca.org or email your reservations to mayor@minervapark.org or deliver to Lynn Eisenhour (882-5743), 2829 Minerva Lake Rd.
If you have not paid your MPCA membership dues of $20 for the coming year, please put your check, payable to MCPA or Minerva Park Community Association, in an envelope with your name on it, and deposit it the mail slot at the Community Building door. Remember, Carriage Rides are open to MPCA members only.

Names & Ages of Minerva Park Community Association
Member Household & Limited Guests

Need a Night Out?
Give Erin a shout!
Erin Walsh
Also available on weekend days so you can do errands.

Joshua’s Mowing & Trimming
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joshuasmowingtrimming@yahoo.com

The Villager - November 2014 Page 5
Leaf Pick-up

If you contract with a private company to pick up your leaves this year, here are some guidelines:

Leaf Collection Tips
• No foreign materials, please, such as brush, twigs, or grass clippings. Objects such as stones, bricks, or large rocks can cause severe damage to the vacuum collection equipment. Please be a responsible neighbor and keep your curb and street area free of this debris.
• Rake leaves to the curb area only – not into the street. Leaves left on the grass may cause discoloration, but yellowing is not long-term and grass recovers quickly. Leaves placed in the street become wet and may block storm sewers.
• Refrain from on-street parking during scheduled collection weeks. Collecting leaves from behind parked vehicles significantly inhibits ability to provide timely pick-up.
• On cul-de-sacs or circles, please park in your driveways, so the leaf collection machinery can navigate the tight turns on the street.

September - MP Police made 1 misdemeanor arrest.
3.... 11:54a, Gordon Food Service, 5400 Cleveland Ave, warning citation
8.... 2:35p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave, theft reported
11.. 12:52p, 2900 blk Berry Lane Court, burglary
12.. 11:55a, 2600 blk Minerva Lake Road, breaking & entering
17.. 12:08p, 5200 blk Cleveland Ave, traffic stop resulting in arrest
20.. 3:00p, Cleveland Ave & Jordan Rd, traffic stop resulting in arrest
25.. 9:13a, 5300 blk Park Lane Dr, found property
29.. 1:25p, 3000 blk Carleton Court, warning citation

Block Watch Meeting

For Alder Vista, Briar Rose, Lakewood, Maplewood
Others Welcome

Thursday, November 6
7 p.m.
MP Community Bldg.

Mayor's Court

Mayor’s Court is open to the public — our next session is November 19, 6 p.m. If you have questions, please call 882-1408.

August 2014
Citation payments ...................... 64
Village General Fund .......... $5,192
Remitted to the State .......... $1,759
Columbus ............................... $57
Total Court Receipts .......... $7,008

Fall Clean-Up

Saturday, November 8
9:00a-noon
Free breakfast for workers.

Please bring labeled rakes, clippers, chain saws, gloves, etc., and join us at the Community Building. If you can work at other times or have questions, call Dave Way 895-9963.
Medic 119 made 27 runs - 6 run into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and none into Minerva Park, with 17 patients transported to local hospitals. 25 members volunteered a total of 165.5 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,969.4 hours. Leading volunteers for the month were Tom Balliett (25 hours), Tim Lockard (25 hours), and Marissa Kurtz (20 hours).
Leaf Pick-Up

If you contract with a private company to pick up your leaves this year, here are some guidelines:

- No foreign materials such as brush, twigs, or grass clippings that could damage the equipment.
- Rake leaves to the curb only – not into the street.
- Refrain from on-street parking, especially on cul-de-sacs or circles.

Rake Your Leaves to Curbside for ...

CURBSIDE LEAF PICK-UP

Yard Clean-up, Gutter Clean-up, Leaf Removal, and More!

John McKinney
679-3337
FREE estimates
Below is a representation of the ballot you’ll see at the polls this election. You may make your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls.

**Governor, Lt Governor**
- Edward FitzGerald & Sharen Swartz Neuhardt - D
- John Kasich & Mary Taylor - R
- Anita Rios & Bob Fitrakis - Gr

**Attorney General**
- Mike DeWine - R
- David Peper - D

**Auditor of State**
- Bob Bridges - L
- John Patrick Carney - D
- David Yost - R

**Secretary of State**
- Jon Husted - R
- Kevin Knedler - L
- Nina Turner - D

**Treasurer of State**
- Josh Mandel - R
- Connie Pillich - D

**Representative to Congress - District 3**
- John Adams - R
- Joyce Beatty - D

**State Senator - District 3**
- Kevin Bacon - R
- Star Johnson - D

**State Representative - District 19**
- Anne Gonzales - R
- Michael Johnston - D
- Chad Monnin - L

**County Commissioner**
- Marilyn Brown - D

**County Auditor**
- Clarence Mingo - R
- Mike Schadek - D

**Justice Supreme Court**
- Sharon Kennedy - R
- Tom Letson - D

**Justice Supreme Court**
- Judi French - R
- John P. O’Donnell - D

**Court of Appeals - District 10**
- Tim Horton - D

**Judge, Court Appeals - District 10**
- Lisa L. Sadler - R

**Judge, Court Appeals - District 10**
- Jennifer Brunner - D
- Amy O’Grady - R

**Judge, Court Appeals - District 10**
- Mary Jo Kilroy - D
- Betsy Luper Schuster - R

**Judge, Common Pleas**
- Val Hoover - R
- William H. Woods - D

**Judge, Common Pleas**
- Jennifer French - R
- Thomas F. Hayes - D

**Judge, Common Pleas**
- Fred Nelson - R
- David Young - D

**Judge, Common Pleas**
- Chris Brown - D
- John M. Gonzales - R

**Judge, Common Pleas - Domestic**
- Monica Hawkins L - D
- Colleen O’Donnell - R

**Judge, Common Pleas - Domestic**
- Dana Suzanne Preiss - R

**Judge, Common Pleas - Domestic**
- James W. Brown - D
- Rita McNeil Danish - R
- Eddie Lewis Pfau - Gr

**Judge, Common Pleas - Probate**
- Robert G. Montgomery - R

**#4 Tax Levy (Renewal)**
Franklin Co. Children Services
A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Franklin County Children Services for the purpose of protecting abused and neglected children and providing services to abused and neglected children and their families at a rate not exceeding 1.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to $0.19 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 10 years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.
- For the Tax Levy
- Against the Tax Levy

**#31 Municipal Income Tax**
Village of Minerva Park
Shall Ordinance No. 02-2014 providing for an additional one percent (1%) levy on earnings and income subject to the municipal tax, to be effective January 1, 2015, for the purposes of general municipal operations and services, including, but not limited to, police services, street maintenance, capital improvements, and related costs of the Village be passed?
- For the Income Tax
- Against the Income Tax

Take your ID to the polls ... driver’s license, Ohio photo ID, bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, any government-issued document showing your current address. Caveat Emptor - This recap is provided here so you can become familiar with our own particular ballot before you arrive at the polls. MPCA is not responsible for any errors! Study the issues. Make up your own mind. And then GO VOTE!
**VOTERS EDITION**

**Nov 4**

Tuesday  
6:30a to 7:30p  
North Park Church of Christ  
4938 Westerville Road  
**MP's ballot on page 9**  
Call 890-2427 if you need assistance getting to the polls.

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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, Nov 12, 5p

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