I know this is on everyone’s minds, and many things are happening at the same time. Stay up-to-date with information posted at minervapark.org/golfcourse.

• Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District numbers are being worked out with the Westerville School District (a percentage of the monies collected to make the District whole for the number of students that will be added to the schools).
• M/I developers are planning for certain improvements to the earthen dam and infrastructure.
• The terms of the annexation and the rezoning are being negotiated between the Village officials (with the Planning & Zoning Commission members in an advisory capacity). Also present are both our legal counsel and M/I’s legal counsel.
• A work session was held on December 21 that included all of the above except the TIF numbers to prepare for the combined Town Meeting and Open House to be held, weather permitting, on Sunday, January 10, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Hawthorne Elementary. January 17 is the alternate date.

The Open House agenda will be as follows:
• From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., residents will have the opportunity to speak to the M/I staff, view drawings and plans of the development, and jot down questions on index cards that will be addressed at the Town Meeting from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
• From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., the Town Meeting will be held.
• From 3 p.m. to 4 p.m., residents will have a second opportunity to speak to elected officials and the M/I staff once again.
• I will be available throughout and after the meeting to answer any questions that you may have.

Please know that it is important to your Council, Planning & Zoning members, and your Mayor that we have as much transparency throughout this process as is possible. We have been as inclusive in sharing information as we can be.

Please remember that the Village does not own this land has no say in the sale of this land, and the property is not within the Village “city” limits. It is in Blendon Township, and the owners are determined to sell it. These owners have been most patient with us and, speaking from personal experience of working with them

... continued on page 3

MP Project
Information provided by M/I Homes, December 2015
Proposed Project Highlights
• Project name will be “Minerva Park” (will be marketed as an “extension” of the existing community).
• 250 new homes (lower density than any previously proposed project)
• Significant open space preserved within the site.
• Expected average sales price of $250,000.
• M/I will provide a future school site for Westerville Schools.
• New major road extending from St.Rt. 161 south directly into the project site (will significantly reduce traffic impacts to the existing MP roads).
• M/I will commit to repairing the failing dam (a cost that would otherwise burden Minerva Park’s budget).
• M/I will commit to repairing the main sanitary trunk line that runs through the golf course.
• Tax Increment Financing (TIF) placed on the project will yield the Village $10MM+ in revenue over 30 years

See Flyer Insert
MP Community Association News

Children’s Christmas Party

The new lights in the Community Building gave a festive feel to the children’s Christmas party on December 5. Thirty-five children and their parents enjoyed making paper trees and an “I Spy” ornament. The most fun was making the cute sock snowmen decorations. We played a team game of making human snowmen, and our willing men burst out of the crepe paper after their teams dressed them up. Thanks to our bakers for the yummy treats and some no-sugar snacks. We enjoyed Santa’s visit and the party favors he gave.

Valentine’s Day Dance

Grab your dance partner and join the fun! On Saturday, February 13, at 7 p.m., your Community Association is hosting a dance at the Community Building to celebrate Valentine’s Day. We will have dancing, karaoke, and light appetizers. Only $20 per couple. Watch mympca.org for updates. Contact Dani Wolf, MPCA president, at president@mympca.org if you would help.

Community Garden Plots

Although it is only January, you might consider renting a plot this spring in the MPCA Community Garden, located near Hawthorne Elementary. This would be a great project for adults only or families with kids. For only $25, each plot is 100 square feet, either 25’ x 4’ or 10’ x 10’. Attend a kick-off meeting in March. Look for more information in the February Villager.

It’s Your Turn

Your MP Community Association needs help … someone to chair the Halloween Party, someone to help with the Easter Egg Hunt, someone to become the Treasurer, someone to chair the Welcoming Committee. Please email president@mympca.org with your interest and to learn more about these positions.

Village Financials

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

November 2015

Beg balance General Fund......$508,049
Receipts..............................$147,752
Disbursements.......................($96,381)
Ending balance.....................$559,420
for more than a decade, they have been very honest about their intentions to sell. They also have expressed concern that this sale and possible development of their property would have a more positive impact on the Village than a negative one. One way to ensure that is to annex the property into the Village and rezone this Planned District to mirror our zoning style to attract good residents that will add to the ambience of our lovely little Village. True, it won’t be as little as before, given an additional 250 homes is significant growth by our standards. We can still be the captains of our own destiny if we keep an open mind. Sometimes change is inevitable, and sometimes it is uncomfortable. I look forward to your comments at the Town Meeting - Open House … or before, if you wish. My door is always open. My email is mayor@minervapark.org.

Snow Plowing: Even though we have been seeing unusually warm weather, snow, ice and cold are probably right around the corner. Now comes the time when we ask you to please not park on the streets so the crews that plow can do their jobs. We asked the same during the much-anticipated leaf pick-up program and found the responses a little disappointing. I understand that with multiple drivers in your household, it sometimes makes parking in your driveway a challenge but please do the best you can. As you know, our streets are narrow and the crews’ trucks need to move at about 20 to 25 miles per hour to gain momentum to effectively plow our streets. Let’s not make their jobs any more difficult for them. As always, if you have any questions or problems with mailboxes being “taken out” (a direct quote from a resident whose mailbox was knocked down by one of the trucks’ plows years ago), just let me know.

Carriage Rides: What a success! The weather was unbelievably warm for December. Even though the expected 300+ were hurt a bit by illness in families, we still had about 280 total. I want to thank Boy Scout Troop 007 who has helped, I believe, with 13 of our Carriage Ride events. I especially want to thank Lisa Craddock Thitoff and husband Steve for all of their help with the food, coordinating the volunteers, and juggling her time setting up, with visiting family and returning to help break down and clean up. I would like to thank Geri Demoulin and her husband Yves; Linda Natali; and Council members John Michels, Pam Park Curry, and Jennifer Paukin for serving and portion monitoring; all the bakers, too numerous to mention; Brian Wolf; Tony Pinter; Fire Chief Rick Hochstetter; Police Chief Kim Nuesse for coming in on her day off; and the amazing clean-up crew. I was ill that night, and I have never left the building after this event so early in all the years I have done this. I owe you all big time. If I missed anyone, I apologize but am grateful anyway!

All Council members were present at the Regular Council meeting on December 14.

Code Enforcement: Code Enforcement Officer Scott Doellinger reported that the Time Warner project has been completed to our satisfaction.

He continues to work with a Lakeland Court resident on property maintenance issues. If improvements are not made soon, it may be necessary to issue a summons to Mayor’s Court. The Boost Mobile store has been problematic. Between the banners and lights around the windows, Scott has been busy with them.

Planning & Zoning: Councilwoman Pam Park Curry reported that a public hearing was held 30 minutes before the Council meeting for a variance request for 2692 Jordan Road for a fence and landscaping. The Planning and Zoning Commission had recommended approval to Council of this variance request. After some discussion, the Council approved Variance #V-03-2015.

EMS/Fire: Chief Rick Hochstetter thanked those present for replacing the old EMS vehicle. The box on the new truck is lighter, and the engine seems to be very fuel-efficient. He has met with the Columbus Water Department and located and maintained the last two missing watch valves, one of which was buried under 6” of pavement. He addressed electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR), indicating that
Council Committee Reports

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

Finance, John Michels. No report submitted. Questions can be directed to jmichels@minervapark.org or 273-9026.

Legislation, Pam Park-Curry. Legislation is posted at the Community Building and at minervapark.org/legislation. The Legislative Committee met on December 7 and discussed year-end legislation to be presented in December. Each year, several resolutions are passed authorizing the Mayor to sign annual contacts, including the Village Engineer, Law Director, Magistrate, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Plumbing Inspections, IT Services, and others. Instead of doing individual resolutions for each contract, Fiscal Officer Jeff Wilcheck is working on a resolution that would include all such contracts.

For those residents wanting to see the legislation that will be discussed at Council meetings, we are now posting on Minerva Park’s home page (minervapark.org) the Council packet before each Council meeting. As of the date that packet is sent out, it will include the meeting agenda, minutes to be approved, legislation, and any other reports and information received by Thursday the week before the Monday meeting.

Also posted at minervapark.org/legislation are copies of passed legislation, including …

Ordinance 27-2015 - Updating the wage and salary ranges and the number of employees and positions for the Village.
Resolution 2015-50 - Authorizing Chief Nuesse to sign the Franklin County memorandum of understanding to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

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. No report submitted. Please contact me at mp-pauken@minervapark.org or 891-5880 with any questions or concerns.

Streets, Ed Detwiler. No report submitted. 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.
November - MP Police made no arrests.
12.. 8:10a, 2700 blk Maplewood Dr, theft without consent reported
30.. 10:13a, 2500 blk Jordan Rd, theft reported

Contact me for the MP resident-seller discount.

Margaret Maks
margaretmaks@gmail.com
315-2807

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
kwalton9@gmail.com

Playground Fund
Help underwrite the costs of replacing the playground equipment at gofundme.com/MinervaParkPlay or donate direct by contacting president@mympca.org.

Impact
* Lunch combo of equal or lesser value from #1-13. Not valid with other offers. 1 coupon per table/party - no exceptions. MP Villager. Expires 1-31-16.

* Any dinner combo of equal or lesser value. Not valid with other offers. 1 coupon per table/party - no exceptions. Sun-Thu only. MP Villager. Expires 1-31-16.

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Kevin R. Bacon
Attorney at Law

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

Onda, LaBuhn, Rankin & Boggs
35 N. Fourth St., Suite 100
Columbus OH 43215
(614) 716-0500 ext. 115
krb@olrblaw.com

KB

RESIDENT
Mailboxes

By Scott Doellinger, Code Enforcement Officer

Because Minerva Park is serviced by a “rural carrier route,” curbside mailboxes are required by the United States Postal Service (USPS). Mailboxes are one of the most disheveled structures in the Village, and mailbox maintenance will be enforced by the Code Enforcement Officer this coming spring, so please review these USPS requirements and restrictions.

1. Mailboxes must be between 41” and 44” above ground measured from the street paving surface to the bottom of the mailbox floor.
2. Mailboxes are to be set back from the edge of the paving or front of the curb 6” to 8”.
3. The best mailbox supports are stable but bend or fall away if a car hits them. The Federal Highway Administration recommends a 4” x 4” wooden support or a 2”-diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe set 24” into the ground without a concrete footing. Avoid unyielding and potentially dangerous supports, like heavy metal pipes, masonry, concrete posts, and farm equipment (e.g., milk cans filled with concrete).
4. Every curbside mailbox must bear the following address information:
   A house number, inscribed in contrasting color in neat letters and numerals at least 1” high on the side of the box visible to the carrier’s regular approach or on the door if boxes are grouped. Placing the address on both sides of the box allows emergency responders and delivery personnel to easily find your address. If the box is on a different street from the customer’s residence, the street name and house number must be inscribed on the box.
5. Mailboxes must be maintained, keeping the post vertical and box horizontal. Boxes should be painted and address numerals bright and not faded. Damaged boxes should be repaired or replaced.
6. Only posted mail may be placed in mailboxes. Only a newspaper sleeve may be attached to the post and not to the box.
7. The arm indicating mail to be picked up is optional, but placing mail to be picked up is not recommended by Police Chief Kim Nuesse because checks can be stolen and your identity compromised.

Yes, snail mail still works, and the USPS is undeterred by rain, snow, sleet, or hail.

Variance Request

Attend a PUBLIC HEARING to consider a variance request. 6:30p, Commy Bldg

- Alex Stricker, 2749 Minerva Lake Rd. - to place a fence forward of the rear building line, to align with the neighbor’s rear building line - Feb. 8

Medic Report

November 2015
Medic 119 made 19 runs - 4 runs into Blendon Township (exclusive of MP) and none into Minerva Park, with 11 patients transported to local hospitals.

9 members served a total of 134.3 hours for the month, bringing the year-to-date total to 2,248.6 hours. Leading staff for the month were Tom Baillett (36.3 hours), Jonathan Marsh, (27.8 hours), and Ambrose Wu (20.3 hours).

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FORMER RESIDENT
This periodic personal-interest column interviews Village residents with the ultimate purpose of deepening our sense of community by helping us know our neighbors and our history. If you wish to be featured in “Getting to Know You” or to suggest a neighbor, email rose_hart@hotmail.com.

* * *

World Travelers Settle in Minerva Park

This is the story of the multigenerational Leal and Lin families living on Lakewood and how - after a combined five countries and seven states - they settled in Minerva Park.

The saga starts with parents Bill & Dorothy Leal, who traveled the world translating the Bible into other languages, one of which was Tharu. What’s that, you ask. An indigenous dialect of Nepal, and the Leal family lived there - sandwiched between China and India - for six years so they could learn the language. And that’s where daughter Jenny Lin was born, but more about her later.

After years of world travel, Bill & Dorothy got their PhDs. Bill in Computer Science from Ohio State, now working for a Dublin technology start-up. Dorothy in Reading Education from the University of Kentucky, now a retired professor of Literacy Education at Ohio University (Athens). Her activities are volunteering at Hawthorne Elementary, writing a blog, editing manuscripts, and spending as much time as possible with her grandsons.

Back to daughter Jenny Lin. Jenny’s masters is in Journalism from Ohio University (Athens), but her adventurous spirit soon took her to Beijing to teach English. And that’s where she met future-husband Jack. In his last year of college, he had taught himself English. They married in Beijing in 2003, traveled to the States for an American family ceremony, and returned to China for another two years. After a short sales job, Jack began teaching English. Add that to his fluency in Mandarin and two other Chinese dialects. Moving from Beijing in 2005 resulted in twins Ethan and Isaac being born in Athens OH and subsequently Joshua in Indiana - oh, I forgot to mention Indiana - in 2009. The family returned to China in 2010, where Jenny resumed her television job. The cost of living, cost of housing, life being challenging with young children, population congestion, traffic and air pollution - well, you can understand some of the motivations for returning to the States.

How did siblings Ethan, Isaac, and Joshua fare in China? Surprisingly, quite well. At such a young age, Ethan and Isaac were fluent in Chinese within a year and were able to start 1st grade with near peer-level language skills. No surprise then, after arrival in the States, they had to play catch-up with English. The family credits the Hawthorne ESL and reading teachers for helping bring the young ones along … so much so that Jenny was grateful for the opportunity to give back by serving as PTO president this year. You’ll find Ethan immersed in art, while Isaac is on the football field and young brother Joshua is content still with Legos.

Matriarch Dorothy also gives back to Hawthorne, volunteering in several classes and helping Ms. Mantenieks and her 3rd-grade class publish the Hawthorne history.

So that brings us to current day in Minerva Park. Jenny just completed her second masters (Public Health, Ohio University). She helps build partnerships among area organizations that can assist the community, including the immigrant population, better access the services they need. Jack is a sales leader for State Farm and has developed strong networks among the Chinese community statewide.

They both like Minerva Park’s sense of community, leading them to “get involved” from the beginning. The families share a strong tie to our little Village and to the global village beyond our borders. They enjoy investing their time to help make our community better.

China, Nepal, Mexico, Belgium, France, and seven states … we’re glad they settled here.

Learn more at diaryofanomad.blogspot.com and amazon.com/Mighty-Mustangs-History-Hawthorne-Elementary/dp/1508739102.
Please ...

NO PARKING on MP Streets

... before, during, or after snowfalls. Snowplows do a cleaner, better job clearing our roads when vehicles are pulled into driveways. This is especially critical on the courts and cul-de-sacs where maneuvering space is limited.

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

MPCA website - mympca.org
MPCA Facebook - facebook.com/
groups/26403899150/
Village website - minervapark.org
Police Facebook - facebook.com/
mminervapark.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, Jan. 20, 5p