

the Villager



The Publication of your MINERVA PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Council Wants More Feedback from Residents on Proposed Income Tax

By Councilman Lou Busick, Finance Committee Chairman

In October, the Minerva Park council passed the first reading of a one-percent income tax proposal. Council will need to vote on this issue at two more council meetings before it can take effect.

Over the past few years, numerous residents have requested that Minerva Park collect an income tax. Some even believed that council has been remiss for not putting such a tax in place. Because of the volume of positive comments, council formulated a proposal to impose a one-percent tax. The proposed tax would apply only to wages and business profits earned in Minerva Park. Retirees would not owe money on pension, Social Security, and investment income. Residents who are employed in municipalities with a local income tax of at least one percent also would see no increase in their income tax. Residents who operate a home-based business in Minerva Park may be required to pay one percent tax. Most of the income generated by the tax would be from non-residents, such as the employees at Hawthorne Elementary, the nursing home, and businesses on the perimeter of the village.

In the special meeting held to discuss this tax, a number of residents expressed their anger about council making this decision without a community vote. Before council members make a final

decision in December, they need more feedback from the residents.

Inserted in this issue of the Villager is a flyer that explains the tax and its effects on the community. It contains a survey asking if you want Minerva Park council to make the decision or if you want the issue to be decided by Minerva Park voters next spring. We strongly encourage you to carefully read the flyer information and return the brief survey before the November 8 council meeting. Residents also are encouraged to attend the council meeting to express their opinions for either viewpoint.

Special Voter's Section Inside

- Minerva Park candidates
- Westerville School Board candidates
- Westerville schools capital improvements levy
- A "sample" ballot, including proposed constitutional amendment, COTA taxes, judge and township elections

Thank You, Felicia!

The Villager wishes to thank **Felicia Busick** for her diligent work as editor for the past 2 years. As the new co-editors, we would like to dedicate our first issue of *the Villager* to her. Thanks, Felicia, for your contribution to our newsletter and raising it to a new standard of which we can all be proud. You're a tough act to follow!

Ruth Crane
DeAnna Kem
Jane Miller
Co-Editors

New Villager Drop-off Locations

Residents are encouraged to submit articles and items of interest for publication in *the Villager* - signed and by the deadline, of course. Here are the new drop-off locations:

1. **3237 Minerva Lake Rd.**
2. **2807 Wildwood Rd.**
3. **Community Center**

NOVEMBER DATES

- 2 Elections
- 8 ... **Income Tax Survey Deadline**
- 8 (8:00p) **Council Meeting**
- 10 (7:30p) **MPCA Meeting**
- 19 (5:00p) **Villager Deadline**
- 25 Thanksgiving

MPCA News

MPCA Candidates' Night

by Ruth Crane

Approximately 30 residents met on October 13 for **Candidates' Night**, sponsored by the MPCA. Three candidates are running for two open positions on the Westerville School Board. Read excerpts of their accomplishments and goals in the "Voter's Guide."

John Burkhart, Director of Westerville School Services, spoke for the **Capital Improvements Levy**. He showed before & after photos of recent improvements and discussed some future improvements if Issue 18 passes, providing about **\$4 million per year for five years**.

After a brief recess, those in attendance queried the MP candidates at length on their qualifications.

In MP's mayor's race, **Jack Murray**, incumbent, has lived in MP for 39 years and served as a Council member prior to becoming mayor. The water line project is one of his major accomplishments as mayor (it will be completed this fall after Woodley and Wildwood are updated). He also discussed the grant that he helped MP receive to make the Police Department even more effective. His goals include redoing Minerva Lake Road, expanding/remodeling the Community Building to meet the needs of residents, and submitting a request for funding a senior center.

Darrell Kem, also seeking the office of mayor, discussed his experiences since he moved into MP over two years ago. As the owner and founder of a general contracting company, Kem is interested in making changes in the community. He would employ cooperative leadership and get new ideas flowing. Kem emphasized that he would be in favor of putting the one percent income tax proposal to a vote to allow residents to research the idea and make a collective decision. Kem also discussed the need to repair Minerva Lake Road and update the Community Building. He added that the curbs and drainage on Minerva Lake Road need to be redone.

Suzanne Coulter, Clerk-Treasurer (appointed), is running unopposed for the elected position. She has worked in accounting for 10 years and has spent many hours connecting the village's computer system with the state auditor's office. Her goals are to find grant money to pay for new radar detectors for the police department and to continue to improve the financial efficiency of the village.

Join Your Community Association for only \$10

MPCA volunteers soon will be out in force, delivering new resident telephone and address directories and requesting that you pay **only \$10** for membership in the community association. Your membership dues help pay for the annual directory, *the Villager* monthly newsletter, Founders Day, children's events, scholarships, new resident welcomes, and sunshine activities.

If your volunteer misses you, please mail your \$10 check (made payable to MPCA Membership) to Marilyn Herboltzheimer (2498 Minerva Lake Rd.) or drop it inside the Community Building, in the MPCA mailbox.



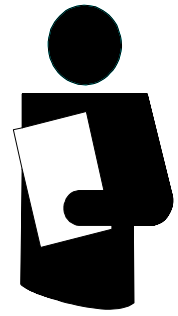
Contest Rules

Time to bring out the lights and dress Minerva Park for the holidays! The judging for this year's contest will be between **December 3-13**, depending on the weather. First place winners will be selected in six categories:

- ✦ Best Outdoor Tree
- ✦ Best Entranceway
- ✦ Best Religious Theme
- ✦ Best Whimsical Display
- ✦ Best Outline Effect
- ✦ Best Daytime Display

Winners will receive a gift certificate from a local nursery. Winners and runners-up will be honored in *the Villager*. Households that won last year are ineligible. Judges typically include adults, teenagers, and youngsters who reside in Minerva Park. If you are interested in being a judge, contact **Tim Curry at 890-5809**.

MAYOR'S REPORT



By Jack Murray

Our Phase IV waterline replacement program is going well. We've had only one mishap so far, which gave me some muddy water for a few flushes! If the weather holds, we should have everything completed by Thanksgiving. I'm looking forward to a winter free of water breaks for the first time since I've lived here.

The primary subject at this month's council meeting was the proposed income tax. The meeting, scheduled for 1 hour, lasted one and a half hours and was well attended. Council voted to approve the first reading of an ordinance to levy a one percent income tax in the village. There will be two more readings before final passage, so if you have any opinions concerning this matter, direct them to any council member. Making your opinion in writing would be most effective.

When Mary Yost ["Minerva Flora" contributor] passed away, she stipulated in her will that 20% of the proceeds from the sale of her house and car be given to the village for the beautification and upkeep of the property owned by the village ... \$25,972 has been delivered to the village. We appreciate her

thoughtfulness.

I have submitted a proposal to the state requesting a grant to replace Minerva Lake Rd. If the grant is approved, there will be a public meeting to describe the project and projected cost in detail. We won't know the actual cost until bids from the contractors are received. The estimate is approximately \$1 million, of which the village will have to contribute about 10%. Of that 10%, I hope the county will provide a goodly portion - I'll ask them nicely!

The MP Community Association held its Candidate's Night on October 13. The event was well attended and included the school board candidates and our village candidates for mayor and clerk-treasurer.

If council approves, we will place defibrillators into our EMS vehicle and into the police cars. These units are becoming common place in areas where crowds gather and in emergency vehicles. We also hope to replace the radar equipment in the patrol cars. The old equipment is so outdated that we are finding it difficult to find parts for repair. We would like to continue monitoring

vehicle speed, but we need reliable equipment.

We have entered into a contract with an independent contractor to repair the landscaping damage along Minerva Lake Road as a result of the waterline installation. Work will not begin until spring because of the leaf pick-up this fall. The cost of this program will be deducted from the waterline contractor's payment.

Ordinances to increase the salaries of the mayor (from \$10,000 to \$12,000) and of the clerk-treasurer (from \$8,000 to \$11,000) were presented for first readings and were passed.

Council passed a resolution to support the COTA issue on the ballot in November.

My wife wants to know, how many roads must a man go down before he admits he's lost? (I don't always know where I am, but I'm never lost!)

Council Members Sought

*Submitted by Lynn Eisentrout,
Council President*

As was mentioned in last month's *Villager*, there are two vacant village council seats to be filled. Council appointees must be residents for one year at the time they assume their duties. Council members chair one committee and serve on two others. This is a 4-year commitment, but the rewards are great and the time goes quickly.

Council members are in a

unique position to make a difference in the community. Members meet and interact with their neighbors and interface with other village organizations - the MP Community Association, the Police Department, the EMS Department, and the Pool Board. The present council is proactive,

operates as a team, and is a pleasure to work with. I believe most of us moved to Minerva Park and stayed here because we are a unique community. We all know that it takes a concerted effort and many volunteers to maintain a village such as ours. Filling these vacant council seats would be an excellent way to serve. Contact any council member for more information.

Minerva Park Voter's Guide

Below is a reprint of the responses provided by the three individuals running for a Minerva Park office in November.
Don't forget to **VOTE!**

Jack R. Murray Mayoral Candidate Incumbent

Age: old enough to vote
of years in MP: 39
Family: Wife Virginia, son Jeff, daughter Jacqueline Horner, granddaughter Sarabeth Horner
Occupation: Real estate
Relevant experience: Served 6 years as mayor, 2 terms on village council, 4 years as council president, and 2 terms on the Planning & Zoning Committee.

"For 10 years, I have been active in the completion of several major projects that are vital to the Village. I prepared the proposals and obtained the funding for the replacement of our deteriorated water supply lines and for the replacement of Jordan Road. I am now preparing a proposal for the replacement of Minerva Lake Road. I would like an opportunity to complete this and other projects that I feel are important to all of us who live in this unique village. I would like our police department to continue to function with around-the-clock coverage and continue to improve the equipment programs we have established for this service."

**Don't Forget
to VOTE!**

Darrell M. Kem Mayoral Candidate

Age: 26
of years in MP: 2
Family: Wife of 6 years DeAnna, son Joshua (9 mo.)
Occupation: Small business owner
Relevant experience: Brought about significant changes to the Airmen Training Programs in the Air Force, which resulted in the Air Force saving a substantial amount of money and contributing to a 98% readiness rating. Also I started a company from nothing and grew it to a \$100,000+ company in 4 years. My personal assets include strong leadership and management capabilities as well as good organizational and fiscal skills.

"The reason I am seeking the office of mayor is because I see a time for change. Specifically, roads and curbs require replacement. Continuing community support is necessary to maintain the swimming pool as a major park asset. I feel that I can regenerate enthusiasm and spirit to make Minerva Park what it once was. I would also like to start a volunteer community outreach program, through the Community Association, that would help those in our community with certain needs. I also plan on exploring options for additional funding in the form of taxes returned to us by the City of Columbus."

Suzanne R. Coulter Clerk-Treasurer Candidate Incumbent

Age: 33
of years in MP: 2.5
Family: Husband of 9 years Todd, Kelsey (6), Shane (4), Jerrod (2)
Occupation: Accountant, full-time mother, volunteer for 1st grade at Hawthorne Elementary, Chairman of the MPCA Children's Committee for 2 years
Relevant experience: 1.5 years as MP clerk-treasurer, BBA from St. Mary's of Notre Dame, 12 years job-related accounting experience. General accountant from 1993-1995. Controller of an environmental company from 1995-1997.

"I have chosen to run for the office of Clerk/Treasurer because I know that this is a vital position for the health and continued success of the village of Minerva Park. I was asked to apply for the position one and a half years ago, when the current clerk was leaving. It has been a good way to serve my community and meet more of the wonderful people who live in this village. This, combined with my love for accounting, is why I have chosen to run for the first time for the office of Clerk/Treasurer.

My goals for my four-year term are (1) to achieve financial efficiency in our purchasing and in my monthly reporting, and (2) to find more grant funding for special projects here in the park."

Minerva Park Voter's Guide

Below are excerpts from the information provided by the candidates at the MPCA's Candidates' Night on October 13. There are 5 Westerville school board positions, 2 of them up for election.

Nur Hussien Incumbent

Why re-elect Hussien? He ...

- was the first to question the need for a superintendent, an associate superintendent, and two assistant superintendents. Thanks to his efforts, the district has had a superintendent and one assistant superintendent since then.
- always questions explanations to justify expenditures.
- supports expenditures only for those programs where the educational gains are presented with the proposal.
- is often cautious about and skeptical of increases in administrative and supervisory positions with overlapping responsibilities.

After re-election, he will ...

- continue to stress the need to return to using a business manager for the district's business operations.
- urge the board to adopt a policy requiring all expenditures for computers and other technology-related services be subject to competitive bidding.
- support facilities projects only when based on practical, not "ideal," enrollment figures. (Current building enrollment ideas being floated would require building 3 or more new schools and — more taxation.)
- ask the board to adopt a policy that enables citizens to put their concerns on board agendas for public discussion.

Debbie Cunningham Incumbent

1995 campaign promises kept:

- Improve student achievement (significantly increased the at-risk 3rd- and 4th-grade reading levels; improved 4th-, 6th-, and 9th-grade math, writing, citizenship, and reading proficiency scores).
- Enhance financial performance (revamped appropriations process requiring more accountability; detailed, up-to-date tracking of capital projects, including \$20 million building program).
- Expand community awareness (redistricting effort chaired by and comprised of community members; regularly solicited community input in community settings, including senior centers, churches, town halls, and libraries).

Goals for the future ...

- Continue to improve student achievement (evaluation of intervention programs and track student progress; enhance summer program for all students, including those at risk).
- Evaluate & plan for future growth (provide economically feasible solutions to facility needs; work with all municipalities to provide mutually acceptable alternatives).
- Keep schools safe (implement preventive programs, including awareness training for students & staff; evaluate alternative facilities for at-risk students).

Cindy Crowe Challenger

Crowe believes the important issues that must be addressed include:

- Overcrowding, classroom capacity, and a manageable student-teacher ratio.
- Strong curriculum guidelines for language arts, particularly reading.
- Early intervention and enrichment.
- Student safety.
- Financial accountability.
- Responsive communication with all citizens of the district.

Issue 18

Westerville Schools Capital Improvements Levy

- This would extend the 5-year, 2.7 mill capital improvements levy that was passed in 1994 & has expired.
- Money would repair, renovate, & maintain facilities, purchase technology & instructional equipment, roofs, school buses, security cameras, concrete & asphalt work, doors, windows, telephones, instructional materials.
- **Only IF** there is an estimated bond rate reduction for Genoa Middle School (helping to offset increased property taxes), then taxes on a \$100,000 home would increase \$.92 in years 1 & 2 and \$36.78 in years 3, 4, & 5.

This information provided by pro-Issue 18 "Citizens for Schools."

Minerva Park Voter's Guide

Below are representations of the ballot you'll be seeing at the polls this election.

Judge of the Franklin County
Municipal Court (Full term com-
mencing Jan 1, 2000) (Vote for
not more than ONE)

Teresa Lea Liston

Judge of the Franklin County
Municipal Court (Full term com-
mencing Jan 2, 2000) (Vote for
not more than ONE)

Dwayne Maynard

Judge of the Franklin County
Municipal Court (Full term com-
mencing Jan 3, 2000) (Vote for
not more than ONE)

Michael T. Brandt

Clerk of the Franklin County
Municipal Court (Vote for not more
than ONE)

Paul Herbert

Robin Chris Smith

Mayor (Vote for not more than
ONE)

Darrell M. Kem

Jack R. Murray

Clerk-Treasurer (Vote for not more
than ONE)

Suzanne R. Coulter

Township Trustee (Vote for not
more than ONE)

Jerry L. Ward

Township Clerk (Vote for not more
than ONE)

Wade L. Estep

Member of Board Education
Westerville City School District
(Vote for not more than TWO)

Debbie Cunningham

Nur A. Hussen

Cindy Crowe

MP residents will be asked to vote on the following issues ...

#1 - Proposed Constitutional Amendment ... bonds and other obligations affecting schools, institutions of higher learning, the state's general revenue fund, net lottery proceeds, etc.

#18 - Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement) Westerville City School District ... "at a rate not exceeding 2.7 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$.27 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five years, commencing in 1999, first due in the calendar year 2000."

#20 - Proposed Continuation of Existing Sales and Use Tax Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) ... "Shall the continuation of an existing sales and use tax be levied for all transit purposes of Central Ohio Transit Authority at a rate not exceeding one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) for a continuing period of time?"

#21 - Proposed Sales and Use Tax Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) ... "Shall a sales and use tax be levied for all transit purposes of the Central Ohio Transit Authority at a rate not exceeding one-fourth of one percent (1/4%) for a period of ten years?"

#22 - Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement) Franklin County Children's Services ... "A replacement of a tax for the benefit of Franklin County for the purposes of supplementing the general fund for the support of Franklin County Children Services and the care and placement of abused, neglected, and dependent children, at a rate not exceeding 3.15 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to \$0.315 for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for ten years, commencing in 1999, first due in the calendar year 2000."

ALERT

Some of you may have received absentee ballots with Suzanne Coulter inaccurately listed as running for council. #45 is the correct entry for this position of Clerk-Treasurer.

Bea Hulbert, Election Judge

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!**

Village of Minerva Park Cash for Future Projects

At the request of several residents and in an effort to provide information concerning the village's financial position, Suzanne Coulter, Clerk-Treasurer, has provided the following figures.

Financial Analysis Projected for Years 1999 - 2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Beginning unencumbered balance General Fund		\$335,000	\$304,000	\$221,170	\$136,170
Revenue expected from Franklin County (a)		457,000	497,000	497,000	
Estimated actual expenditures (b)		(473,000)	(535,500)	(567,000)	
Waterlines & Street Repair (c)			(29,330)		
General Fund monies moved to EMS Vehicle Fund (d)		(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	
Ending unencumbered balance General Fund	\$335,000	\$304,000	\$221,170	\$136,170	
Rounded	\$335,000	\$304,000	\$220,500	\$135,500	

(a) Revenue Expected from Franklin County

Monies received from the Franklin County Budget Commission, i.e., property taxes & government assistance money. These numbers are projected and do not allow for an increase or decrease in the MP property tax millage.

(b) Estimated Actual Expenditures

Each year, the General Fund budget calls for expenditures of \$630,000, although actual expenditures have fallen short of that number. The "estimated actual expenditures" include such items as salaries, parks & recreation, land upkeep, general trucks & equipment, etc. These numbers are projected and do not allow for an increase in salaries or for emergencies ... these numbers assume that expenses remain the same.

(d) EMS Vehicle Fund

Historically, at the end of each year, \$15,000 of General Fund monies are moved to the EMS Vehicle Fund to be applied to the EMS vehicle.

(c) Waterlines & Street Repair Costs - Projected

Completing Phase 3 - Waterline fund	
balance September 1999	\$74,084
Phase 3 landscaping (MP's portion)	(8,000)
Water surcharge monies anticipated	
during Oct-Dec 1999	16,500
Phases 1 & 2 payments for 1999	(16,000)
Phase 4 Engineering costs	paid
(\$7,000 predesign & \$4,000 project)	
Phase 4 - Construction Bid & Engineering	
Bid of \$471,000 (MP would owe 20%)	(94,200)
Minerva Lake Rd Total Reconstruction	
Bid of \$1,167,000 (MP would owe 10%) ...	(116,700)
Balance	(\$114,316)
Money set aside in the General Fund	
for Street Maintenance	7,385
Street Maint. Fund (money set aside)	<u>77,600</u>
Projects to be paid from the General	
Fund in 2001	(\$29,331)

Unless there is some type of intervention, at the current rate projected, there will be no extra money for special projects or any salary increases by 2005.

A complete copy of the proposed 1% income tax ordinance can be obtained by calling Jan Staats, 882-5743. Questions can be posed to Pam Park-Curry, Council Member, 890-5809.

South Lake Restoration Project Phase 2 About to Begin

By Dave Stahr, Council Member

In an effort to keep the village informed of the progress of the lake restoration project, I would like to take a moment to correct a misunderstanding. It was erroneously stated in a recent flyer that the south lake was only 20% completed. Here are the facts.

The village contracted with Metropolitan Environmental Services to remove 11,000 cubic yards of solid sludge through excavation and dredging. The area dredged extended from the west end of the lake to an area just east of the community building ... and an area just west of the dam, which was approved by the voters. There were more than 5.6 million gallons of water and solids removed through the dredging process, equivalent to 4,900 cubic yards of solid material. Another 4,000 cubic yards of solid material were removed through excavation and deposited along the north bank of the south lake. An additional 250 cubic yards were deposited at Reiner Realty on Westerville Road. All verification of discharged material has been recorded, and documentation is available from the Clerk-Treasurer.

As a result of Metropolitan's underestimating the total cost of the project and running appx. 30 days past the scheduled completion date, the area along the north shore (also known as the bird house area) just west of the community building was not completed. It was the decision of the service committee and the

village engineer that \$5,000 would be withheld from the final payment, which funds would be used to complete the excavation in this area.

This dredging and excavation process brought the lake depths to between 3 to 12 feet and cleared three islands on the western end of the lake. Phase 1 also included the installation of three aeration fountains, located just east of the community building. Prior to the start of the project, the area extending west of the community building was less than one foot deep. The total expenditure for Phase 1 was \$292,000, leaving approximately \$73,000 for Phases 2 and 3. Phase 2 includes the following:

1. Completion of the excavation of the bird house area, along the north shore behind the community building.
2. Excavation of the mouth of the lake to enlarge the opening and excavate the peninsula on the far side of the opening to the lake. Excavated material will be placed against the high wall behind the homes on the far side of the opening.
3. Installation of a sediment trap and catch basin, 150' long x 30' wide x 10' deep.

Items #2 and #3 will be completed in autumn 1999. Phase 3 - landscaping and restocking - will be completed by spring 2000. If you have any questions or need accurate information, please contact me.



Village Views

"Village Views" is an open forum for community discussion. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minerva Park Community Association or the Villager's editorial staff. Letters are published based on available space and interest to the community. To be considered, letters must be submitted by the published deadline and include a name and phone number.

Letter to the Editors

I attended a special meeting on October 11 to discuss pending legislation that would impose a 1% income tax on MP's workers. I am quite disappointed in the way in which council is handling this matter, for three reasons. First is the lack of demonstrated need for this tax money. Second is the projected attitude that, because state code will allow council to impose this tax without voter consent, they will; instead of putting the matter before voters for the final say so. Last is the short-term manner in which council has approached this matter. I would like to address these individually in reverse order.

I received notice of the meeting in my mailbox in October 11, only a few hours before the meeting. The notice was worded as though it was intended for distribution the prior week. The meeting was scheduled for only a

1-hour time slot — not nearly sufficient for a matter of this magnitude. (As an aside, these flyers were distributed by our law enforcement personnel, which I do not believe is a prudent use of their time.)

Based on council responses during the special meeting and their unanimous vote during the regular meeting, it [seems] that they intend to push this legislation through simply because they can. I was among the voices at this meeting that called for the council to let the citizens decide the fate of this matter. There were many residents of the village in attendance who have voiced strong opposition to this income tax. While it is true that relatively few of the residents would be subject to the tax, it is a tax nonetheless, and the village residents should have final approval or denial rights. It was brought out that the citizens did impose the 5 mill levy on themselves in the last vote on a tax matter, but council seems reluctant to let the same citizens have a voice if they do not have to let that voice be heard. The state code is a guideline that our governing body must follow, but the code state only that the council **may** approve such tax without consent. It does not state that they may **not** seek voter approval.

The council would have citizens believe that this matter came up for discussion only at the last regular [September] meeting. There was little, if any, discussion about the matter at that meeting, and yet there was a fully prepared ordinance which passed a unanimous voice vote on the first reading [in October]. By the way, there was no discussion of the ordinance by council prior to the vote [in October] either. If council is not intending to simply push

through this tax, then why the lack of discussion? Why not put the point before the people who will ultimately pay this tax?

Last is the question of why the village needs to impose this tax. One reason that kept being brought out by council is that about 58% of the municipalities in the state impose some sort of income tax. While this may be the case, that would also mean that 42% of the municipalities do not impose this kind of tax. Another reason given was that of future expenses and projects for village property. While the village does need to cover costs of operation and improvement, there will be a year-end unencumbered balance in the general fund of approximately \$300,000. We just passed a 5 mill levy, and I thought that some of this money was still unencumbered as well. To further confuse the need for cash, the council kept talking about the savings of this money and what it would be worth in the future. If there were a demonstrated need for funds for the community, this might take a different spin, but are we being asked to provide a "rainy day" fund? There was little substance offered to answer the question of why this money is needed. Personally, I am of the opinion at this time that, unless the council can answer the question of need in a substantial manner, they should carefully consider the impact of imposing this additional tax. I, for one, would have a hard time approving any future levy after seeing the circumstances surrounding the supposed need for this tax.

I would be affected minimally by the passage of this ordinance—to the tune of about \$10 per year. The money is not the entire issue. At a time when government is imposing tax after tax on the citizens of this land, we have an

opportunity to let the people decide what they want. Council can simply impose this tax, as is their prerogative under state code, but if they follow where their conscience should lead, this matter will be put to a vote of the people. After all, it is only by our consent that they are allowed to govern.

Ed Bennett
2718 Alder Vista Dr.



Minerva Park
Police

- 9-4 7:46p, 3000 blk Carleton Ct., false alarm.
- 9-8 8:30a, Gordon Food Service, 5400 Cleveland Ave., criminal trespass complaint.
- 9-9 7:36p, Pagelink USA, 5254 Cleveland, false alarm.
- 9-10 .. 2800 blk Wildwood Rd., theft on 7-24 reported.
- 9-11 .. 10:07p, 2600 blk Wildwood Rd., domestic dispute.
- 9-11 .. 12:25p, 3200 blk Minerva Lake Rd., false alarm.
- 9-14 .. 11:25a, 3200 blk Minerva lake Rd., false alarm.
- 9-16 .. 9:15a to 11:15a, 2700 blk Wildwood Rd., telephone harassment.
- 9-17 .. 5300 blk E. Shore Dr., theft on 8-16 reported.
- 9-18 .. 12:24p, Miller Ranney Plumbing, 5474 Cleveland Ave., false alarm.
- 9-24 .. 4:30p, Sally Beauty Supply, 5258 Cleveland Ave., telephone harassment.
- 9-25 .. 5:23p, Pagelink USA, 5254 Cleveland, false alarm.

Medic 119 ...

Where are you?

September 1999

In September, Medic 119 made 37 runs with 9 into Blendon Township (exclusive of Minerva Park) and 1 into Minerva Park.

Members volunteered a total of 630 hours for the month, bringing the total for the year-to-date to 6,259. Leading volunteers for the month were **John Rains** (74 hours), **Keri Buschman** (73 hours), and **Mike Ostrander** (57 hours).

MP Runs

9-8 Cleveland Ave., gi bleeder

BURST O' LEMON MUFFINS

1-3/4 c all-purpose flour
 3/4 c sugar
 1 tsp baking powder
 3/4 t baking soda
 1/4 t salt
 8 oz lemon or vanilla yogurt
 1 egg
 1/3 c unsalted butter, melted
 1-2 tbs grated lemon peel
 1 tbs lemon juice
 1/2 c flaked coconut

Topping

1/3 c lemon juice
 1/4 c sugar
 1/4 c flaked coconut, toasted

This recipe is from Taste of Home cooking magazine, Oct-Nov 99 issue. If you would like to subscribe, please call 800-344-6913.

In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In another bowl, beat the yogurt, egg, butter, lemon peel, and lemon juice until smooth; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in the coconut. Fill greased muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake at 400 degrees F for 18-22 minutes or until golden brown and muffins test done. Cool for 5 min before removing from pan to a wire rack. In a saucepan, combine the lemon juice and sugar; cook and stir until sugar is dissolved. Stir in coconut. Using a toothpick, poke 6-8 holes in each muffin. Spoon the coconut mixture over muffins. Serve warm or cool to room temperature. Yield: 1 dozen.

Angela's Pizza



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Minerva Flora News

By DeAnna Kern and Jeanne Blair

It is not too late to do some fall gardening! Now is a good time to divide bulbs, peonies, and hostas that need to be thinned.

What can you do with all of those leaves? They are great when ground up for use in your gardens and flower beds to enrich the soil for spring planting.

Some ideas for fall planting are daffodils (available in white, pink, or yellow), hyacinths, and other smaller bulbs for color. When buying these bulbs, check height & color for bed arranging. If you choose to plant tulips and crocuses, get advice before planting – the squirrels find these plants delicious!

One thing you can do this fall that does not require any effort is to simply enjoy the mums. They are always lovely in the park and should last until the first hard frost. The mums at **Marty Grosh's** house, **2587 Briar Rose Ave.**, have been especially lovely!



Leaf Pick-up

Leaf collection will continue through December 6. Please make sure there are no twigs or grass clippings in your leaves, and keep the piles in your yard near the curb area, not in the street (your grass will recover, and the leaves might cover storm drains). Also, please don't park on the street if possible so collection can be done more easily and cheaply.

Are You Paying Taxes You Don't Owe?

By Felicia Busick

I have learned of four residents who have been erroneously paying local income tax to the city of Columbus because their employers thought from their address that they actually lived in Columbus. Residents of MP do not owe income tax to Columbus unless they work within Columbus city limits. Check to see if you have been paying Columbus money you do not owe. If you have paid tax as a "Columbus resident," you can file for a refund from the city of Columbus for at least the past three years.

Call 645-7370 for refund forms or consult your tax advisor.



Villagers

Welcome
Our New Neighbors!

Barbara Cassan & Carla Thompson, with **Joe (12), Spencer (9), Mason (7), Zach (3), and Leah (2)**, reside at **5259 Elmhurst Ave.** 898-0662

If you learn of any new residents, please advise the **Newcomers Committee**
Jim Kehl, 794-0047



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Layout & Design Sharon Bierman

The *Villager* is distributed to all MP homes on the 1st Monday of each month inside a plastic hang bag - either alone or with advertising flyers. Residents are invited to submit articles, letters to the editor, & other items of interest. Use the drop box at the Community Building, on DeAnna Kem's front door, 3237 Minerva Lake Rd., or on Ruth Crane's front door, 2807 Wildwood Rd.

A business-card size ad costs \$15 and must be prepaid. The *Villager* reserves the right to refuse publication of any item submitted. All items presented for publication must include the contributor's name and phone number.

Next deadline:
Friday, November 19, 5:00 p.m.