Village Leaf Pick-up Program Reinstated

By Councilwoman Jennifer Pauken, Chair of the Service Committee

Thanks to the voters of Minerva Park who, in November 2014, passed the MP income tax increase by a vote of 399 to 249, and as pledged by your Minerva Park Council, the Village-wide leaf pick-up program has been reinstated.

Collection should begin on or near October 11, based on leaf accumulation, and likely will continue through December 12. Start and end dates may change, depending on what Mother Nature throws our way.

To ensure the highest level of service for everyone and to protect the vendor’s equipment, please observe the following:

• **Rake leaves to the curb or edge of your yard only, NOT into the street.** While leaves left on the lawn may cause some discoloration of the grass, this is only temporary. Leaves raked into the street are likely to block storm drains, which may cause flooding – costing the Village money for remediation. Please be MP neighborly and keep your curb and street area free of this debris.

• **Only leaves** should be placed at the curb for pick-up. All other yard waste (brush, twigs, grass, or plant clippings) should be placed out for collection by Local Waste, the trash collection vendor. Foreign objects, especially rocks and stones, bricks, and other debris can cause severe damage to the truck’s vacuum system.

• **Avoid parking on the street** during the collection period, especially if you live in a cul-de-sac. Collecting leaves from behind parked cars is difficult and inhibits efficient pick-up ... and it is very difficult for the large truck to navigate our narrow streets, especially on the tight cul-de-sacs.

Looking to dispose of your leaves in a more green, environmentally-friendly way? The October 2013 issue of the Villager (minervapark.org/villager/2013-10.pdf) has a comprehensive article by MPCA’s Green Team member Karen Cogley. She discusses the benefits of leaving some leaves where they fall (adding nutrients back into your grass), starting a compost pile, or turning them into leaf mold.

As always, please contact me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5880 with any questions.
I would like to thank everyone who helped make the 75th Anniversary celebration the wonderful event that it was! We could not have made this happen without Mayor Lynn Eisentrout, Donna Kopecky, Jean McCall, Russell Dobbins, Bob Gale, Rose Hart, Bonnie Townsend, Betty Ann Zimmerman, Jenny Lin, Erik & Marnie Schultz, Steve & Lisa Thitoff, John Michels, Annie Stuart, Russell & Maureen Hemmelgarn, Dana Hicks, Glenda & Andy Morris, John Friedel and the pool staff, Chief Nuesse and the police officers, Dick Busick, Brian Wolf, our last-minute blockade volunteers, and many more. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and enjoyed the parade, the pool, the face painter, the photo booth, the band, and the beer! The day was truly a celebration of Minerva Park.

The MPCA helps make Minerva Park a great place to live. In the last year we have had several new volunteers join the team, and their efforts have been impactful. We are in need of more volunteers and welcome new neighbors and their ideas to the team. Not all jobs are fun, and not all of them are easy, but they are all necessary to make the events happen and we work together to make the work fun (and sometimes there is wine). We are all busy with homes to run, children to raise, and day jobs to manage. It’s important to share the load and work together to keep our traditions strong.

Specifically, we are in need of a Volunteer Coordinator. The Volunteer Coordinator is notified of an event and the number of volunteers needed and their responsibilities. Then the Coordinator engages volunteers by emails, phone calls, and requests on MPCA Facebook page. The Volunteer Coordinator should recruit volunteers two weeks before an event and remind phone calls made a 4-5 days before the event. The Volunteer Coordinator gathers information from the Membership Committee concerning potential volunteers and their willingness to donate their time, i.e., baking, helping with parties, phone calls, etc.

The MPCA is also in need of a Treasurer. Dick Busick has been filling that role for many years and would like to pass the torch. Duties include tracking income and expenses and delivering a monthly report, tracking budget categories, performing banking and tax filing responsibilities, and other related items.

Also, we would appreciate more help on the Fundraising Committee and we would like to create an Activities Committee Chair, someone to help run the current events and coordinate any changes or new events. Other opportunities include chairing the garage sale committee and helping with the children’s parties.

Please reach out with questions or to let me know that you can help. Thank you!
MAYOR’S REPORT

Lynn Eisentrout

Leaf Pick-up - As promised to the voters in November 2014, the Leaf Pick-up Program will resume this year, starting sometime in October when the leaves really begin to fall. Please remember that, if you put stones, sticks, fallen nuts, or grass in the leaf piles, they will not be picked up because they may damage equipment. See pg 1 for details.

Thank You - I would like to thank Kerrwood residents Yves and Gerry Demoulin for donating the State of Ohio flag they won at the 75th Anniversary Silent Auction. This flag will be flown at the Community Building. How timely, because ours is looking pretty bad.

Renewal Levy - A renewal levy of 19 cents per $100 valuation, 1.9 mills for 5 years, will be on the November ballot. It was last approved by residents in November 2010. It is not a new levy or a new tax ... it renews a levy that is expiring. According to the Auditor’s Office, it is expected to generate est. $63,100 annually. Learn more on pg 4.

Golf Course - Where are we now? On September 14, MI Homes made its official zoning submission and filed its Annexation Petition to the Franklin County Commissioners. Neighbors surrounding the golf course property, according to statute, received copies of the petition. At this time, we have agreed to limit the density to 250 homes with a price range starting at $225,000.

These products or models will not resemble the development south of us. We have had that discussion many times. By the time you read this, the four neighbors living near Farview Road and I will have met with MI Homes’ representatives to discuss what can be done about them living so close to the new road that in all likelihood will be built as one of the ingress and egresses for the new development.

Some residents have expressed disappointment about finding out via social media about the Westerville City School District’s (WCS) role in a “land swap” (14.2 acres for an elementary school in the development and 1.9 acres for a road) with MI Homes, namely through a posting by School Board member Mr. Bird. I spoke to WCS Superintendent Kellogg on Sep. 21 about posting this for official publication without letting me know at our end and I questioned the position the District was in now.

Dr. Kellogg was most gracious and directed me to the WCS District’s website to view the minutes of the Sep. 14 School Board meeting where the resolution (no number) was passed that supported moving forward with the real estate transaction. Below is the letter Superintendent Kellogg’s letter sent to me, dated September 21.

Dear Mayor Eisentrout:

Last Monday, September 14, 2015, the Westerville City School District Board of Education approved a resolution that represents the first of many steps necessary for our school system to complete a potential land transfer with MI Homes, should the company acquire and develop property presently occupied by Minerva Lake Golf Club.

While we understand that much discussion regarding the purchase and development of this site remains between MI Homes and the Village of Minerva Park, we are pleased to be part of the initial conversations. Preliminary feasibility studies have indicated that the property we potentially could acquire provides adequate space to support a new school building in the Minerva Park community. Just as you find yourself a long way from finalizing any agreements with MI Homes, it is also very premature for us to imply that a school on this property is a foregone conclusion. There are many contingencies that remain and must be met before this land transfer can occur, let alone begin conversations about the construction of new educational space.

In the event that MI Homes and the Village of Minerva Park come to terms on the development of this site, and assuming all contingencies are met regarding our acquisition of acreage from MI Homes, please know that our Board of Education would need to closely examine the academic, operational and fiscal implications associated with opening new educational space in the southern end of our school district. Rest assured, however, that our first priority would be to engage your residents in these conversations, just as we have done with other communities during major construction initiatives.

Thank you once again for involving us in these preliminary conversations. We look forward to our continued involvement and partnership during this exciting time for the Minerva Park community.

Sincerely,

John R. Kellogg, Superintendent

Residents are invited ...

Monday, October 19
7:00p Community Building

to have “Coffee with Council.” This is your opportunity to meet with your Council Members and discuss Village issues.
Residents are invited to attend and observe committee meetings ...

Service, Jennifer Pauken. My report about the Village leaf pick-up program is on pg 1. As always, please feel free to contact me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5880 with any questions or concerns.

Streets, Ed Detwiler. Nothing new to report, except to remind residents to NOT rake leaves into the street. They clog the stormwater sewer system, causing back-ups and having to spend money for remediation. Any residents who wish to report street damage are encouraged to contact me at 895-0465 or at edetwiler@minervapark.org.

Community, Dave Way. No report submitted.

Finance, John Michels. General Fund update - As of August 31, year-to-date revenues totaled $1,085,434.23 and expenditures totaled $841,666.37.

As a reminder, on November 3, voters will be asked to renew an existing 5-year 1.9-mill property tax levy for general operations of the Village. This levy is estimated to generate approximately $63,100, and because it has existed for many years, voting to renew it will not increase your taxes. Detailed information is provided in the “Voting Early” article on pg 4. Minerva Park’s voting location is the North Park Church of Christ, 4938 Westerville Road.

The next meeting of the Finance Committee is scheduled for September 23. Questions can be directed to jmichels@minerpark.org or 273-9026.

Legislation, Pam Park-Curry. Legislation listed below is posted at the Community Building and at minervapark.org/legislation. Updates since the last report include:

Resolution 2015-30 - Authorizing a contract with John McKinney for 2015’s leaf pick-up program. 3rd reading, passed.

Resolution 2015-31 - Authorizing a contract for legal representation relating to development of the golf course, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-32 - Authorizing a contract with CH2M-Hill for engineering services relating to developing of the golf course, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-33 - Authorizing appointment of a full-time police officer, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-34 - Authorizing appointment of a full-time police officer, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-35 - Authorizing a contract with CH2M-Hill for engineering services relating to developing of the golf course, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-36 - Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a preannexation agreement with MI Homes, 1st & 2nd readings.

Resolution 2015-37 - Authorizing the purchase of the 2016 police vehicle, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-34 - Authorizing a contract for legal representation relating to development of the golf course, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-35 - Authorizing a contract with CH2M-Hill for engineering services relating to developing of the golf course, 3 readings, passed.

Resolution 2015-36 - Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a preannexation agreement with MI Homes, 1st & 2nd readings.

Resolution 2015-37 - Specifying municipal services to be furnished to ±102 acres, pending.

MP’s ballot is posted on the website (minervapark.org), and - as in the past - it will be published in the November issue of the Villager. It offers voters an opportunity to review the candidates and issues before you vote. You may mark your choices and take them with you to the polls.

Running for Mayor will be incumbent Lynn Eisentrout. Running for the two open Council seats will be Tony Benedetti, Michael Braun, and Russell Dobbins. Additionally, residents will be asked to renew its existing 5-year, a 1.9-mill property tax levy for general operations of the Village. This levy, like the three others that have existed for many years, provides vital revenues to the General Fund.

Records indicate the 1.9-mill levy on the ballot this November has been approved and supported by residents going back to 1985. Because it would be the renewal of an existing tax levy – not a new tax levy – it will not increase your taxes.

In 2010, when residents last continued the levy, it generated est. $73,630. Since then, MP property values have declined, as they have throughout the country, and now the levy would generate est. $63,100 annually. A similar loss has been experienced with the other property tax levies of the Village. The loss in revenue has been offset by budget adjustments and the increase in the income tax approved by the residents in 2014.

If residents do not renew the 1.9-mill levy, those property taxes would cease to be collected, and future budgets and General Fund services would have to be adjusted accordingly for the loss of revenue.

Download the ballot from minervapark.org or see the full MP ballot in the November issue of the Villager.
Didn’t get your commemorative T-shirt for MP’s 75th Anniversary? It’s not too late. Submit the order form and your payment to MPCA Vice President Donna Kopecky, 678-9889, donnaloo.09@gmail.com. Make checks payable to MPCA. Deadline for the next order, November 30.

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Jamie & Elizabeth Bellamy, 2575 Minerva Lake Road, 614-537-8113, from Clintonville

Matt & Ricki Retino, 5081 Maplewood Drive, 446-6311, from New Albany

Melissa Ritts, Michael Allen, & Ruby King, 2540 Lakewood Drive, from Clintonville

John & Maggie Egbert, 2636 Minerva Lake Rd., 571-3585, from Clintonville

Tim & Debbie Helms, 2524 Minerva Lake Rd., 319-400-8933, from Iowa

If you learn of any new residents - or if you're a new resident but haven't received your welcome packet - please contact Anna Johnston, annajohnston2012@gmail.com

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POLICE REPORT

August - MP Police made no arrests.

13.. Gordon Food Service, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., theft reported

18.. 11:04p, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd., domestic dispute

26.. 4:30p, 5400 blk Cleveland Ave., theft reported •
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.

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**Minerva Park Community Association**
2829 Minerva Lake Road
Columbus OH 43231

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**Special Announcement**

**VOTING EARLY?**

Special Announcement on page 4.

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**STOP IDENTITITY THEFT**

Northland Community Shredding Day
and food drive to benefit Mid-Ohio Foodbank

Saturday, October 24
10 am to 2 pm

MENARDS
100 Morse Road
For more information, call (614) 219-9622

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MPCA Facebook - facebook.com/
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Village website - minervapark.org
Police Facebook - facebook.com/
minervapark.pd

Sharon Bierman - Design & Advertising
sharon.28801@gmail.com 899-3755
MPCA President Dani Wolf----------------------------- 937-1994

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, Oct. 14, 5p

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2829 Minerva Lake Road
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**Publication of the Year**

2012-2013

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**The 20th semi-annual Northland Community Shredding Day and food drive to benefit Mid-Ohio Foodbank (environmental recycling too!)**

Saturday, October 24
10 am to 2 pm

MENARDS
100 Morse Road
For more information, call (614) 219-9622

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**Special Announcement**

Saturday, October 23
10 am to 2 pm

1805 Morse Road
For more information, call (614) 219-9622

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**Next deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 14, 5p**