The Villager - November 2015

VOTE - Minerva Park on the Nov. 3 Ballot

MP’s ballot is posted on the website (minervapark.org), and - as in the past - it is published in this 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 is incumbent Lynn Eisentrout. Running for the two open Council seats are 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 on pg 8-9. You may mark your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls. •

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 curbside leaf pick-up program has been reinstated. Read about the guidelines at minervapark.org/leaves and on pg 4. •

Merry Christmas

Please support our Police Dept. by donating new toys for children of all ages. Donations will go to families in Minerva Park and surrounding areas.

accepted Mon - Fri, 9a to noon, Community Building.

Deadline - December 12.

If you have any questions, contact Lt. Matt Delp, 882-1408. Thank you!

Variance Request

Monday, December 14, 6:30p, Community Bldg.

Attend a PUBLIC HEARING to consider a variance request.

• Sam Spiezio, 2692 Jordan Rd. - to install a fence (pergola, trellis) forward of the rear building line, exceeding 6’ in height.
Save the Date

Children’s Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5
10a to noon
MP Community Bldg.

Games, activities, ornament making, snacks, crafts, a special visit from Santa!

Made possible by your $20 MPCA dues

MP’s 75th Anniversary T-Shirt

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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Village Financials

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

September 2015
Beg balance General Fund…. $560,926
Receipts…………………………… $57,185
Disbursements…………………… ($73,748)
Ending balance…………………… $544,363

Medic Report

September 2015
Medic 119 made 20 runs - 0 runs into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and 1 into Minerva Park, with 13 patients transported to local hospitals.

11 members served a total of 195.5 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 1,958.9 hours. Leading staff for the month were Brian Horton (37.5 hours), Brian Bates (31 hours), and Tim Lockard (29.4 hours).

MP Runs
9-30 .... Difficulty Breathing

Police Report

September - MP Police made no arrests.
10.. 10:30a, 2700 blk Jordan Rd, trespassing
28.. 7:25a, 2800 blk North Bay Dr, traffic accident •

Gentle Yoga

Thursdays, 4:30p to 5:30p
Community Building
No cost.

Breathing, poses, relaxation. Ideal for beginners and experienced yogis. Please bring a mat and a blanket.
Kara Aden, 609-330-7927
kwalten9@gmail.com
This will be a short because of the early deadline to get to press with this election issue of the Villager.

**Golf Course:** Council passed legislation for the Preannexation Agreement at the October 12 meeting. This is a part of the very long and public process to annex the golf course property into the Village, to consider rezoning the property as a Planned Residential District (PRD), and to draft and consider updated documents for a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District. These are very important documents because they present a clear, binding understanding of the Village’s expectations of a new development and of the developer. I know many of you are unhappy at the mere prospect of the golf course “going away.” As has been stated many times, the Village does not own the land, and it is not in the Village. If the owners want to sell, they can and they will. Our job as your elected officials is to ensure that we protect the integrity of our lovely Village and ensure a high quality use of the land that will embrace new residents. Admittedly, change is difficult, but we must be flexible and persevere.

With the exception of Councilman Dave Way, all Council members were present at the October 12 meeting.

**Code Enforcement and Planning & Zoning:** Code Enforcement Officer Scott Doellinger reported that the detention pond located behind the Heritage Senior Center (in Columbus) has been drained. This happened when the City of Columbus cleared the grate of many years of accumulated weeds.

Some of the outstanding Minerva Park cases involving property maintenance have been resolved. New legislation is being reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission to remedy some of our property maintenance issues and to proactively prevent future issues.

MI’s attorney Aaron Underhill reported that he would be going to the Franklin County Commissioners in mid-October to have the annexation petition heard. A day or two after that, a certified copy of the petition will be delivered to the Village to be date-and-time-stamped to begin the 60-day waiting period. A zoning application was filed with the Village on September 11. He stated that there will be 250 homes on the final plan and that MI is open to discussions about a Homeowners Association (HOA) and alternative funding for the care of open spaces in the absence of an HOA.

**EMS/Fire:** Chief Rick Hoechstetter reported that the hydrant located at 5360 Ponderosa has been replaced, having been damaged beyond repair as the result of a collision. The good news is that insurance will help defray these costs. He is continuing to work on an updated roster for his department and distributed an update with what has been done to both identify and ensure that all hydrant watch valves are open. Two watch valves, located at 2653 Lakewood Drive and 2678 Wildwood Road, are under the pavement and will need to be located and accessed with minimal damage to the streets. The Columbus Water Dept. has been most helpful throughout this project and will assist in locating the above-mentioned valves. All Village hydrants have been pumped dry in anticipation of colder temperatures.

Chief Hoechstetter has spent more than 90 hours on this project so far. The Village extends its thanks, especially because he is a volunteer and is not paid for his service to the Village.

**Police:** Chief Kim Nuesse reported that there has been an increase of complaints from residents about solicitors. We appreciate it when the residents report these folks because we can verify them through our solicitation permit process. This helps protect residents from unscrupulous people trying to trick them.

Residents are invited to have “Coffee with Council.”

**Coffee with Council**

Monday, November 16
7:00p Community Building

to have “Coffee with Council.” This is your opportunity to meet with your Council Members and discuss Village issues.
all of us. New part-time officer Takeya Woods is doing well with her field training. One of our candidates for a part-time position withdrew his application after accepting a position elsewhere. We interviewed two more candidates during the week of October 11. The police are targeting the Cleveland Avenue areas where there have been several attempted burglaries.

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 1.

Leaf Pick-up: Please respect your Village government’s request that leaves NOT be raked and piled in the street. Our contractor, John McKinney has a very good track record of making frequent sweeps through the Village. Your grass will not be damaged by leaves laying on the grass for a few days. If the grass turns yellow, it will come back. Raking leaves into the streets clogs our storm drains. We have to pay our maintenance staff more often to clean these drains – what a waste of taxpayer money, especially if this can be avoided!

In closing, I would like to say that I am humbled by the continued faith this Village has in me as shown by an unopposed election. I realize that the next four years will be filled with a lot of hard work if the development goes through, acting on the earthen dam repairs and the North Lake dredging project, and managing all of this within our budget. I am working with some wonderful, very bright, and hardworking fellow elected officials. Please vote on November 3, and when you do, please be thoughtful as to whom you bring to the Council table. It’s important to have individuals who can agree to disagree when necessary but still work together.

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

Streets, Ed Detwiler. The crack sealing on Jordan Road, Park Lane Court, and Park Lane Drive has been completed. The slurry sealing on Wildwood Road and North Bay Drive has been completed. The stop-strip striping at 11 intersections and repainting the yellow lane separator on Jordan Road should be completed by the time this newsletter is distributed. Any residents who wish to 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. The Finance Committee reviewed proposed legislation pertaining to employee health-care benefits. Fiscal Officer Jeffrey Wilcheck explained that our current plan was scheduled to renew with a premium increase of 6.54 percent, but he was successful in securing a lower rate of 3.03 percent. In addition, full-time employees hired on or after January 1, 2016, may contribute a portion toward monthly health insurance premiums. The Committee unanimously recommended that the Council adopt this legislation (Ordinance 24-2015) and thanks Fiscal Officer Jeffrey Wilcheck for his efforts. Questions can be directed to jmichels@minervapark.org or 273-9026.

Legislation, Pam Park-Curry.

No report submitted. Legislation is posted at the Community Building and at minervapark.org/legislation. If you have any questions, please contact ppark-curry@minervapark.org or 890-5809.

Safety, Todd Walter. No report submitted. twalter@minervapark.org

Service, Jennifer Pauken. Please review the guidelines for Lead Pick-up in the article below. Please contact me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5880 with any questions or concerns.

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.

What Goes Down the Pipes ...

By Scott Doellinger, Code Enforcement Officer

What goes down the pipes doesn’t necessarily come out. Grass clippings, leaves (article on pg 4), and anything other than water damage the stormwater system. Almost all precipitation falling on Minerva Park streets, driveways, and roofs flows through our storm drains and stormwater piping. Much of that flows through Minerva’s two lakes on the way to Alum Creek.

Debris such as grass clippings, leaves, or anything else slows down the flow of water through stormwater piping and increases the chance of flooding the Village and our basements.

Ordinance section 660.05(a) requires lot owners and renters to remove debris and snow from the area in front of their house. The Village helps out the resident by plowing snow and picking up leaves raked to the street but not in the street. When a blockage occurs, Village money must be used to hire a crew to clear the blockage.

In many ways, our stormwater system is like the arteries and veins in our bodies. When plaque builds up, blood flow is impaired and parts of the body don’t work too well. Lots of money, time, and pain are encountered to clean them out.

But the story does not end there. Upon entering the lakes, stormwater slows down and whatever was in the water settles out to the bottom of the lake. Slowly the lake is filled with debris the water washed in, and the lake becomes shallower. Soon the stormwater outlet is below the bottom of the lake, causing back-ups and flooding. The lake has become a marsh, increasing mosquito populations and lowering those property values. To keep the lakes healthy and an iconic amenity for all, a depth of 6 feet or more is needed. Currently the larger south lake has a maximum depth in one spot of only 7 feet as mapped by the most recent survey.

Lesson to learn and act upon:
- Keep it out of the gutter, the pipes, and the lakes.
- Enjoy dry basements and clean healthy lakes.
- Let me know how we can help.

We are available at the Community Building weekday mornings, by email, and/or general Village voice mail during non-office hours at 614-882-5743.

sdoellinger@minervapark.org
614-882-5743

Christmas Carriage Rides - Sunday, December 13, 5:30p-8:30p
Reservation deadline December 7, 5 p.m.
Register online at mympca.org or email your reservations to mayor@minervapark.org or deliver to Lynn Eisentrout (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

Preferred Times (not guaranteed) Phone #

Email address for confirmation

Advertise in Annual Directory & the Villager 899-3755
Fire Hydrants

By Chief Rick Hoechstetter
Minerva Park Fire Department

As has been previously reported, in one of the preannexation test areas, it was learned that three hydrant watch valves were not fully open, which reduced the water pressure each hydrant could generate. Those three valves have been opened, and we have been working to find and open the 86 remaining watch valves (about half of them were buried in yards). As the Mayor reported, we are down to two buried valves. Unfortunately both are under pavement and we are waiting for a Columbus Water team to help open them.

Some valves are well below grade. While we now have a comprehensive list by address of each hydrant and the distance and orientation of its watch valve relative to the hydrant, having a valve in a hole in the yard means that, if it remains in its current position, the hole we dug to find it will fill in again. We are working on a plan to raise the submerged valves and will move ahead with that plan as soon as the weather warms up next year.

We have added a new department policy that will direct that all hydrant watch valves will be maintained every five years.

If you have any questions about this or any other Fire Department programs, please contact us at 882-3375.

Kevin R. Bacon
Attorney at Law

- Wills & Trusts
- Special Needs Estate Planning
- Probate
- Real Estate
- Small Business

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Kevin R. Bacon
Attorney at Law

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• Waterproofing
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• Cement - Stone - Brick - Siding - Stucco
• Concrete Driveways - cleaning & sealing
• More ...

370-1793
Jeff Howard
Christmas Luminaries

Light up the Village on Christmas Eve. Pick up luminary kits at Children’s Christmas Party (Dec. 5, 10a-noon), Christmas Carriage Rides (Dec. 13, 5:30p-7:30p), or at MPCA meeting (Dec. 16, 7p-8p). Only $5 for five kits ... votive candles, white bags, sand. Email president@mymPCA.org so we can gauge the number of kits we need to have on hand.
Below is a representation of the ballot you’ll see at the polls this election. You may mark your selections on this sheet and take it with you to the polls.

**Judge of Municipal Court**
- H. William Pollitt - R
- Ted Barrows - D
- Mark A. Hummer - D
- Paul Herbert - R
- Carrie Glaeden - R
- Cynthia Ebner - D
- Tony Paat - R
- Eileen Paley - D
- Eddie Pfau - G
- Jim O’Grady - R
- David Tyack - R

**Judge of Muni Court Environmental**
- Dan Hawkins - R

**Minerva Park Mayor**
- Lynn Eisentrout

**Minerva Park Council**
(Vote for not more than 2)
- Tony Benedetti
- Michael Braun
- Russell D. Dobbins
- James Welch - D

**Blendon Township Fiscal Officer**
- Wade Estep

**Westerville City School District - Member of Board of Education**
(Vote for not more than 2)
- Greg R. Lawson - R
- Richard Bird - D
- Jim Burgess - R
- Geraldine Cotter - R

**Issue One**
Creates a bipartisan, public process for drawing legislative districts
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly
To enact new Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,8, 9, and 10 of Article XI and to repeal Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13, 14, and 15 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.
The proposed amendment would:
- End the partisan process for drawing Ohio House and Senate districts, and replace it with a bipartisan process with the goal of having district boundaries that are more compact and politically competitive.
- Ensure a transparent process by requiring public meetings, public display of maps, and a public letter explaining any plan the Commission adopts by a simple majority vote.
- Establish the bipartisan Ohio Redistricting Commission, composed of 7 members including the Governor, the Auditor of State, the Secretary of State, and 4 members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.
- Require a bipartisan majority vote of 4 members in order to adopt any final district plan, and prevent deadlock by limiting the length of time any plan adopted without bipartisan support is effective.

If passed, the amendment will become effective immediately.
Shall the amendment be approved?
- yes
- no

**Issue Two**
Anti-monopoly amendment; protects the initiative process from being used for personal economic benefit
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly
Proposing to amend Section 1e of Article II of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass. The proposed amendment would:
- Prohibit any petitioner from using the Ohio Constitution to grant a monopoly, oligopoly, or cartel their exclusive financial benefit or to establish a preferential tax status.
- Prohibit any petitioner from using the Ohio Constitution to grant a commercial interest, right, or license that is not available to similarly situated persons or nonpublic entities.
- Require the bipartisan Ohio Ballot Board to determine if a proposed constitutional amendment violates the prohibitions above, and if it does, present two separate ballot questions to voters. Both ballot questions must receive a majority yes vote before the proposed amendment could take effect.
- Prohibit from taking effect any proposed constitutional amendment appearing on the November 3, 2015 General Election ballot that creates a monopoly, oligopoly, or cartel the sale, distribution, or other use of any federal Schedule I controlled substance.
- The Ohio Supreme Court has original, exclusive jurisdiction in any action related to the proposal. If passed, the amendment will become effective immediately.
Shall the amendment be approved?
- yes
- no
Issue Three
Grants a monopoly for the commercial production and sale of marijuana recreational and medicinal purposes
Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Proposed by Initiative Petition
To add Section 12 of Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.
A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.
The proposed amendment would:
• Endow exclusive rights commercial marijuana growth, cultivation, and extraction to self-designated landowners who own ten predetermined parcels of land in Butler, Clermont, Franklin, Hamilton, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Delaware, Stark, and Summit Counties. One additional growth facility may be allowed in four years only if existing facilities cannot meet consumer demand.
• Permit retail sale of recreational marijuana at approximately 1,100 locations statewide. Such retail establishments must have a state license that may be obtained only if the electors of the precinct where the store will be located approve the use of the location such purpose at a local option election.
• Legalize the production of marijuana-infused products, including edible products, concentrates, sprays, ointments and tinctures by marijuana product manufacturing facilities.
• Allow each person, 21 years of age or older, to grow, cultivate, use, possess, and share up to eight ounces of usable homegrown marijuana plus four flowering marijuana plants if the person holds a valid state license. Allow each person, 21 years of age or older, to purchase, possess, transport, use, and share up to 1 ounce of marijuana recreational use. Authorize the use of medical marijuana by any person, regardless of age, who has a certification for a debilitating medical condition.
• Prohibit marijuana establishments within 1,000 feet of the business.
• Prohibit any local or state law, including zoning laws, from being applied to prohibit the development or operation of marijuana growth, cultivation, and extraction facilities, retail marijuana stores, and medical marijuana dispensaries unless the area is zoned exclusively residential as of January 1, 2015 or as of the date that an application a license is first filed a marijuana establishment.
• Create a special tax rate limited to 15% on gross revenue of each marijuana growth, cultivation, and extraction facility and marijuana product manufacturing facility and a special tax rate limited to 5% on gross revenue of each retail marijuana store. Revenues from the tax go to a municipal and township government fund, a strong county fund, and the marijuana control commission fund.
• Create a marijuana incubator in Cuyahoga County to promote growth and development of the marijuana industry and locate marijuana testing facilities near colleges and universities in Athens, Cuyahoga, Lorain, Mahoning, Scioto and Wood Counties, at a minimum.
• Limit the ability of the legislature and local governments from regulating the manufacture, sales, distribution and use of marijuana and marijuana products. Create a new state government agency called the marijuana control commission (with limited authority) to regulate the industry, comprised of seven Ohio residents appointed by the Governor, including a physician, a law enforcement officer, an administrative law attorney, a patient advocate, a resident experienced in owning, developing, managing and operating businesses, a resident with experience in the legal marijuana industry, and a member of the public.
Shall the amendment be approved?
☐ yes
☐ no

#14 Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)
Franklin County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.
A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Franklin County the purpose of the operation of mental health, alcohol and drug addiction programs children, adults and families, including residential and outpatient treatment programs, school and community-based prevention programs and patient housing at a rate not exceeding 2.2 mills each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to $0.22 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2016, first due in calendar year 2017.
☐ for the tax levy
☐ against the tax levy

#15 Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)
Franklin County Columbus Zoological Park
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.
A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Franklin County the purpose of providing funds the provision and maintenance of zoological park services and facilities at a rate not exceeding 0.75 mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to $0.075 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 10 years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016.
☐ for the tax levy
☐ against the tax levy

#43 Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)
Village of Minerva Park
A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.
A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Village of Minerva Park the purpose of current expenses 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 5 years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016.
☐ for the tax levy
☐ against the tax levy
**MP’s Ballot**

Preview MP’s ballot at minervapark.org and on pg 8-9. Vote on Nov. 3 at North Park Church of Christ, **4938 Westerville Road**. 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Article on pg 1.

**Election Signs**

... may be displayed from Sunday, Oct 4, thru Tuesday, Nov 10 only. Placement must be in residential yards, not in the right-of-way in front of the house. Size must be 6 sq.ft. or less. Ordinance 1280.03(e)

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**Advertise in the Villager ... 899-3755**

Ads start at $15 - discount on 6-month contracts

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**MPCA Facebook** - facebook.com/groups/26403899150/
**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, Nov. 18, 5p

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